



2016

Family Tree

A magazine for the extended family of Ojai Valley School





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CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to students in the award-winning Upper Campus journalism program for their contributions to this issue of *Family Tree*, including writers Kendall Shiffman (L12, U16) Natasha Freudmann (U17), and Emma Gustafson (L14, U18). Thanks to photographers Misty Volaski, John Boyd, Darcie George, Fred Alvarez, Annie Little, John Wickenhaeuser, Malory Taylor, Jack McClenahan and Tracy Wilson, as well as senior Sarah Sharpe (U16), whose picture from the AP Environmental Science class trip to Anacapa Island graces this year's cover. Special thanks to journalism instructor Fred Alvarez and to alumna Elizabeth Curran Hermes (L66, U69) for their editing prowess and contributions to this issue.

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Environmental stewardship reaches new heights with Hands on the Land grant. See more on page 5.

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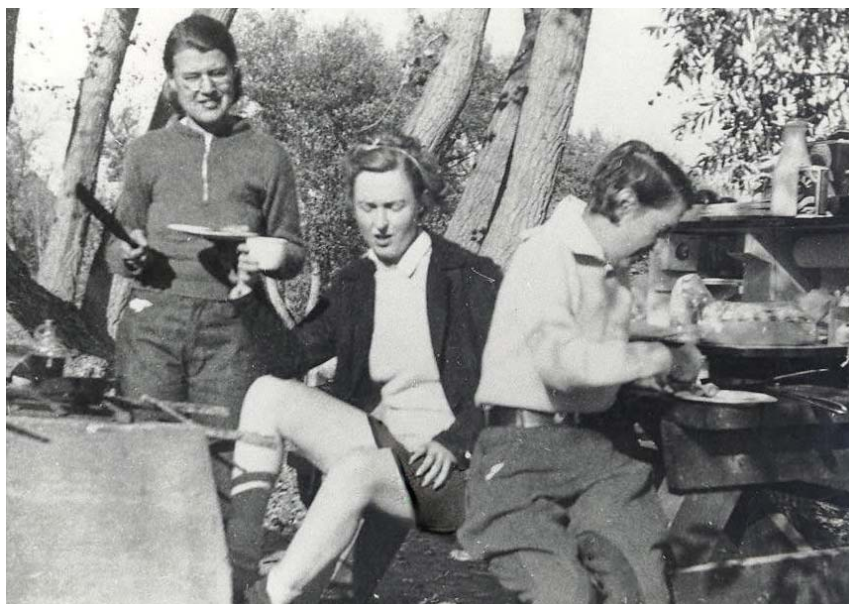
41 Founder's Alumni Award



44 Alumni Weekend



1960s: Camping trip in the Sespe.



1930s: Camping with Betty Marsh, Julia Bygrave and Kitty Bragg



1970s: Teachers J.B. Close and Cecil Feaver

From the Archives

It was a great year in Outdoor Education at Ojai Valley School as students across the grade levels upheld the traditions of countless students before them by climbing, kayaking, diving, trekking, leaping, and laughing their way through myriad camping trips throughout the West.

We led 18 different spring trips for primary, elementary, middle and high school students this past spring that focused on mountainous environments in places including the Sespe, Dick Smith, and San Rafael wildernesses, as well as in highly recognizable National Parks like Yosemite, Channel Islands, and the Grand Canyon.

From the Boney Bean initiation in kindergarten to the final senior trip to Santa Cruz Island, our students culminated the year with remarkable experiences in the outdoors, and they gained a greater appreciation for the natural world around them.

Upon their return, our middle school students wrote eloquently of their time in the wilderness, unknowingly echoing the remembrances of many alumni and former faculty.

In *A Thread to Hold*, Edgar Bailey (L53) summed up the sentiments of many OVS alumni stating: “Unequivocally, the most profound memories for me were the school camping trips to Piedra Blanca. They instilled in me an insatiable interest in nature and the outdoors as well as my continuing burning desire for adventure and exploring new, wild places.”

Marina Fistoulari-Mahler (L58) recalled the same destinations in *A Thread to Hold*, writing: “the White Rocks, the Ten Foot Hole, the black snakes in the water, the rattlesnakes on dry land, Commandos played at night with flashlights and the smell of rock and earth at night, ghost stories, Riders on Horseback (marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers roasted at the outdoor fire), the bats flying low at night over our sleeping bags, waking in the morning with ticks on our tummies, and then the brave entering of the freezing water in the swimming holes in the early morning...all still there and part of me.”

Former teacher Otis Wickenhaeuser shared memories of camping trips in the June 1962 *Alumni Bulletin*, and these words continue to be shared at the start of each school year by Outdoor Education Director Matt Inman: “Names. Campgrounds and campers. Endless Legends. Places familiar; places aspired to, but never reached. Explain the reason for so much effort just to reach water and an ice-can stove: You shuck your pack; you feel weariness. You ‘make do’ and so escape the trivial and despoiled. You cope with essentials. You learn much.”



On a Saturday in June, five alums from the Class of 1953 stopped by the Lower Campus. Head of School Gary Gartrell and I had the honor of showing them around, as they were curious to see what had changed, and what remained the same, six decades after they were rambunctious students running around the historic Wallace Neff buildings and oak-studded campus. Some of them had seen the new buildings, including the Donlon Pool Complex, the Greenberg Activities Center, and the Alan F. Pearson Center for the Arts. Others had not stepped foot on campus in 63 years.

Over the years, Gary and I have toured countless alumni who come back to connect with the people and the place that harbors so many wonderful memories. This group – Bob Koster, Jim Demsey, Jerri (Batson) Prenzlów, Mary (Wais) Dettmers, Ann (Thacher) Bruenn and her husband, Steve – was especially full of stories. As they walked into the music room, Bob started singing a song from a play that Dorothy Burr had written. They had questions about our current academic and co-curricular programs. Do all the kids still have woodshop? Yes, starting in pre-kindergarten. Do they get to go camping? Yes, starting in first grade and

continuing through the high school. Do the students still garden? Yes, in fact, each class has a raised garden bed, built by the students right in the center of campus, where they grow tomatoes, kale, herbs, and flowers.

As they quizzed Gary and me, we could sense the theme at the core of their questions: Is OVS still OVS? The answer is, emphatically...Yes!

Perhaps it is because we are surrounded by so much change – notably in our use of technology, social media and the growth of our enrollment – that alumni would worry that our compass had shifted and in doing so moved the school away from its core philosophy, values, and traditions. But the heart of the OVS experience has not diminished with the passage of time. This can be attributed to our dedicated teachers who every day share their passion for learning and exploration. Our school leadership is likewise guided by a firm commitment to honoring our past, while preparing our students for the future.

We look forward to seeing more alumni on campus in the years ahead, and I can only imagine this will be the case as our alumni engagement has reached an all-time high.

Last year's Alumni Weekend, in celebration of 50 years of the Upper Campus, drew the second largest attendance in OVS history behind the 2011 Centennial celebration. This year's reunion, held at the Lower Campus, was a tremendous success with strong representation from each decade and alumni coming from as far as Australia and France. Plans are already in the works for next year's big event honoring Carl Cooper as he retires as the Upper Campus Head of School.

Alumni giving is also on the rise with more alumni contributing both donations and service to the school community. In the past year, Jason Goldman (L01, U05) took time away from law school to help middle school students launch a space capsule with Project X. Jason Coudray (L00, U04) continues to help on the ropes course. Cooper Hefner (U09) spoke eloquently to our seniors at the annual senior-to-alumni dinner, reminding them of the importance of staying connected with each other and the school.

Luckily, this is easier to do than ever before, as improvements to the school's website and its increased presence on social media allow our parents, students and teachers, past and present, to keep in touch and stay abreast of all that makes OVS, OVS. And for those in need of a more personal connection, we invite you to stop by for a visit. I assure you, OVS will always be your home away from home.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey
President/CEO

3 CAMPAIGN UPDATE



2014

March 2014: Construction begins for renovated Founder's Shop

April 2014: Solar array produces 98% of electricity in its first year

August 2014: Renovations begin for Boney Bean dorm and are completed by October 2014

March 2015: Opening of the Alan F. Pearson Center for the Arts

June 2015: Renovations begin for Tower dorm

July 2015: Master Planning process launched

PHASE I: Founder's Shop & Art Studio

PHASE II: School

Campaign Phase One Completed, Phase Two in Progress



Even as *The Next 100 Campaign* for Ojai Valley School completed Phase One with the dedication of the Alan F. Pearson Center for the Arts last spring, Phase Two improvements were underway on both OVS campuses and are now nearing completion. Phase Two projects in progress include continued Lower Campus improvements, notably dormitory upgrades in Reed Hall. The most substantial upgrades will be seen at the Upper Campus, where dormitory renovations have been underway.

At the same time, historic buildings on Lower Campus have been retrofitted for optimal

energy efficiency and comfort. Distinctive entrances were designed and constructed with improved traffic flow, clear signage, and dark-sky friendly lighting. Inviting outdoor spaces were created on both campuses for student-faculty relaxation and interaction. Phase One was fully funded by 389 generous alumni, families and friends contributing \$1,684,875. Phase Two has been only partially funded to date by 74 donors contributing \$318,230.

Contributions for Upper Campus renovations are still needed and naming opportunities are available. Contact the Development Office at 805-646-1423 ext. 1276.



August 2015: Classroom renovated in Wallace Burr Hall and dorm renovations completed for Tower dorm
 November 2015: Master Plan approved
 February 2016: Renovations begin for Grace Hobson Smith House
 June 2016: Construction begins on new shower houses for Tower and Boney Bean dorms
 August 2016: Shower house project complete

2016

-wide Upgrades

PHASE III: Upper Commons

Upper Campus Dormitory Upgrades

Work is in progress on improvements to Tower and Boney Bean dormitories this summer, and our resident high school boys will be greeted with new shower houses when they return to campus in September. The new shower buildings will be 325 square feet each, with four shower stalls (one of which is ADA accessible), three sinks, and a storage area for students' belongings such as suitcases, golf clubs, and sports gear.

The new shower houses follow earlier upgrades to Tower and Boney Bean dorm rooms, which were thoroughly

renovated including new custom cabinetry, bunks, desks, and new HVAC units (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) and insulation. Old furniture, drywall, linoleum, insulation, doors and windows were removed and disposed off-site with a 75% recycling certificate, continuing the school's commitment to sustainability.

Grace Hobson Smith house also has seen improvements. The high school girls' dorm will open this fall with the lower wing east restroom renovated to match first- and second-floor restrooms renovated in 2013-14. The laundry room has been remodeled and the walls rebuilt with a new window for natural light. New electrical and plumbing is

being installed, as well as new floor tiles to match the restrooms. The old washers and dryers have been replaced with space-saving high-efficiency stacked units. Two adjacent dorm rooms have been renovated this summer similar to the boys' dorm rooms but with a different design.

As we conclude Phase Two, plans are already underway to transition to the long-awaited Phase Three of *The Next 100 Campaign*: the Upper Campus Student Commons. Learn more about future plans for the high school by reviewing the Upper Campus Master Plan, which is available at www.ovs.org.

Hands on the Land

by Natasha Freudmann, Class of 2017



Fifth-grader Kali Smith removes invasive iceplant from Anacapa Island.

On a rocky plateau overlooking miles and miles of the Pacific Ocean, Ojai Valley School students crouched over hardened soil, shovels in hand. With quiet focus, they overturned clumps of earth, creating new homes for plants native to the Channel Islands chain, just off the Ventura County coastline.

The 11-mile channel crossing was a long way to go to plant succulents. But this was not your run-of-the-mill gardening project.

The students, members of the school's Advanced Placement Environmental Science class, ventured to Anacapa Island

in February for the first of what would be a series of excursions to the Channel Islands National Park for environmental education and restoration projects. Fifth graders made the trip in March, followed by the senior class in May.

Although OVS middle and high students visit the islands annually for camping trips, the restoration work across grade levels is new and is the direct result of a developing partnership between OVS and the Channel Islands National Park.

In support of that effort, the school and the parks service secured a

\$4,000 Hands on the Land grant, part of a national effort to connect students, teachers and volunteers with public lands and waterways. OVS was one of 22 institutions nationwide to receive the grant, which came about through a collaborative process between parents, the park service, and the high school and middle school staffs.

Funded by the National Environmental Education Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency, the grant has made it possible for students and teachers to access the remote islands and use them as living laboratories – tackling projects including working on-site in nurseries, removing invasive vegetation, and gathering and compiling plant restoration data.

“This grant rapidly advances our goal to partner with Channel Islands National Park on long-term restoration and research projects,” said AP Environmental Science teacher John Wickenhaeuser, who as the school’s Director of Technology and Sustainability spearheaded the grant-writing effort.

“With this funding nearly 100 students in grades 5 through 12 were able to travel to the islands this past school year to remove invasive species, plant natives and learn from expert field biologists,” Wickenhaeuser added. “It was an extraordinary opportunity for our students and our school to learn, participate, and make a huge difference on the truly special Channel Islands.” On the school’s first visit to the islands, as

part of the grant project, students embarked on a mission to learn about dudleya, a plant native to Anacapa Island, one of the five islands that make up Channel Islands National Park. The plant, like many others native to the island, has been crowded out by invasive ice plant, which was brought to the island in the mid-20th century for landscaping and erosion control.

After hours of education and labor to transplant the dudleya, more than 100 new plants were in the ground. Despite the hard work, students were enthusiastic about the project – especially with the added benefit of working and learning outdoors. “It’s awesome to be out of the classroom and having fun out here,” said senior Jack Gentry,

who joined eight other Advanced Placement students on the inaugural service project. “I’m super glad I had this opportunity.”

Lower Campus parent Annie Little, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, accompanied the AP class and then went with the fifth-grade class, which includes her 11-year-old daughter, Hannah. Little also spoke as part of the school’s Guest Lecture series last fall about her work restoring sea birds, including the bald eagle, to the Channel Islands, and she was instrumental in connecting OVS to the current service project.



Current OVS parent and wildlife biologist Annie Little (center) helped educate students about the unique island ecosystem.



OVS fifth-graders crossed the Santa Barbara Channel in March to help with restoration efforts.

“With the Fish and Wildlife Service we try and encourage kids to come out and get involved with restoration projects,” Little said. “We have a whole program of connecting kids to nature. This is part of that mission and a great opportunity for the OVS kids to get out and do some hands-on work.”

Not only has the grant provided great opportunities for students to learn about the islands and their ecosystems, its objectives dovetail nicely with the AP Environmental Science curriculum and the school’s long-standing commitment to hands-on learning.

“I think it’s all about experiential learning,” Little said. “You guys aren’t just sitting in a classroom learning about restoration, you’re actually doing it yourselves. You’ve experienced [restoration] so it provides you with a

great learning opportunity. It brings more of the textbook into real life and you get to really experience it.”

Monique Navarro, education coordinator for Channel Islands National Park, couldn’t agree more. Moreover, she thinks the visits could help ignite in some students a passion to pursue environmental education and activism in the future. In recent years, OVS graduates have gone on to pursue environmental science, environmental studies, and resource management degrees at universities including Dickinson College, Cal State Monterey Bay, and Stony Brook University.

“I think [this] can inspire students to think of different opportunities for what to study at university and beyond, and what different job opportunities are out there,” Navarro said. “[It can] also get students to appreciate and to protect these resources,

so it’s our responsibility to preserve and protect them.”

The grant funds ended in June. Wickenhaeuser and current parent Vahagn Nahabedian, whose 11-year-old son, Tigran, was the first Junior Ranger Underwater Explorer at Channel Islands National Park, are pursuing additional grant opportunities to continue and expand trips to the islands.

And with good reason.

This past year, those trips introduced more students to the islands and taught them the importance of environmental stewardship – reaffirming the school’s longstanding philosophy that time in the wilderness generates important lessons and skills.

This was evident earlier this year on the windswept plateau at Anacapa Island,



The AP Environmental Science Class was the first group of OVS students to work on the islands this past year as a result of the Hands on the Land grant. The students planted native Dudleya.

where senior Ally Feiss worked with several partners to scoop out the stubborn earth and plug in dudleya, creating in about an hour a field of light-green succulents, which had not been there previously.

Afterward, students worked in pairs to lug bulky water jugs from plant to plant, giving each of the new island natives a long drink.

“It was really surprising looking back that we as a group had done so much in such a little amount of time,” Ally said. “Aside from the fact that we are doing island education and restoration, it was nice to see how a little work goes a long way.”



WAYS TO SUPPORT

In the coming year, Ojai Valley School will again pursue a Hands on the Land grant to introduce our students to field biology, ongoing restoration efforts, and hands-on environmental stewardship. We invite you to join OVS teachers and students in these “learning by doing” programs.

Please contact the Alumni and Development Offices at (805) 646-1423 ex. 1276 or development@ovs.org if you would like to volunteer or provide additional financial support.



Congratulations to



the Class of 2016



"Though we will all go our separate ways across the world, WE, the class of 2016, share a connection to OVS and each other that will last for eternity."
 Davis Smith (L12, U16) giving the welcoming remarks at the 2016 Graduation Ceremony

Head of School Address

Head of School Carl Cooper describes the value of an OVS education



The foundation that OVS is built on remains the academic program and the teachers who represent it.

We celebrate a year where over two-thirds of the

student body maintained honors grades. Almost half took one or more Advanced Placement exams and college acceptances showered the seniors with many options. Students talked about what they were learning and demonstrated through projects and presentations their full grasp of the subjects they were taking. For many seniors their Mock Trial final exam gave them the sense that they were ready to take sides over issues and accept the responsibilities they have as the adults they are.

In many ways it is the flip side of the coin that brings out the true value of the OVS experience. It is the co-curricular life of the school that not only addresses educating the whole child but also in its subtle, almost subconscious, approach provides life lessons that are essential to navigating the adult world.

To hear the students talk of the adventures on trips to the Channel Islands, Yosemite, Montana Del Oro, Mount Pinos, Mammoth, and elsewhere you might think you sent your child on vacation. The outdoor program is one place where students learn to work collaboratively - cooking meals, cleaning up, setting up camp, and even packing to come home. They learn to care for more than just themselves, and so much more. Yes, it is fun, but learning is supposed to be fun.

It is not possible to go through the whole list of all we do from athletics to the arts, clubs to dorm life, but each element of the OVS experience provides the student with a multitude of skills and character

development qualities that build each student into a more responsible young adult. It makes us proud to claim them as our own. At times they only know that they got to play soccer, sing in the chorus or ride a horse. They may not be ready to articulate the value of what they learned, but most parents will see the change and growth that has taken place. In time, their student will come to realize the impact OVS has had on their life. An alumna wrote me recently declaring this reality as she looked back to a time she could identify where the lessons learned at OVS made her the person she is today. She stated that OVS gave her a love of learning and the strength of character to do what is right. Classes, dorm life, horseback riding, camping and all were experiences that still influence her today.

We will never be able to teach everything that a person should know, but the OVS experience is an amazing launch pad that provides the skills for each individual to discover the life path that works for him or her.



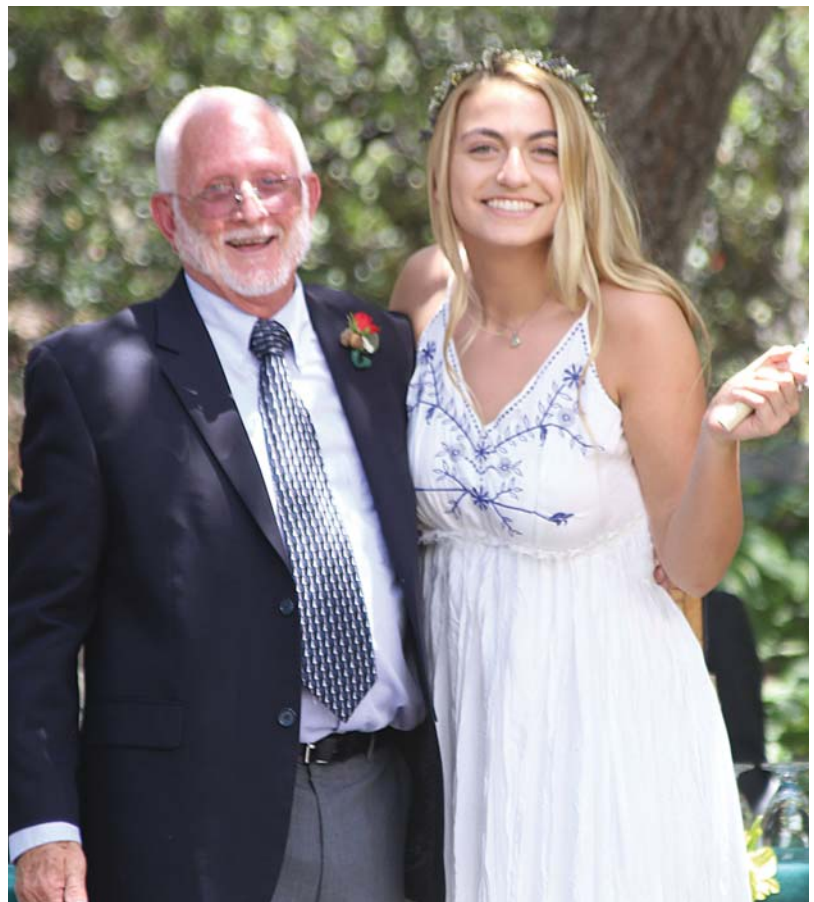
“A senior class is a lot like a sports team, or more specifically like a cross-country team. I ran cross-country all four years of high school, and, the sport is more complicated than you might think. It’s a mixture of love and hate, much like a relationship shared by 23 high school students. Running , just like high school, has all of these intricate components that can make or break the experience. It is both an individual endeavor and a team one. You run for yourself, competing against your own teammates, vying for the best time, but when the final score is tallied, it’s not about the name of any individual, but the name of the school on the front of your jersey. You might have run on your own, separate from the others, but you are never truly alone. Motivational speaker Vesta M. Kelly once said, “Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.” That’s what it is like to be part of our senior class.

Many people might label our class lazy and quirky, and probably a few other things as well, and it is all true. However, the part that people too easily forget is the one that isn’t always the most obvious to see. Look at our class deeply enough and you’ll find students who are talented, motivated, and passionate about the world they live in, and the great thing about OVS is that it provides opportunities to play to those strengths.”

An excerpt from the Senior Class Message delivered by Ally Feiss (U16)



Yuhi Kuramoto (U16) receiving his diploma from Mike Hall-Mounsey



Kendall Shiffman (L12, U16), with Carl Cooper; joins her two siblings as an OVS alum

MAJOR AWARDS

WALLACE BURR AWARD

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

Evelyn Brokering **1**

ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

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

Savannah Moler, Davis Smith **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.

Minwoo Sohn **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.

Ally Feiss **4**



1



2

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Leila Giannetti, Kase Skillern, Adam Zhao

J.B. CLOSE AWARD

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

Jacob Tadlock

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.

Winnie Wu

DOROTHY BURR LITERARY AWARD

Recognizes the student for outstanding writing based on the submission of written work.

Joy Campbell



3



4

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Julia Boldt

Gap Year



You need only look at where Julia is headed to understand what was important to her during her time at OVS. Before entering college, she will embark on a one-month solo trip to South Africa to work with penguins, and then travel to Alaska to try her hand at working with sled dogs. Those same passions were evident everyday at the Upper Campus, where she was a faithful visitor to the stray and abandoned animals at the Humane Society's shelter, and where she emerged as a standout equestrian, spending as

much time as she possibly could with her four-legged friends in the barn. She was also an artist, and a friend to all. Her kindness and compassion will be missed.

Marc Chen

Irvine Valley College



He appeared shy and quiet, but that belied the competitor that lay within. Coming off the bench at a basketball game, Marc was a game changer. He loved the game, sure. But he brought an unmatched intensity to his play, scrambling for rebounds and diving for loose balls. His opponents were often bigger than he was, but no one on the court had a bigger heart. Marc gave his all, whether his team won or lost, and that's what his teammates

and coaches will remember most. Others will remember his contributions to the chorus and to school musicals, where he volunteered to play his bass guitar. And he certainly will be remembered for his well-coiffed black hair, trademark glasses and his stylish clothing choices.

Ally Feiss

University of Massachusetts, Lowell



Is there anything Ally couldn't do? Intensely driven and singularly focused, she squeezed all she could out of her OVS experience. As an entering freshman, she was one of the original recipients of the Michael D. Hermes Scholarship, and she blazed a trail over the next four years that would have made the former president and CEO proud. She served as Senior Class spokeswoman on Student Council, and as a day student prefect for the entire community. She sang in musicals, performed in the chorus and designed one of the most memorable dresses ever at the

Upper Campus – a piece made entirely of old newspapers as a way to highlight the value of recycled materials. She was a whiz on the soccer field, and when there weren't enough girls for a team, she just played with the boys, knocking down gender stereotypes along the way. She ran on the first-ever CIF girls cross country team, and capped her senior year by completing a full marathon. On graduation day, she was handed the Andrew Kille Award, given each year to the senior who exemplifies all of the best attributes – leadership, a sense of community, a contributor in all ways – that an OVS student has to offer. Ally was the best of the best, and her grace, guts and good humor will be missed.

Joe Foulger

University of Washington



If you could call this year the Rise of the Robots at the Upper Campus, then Joe should appropriately be called the Robot Master. A whiz at all things tech, he provided much of the brain power for the launch of the first-ever robotics program at the high school campus. A deep thinker, he was equally adept in other subjects, whether it was expressing himself through writing in an English class or unraveling the mysteries

of chemical compounds in the lab. On the lacrosse field, his coaches say he was tough as nails, and he proved his leadership qualities to end the year as he rallied his peers to complete the Senior Project – an archery range meant for future generations of students to enjoy. Joe gave the best of himself to OVS, contributing to the community in every way he could.

Jack Gentry

University of Colorado at Boulder



After years at the Lower and Upper campuses of Ojai Valley School, Jack left OVS for a while, setting off to find the high school that would be the best fit for him. We were certainly glad when he returned his junior year, having decided that OVS was the place for him to flourish and grow. And he certainly was right. He emerged as a strong honors student in the past two years, taking a slew of Advanced Placement classes in everything from English

to Environmental Science. He took on a leadership role as the Student Council's athletic representative, and served as a guiding voice for the Class of 2016 as it completed its Senior Project. He excelled outside the classroom as well, taking a leading role on Outdoor Education excursions and on the athletic field, where he engaged his passion for soccer and lacrosse. His voice rang out loud and clear in those circumstances. Jack infused heart and soul into OVS, and now the world beyond "The Hill" will get to share his gifts.

Brendan Goldberg

Emory University



Brendan 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 the law as he was for his penchant for engaging in debate. In fact, to end the year, Brendan won the title of Best Attorney for his stirring closing argument in the annual Mock Trial that concludes the Law and Society course. In other areas, he served as treasurer to the Student Council, and set a fundraising

record to open the school year through selling Birthday Grams and Stress Busters to parents new to the school. He played a variety of sports, but soccer was his passion, and it was glorious to see him sprinting down the field, dribbling past defenders and learning to become a team player. His contributions to OVS were many, and his growth as a student and as a young man was evident over the past three years.

Victor Gong

California State University at Los Angeles



Perhaps the best lesson Victor learned in his time at OVS was the importance of being a team player. From his years at the Lower Campus to the time he spent at Upper, he created strong bonds with the school community, a connection that helped him grow as a student and athlete, and developed passions he didn't know he had. He loved playing lacrosse and excelled as a cross country runner, training hard in the heat and on the hills of the

Upper Campus to become a key member of the running team. Victor brought the same grit and determination to his studies, becoming a standout in the art room and excelling in the sciences, allowing curiosity to be his teacher and guide. His Senior Seminar project was a good example of that, as he taught his peers and his teachers how to make biofuel, and then taught a lesson about the value of alternative resources. But above all, Victor was nice – a loyal friend always ready with a quick smile and a helping hand. He lived the OVS philosophy, and we were the better for it.

Yuhi Kuramoto

Asia-Pacific University – Japan



What a smile. Yuhi's grin, and big-throated laugh, brightened every room he entered. The only thing bigger was his heart. In his years at OVS, Yuhi dedicated himself to the school's weekly trips to the Humane Society, where he befriended the shelter's stray and abandoned animals, helping socialize them and prepare them for adoption. However, his big smile and giant heart were never more evident than when he was in the barn, having developed a love for all things equestrian. Seated on

the back of a horse, or grooming one of his four-legged friends in a stall, Yuhi was happy and at peace. Yuhi was kind and a friend to all, and he cared about contributing to his community. His compassion and conviction will be missed.

Misaki Kobayashi

Santa Monica College



Misaki has the soul of an artist. While she challenged herself with honors and AP courses, and loved being a part of the equestrian program and weekly trips to visit abandoned animals at the Humane Society, it was the art room where she made her mark. Dedicated to her craft for as long as she can remember, she honed her talent in her years at the Upper Campus, turning out pieces as precise as they were powerful. In her senior year,

she participated in her first professional exhibit, as she was one of only a handful of Ojai Valley student artists chosen to participate in the annual Generation Art show. It was no surprise that Misaki earned the AP Art Award at the school's year-end award ceremony. It was an award hard earned and well-deserved.

Savannah Moler

University of California at Irvine



What a story this young woman wrote during her time at Ojai Valley School. It would be easy to focus on the obvious: she was an honor student, dorm prefect, and Student Council representative. Editor of the yearbook. Robotics aficionado. But really, Savannah's impact on the student community was far more monumental than the items that filled her resume. As Senior Class representative to the Student Council, she served as the voice for her fellow members of the Class of 2016. She performed in school musicals, emceed the Festival of Talent and

walked laps at Relay for Life to raise money to fight cancer. For her senior project, she created a 3D prosthetic hand, and then donated it to help young disadvantaged children more fully function when they suffer from deformities or injury. On graduation day, Savannah was handed the Robert G. Cooper Award, which goes to the senior who demonstrated the most growth during his or her final year. Savannah certainly did that, and her contributions to OVS will long be remembered.

Lula Rod

Santa Monica College



What a talent. With a camera at her eye or a paintbrush in her hand, Lula had a gift for self expression. She was a wonderful writer, lauded by her English teachers for her strong and unique voice. She performed on stage, but she preferred to work behind the scene, setting a goal of becoming a director. Her Senior Seminar was a good indication of how successful she might be down this road, as she shot and produced a short film on the need for gender equality around the globe. On Graduation Day, the

Head of School spoke of the magic of this young lady, how her voice and ideas made her unique. That is certainly true, and now the world beyond "The Hill" will benefit from her gifts.

Minwoo Sohn

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign



An academic powerhouse and an active member of the school, Minwoo was a true asset to the OVS community. As an exceptional honors student, he took on the toughest classes and pushed himself to excel in the academic program. At the year-end awards ceremony, teachers recognized the high caliber of Minwoo's work in physics, calculus and AP English literature. And he was recognized at graduation as the most outstanding scholar in the senior class, as he was presented with the A. Carl Kotchian Award for his academic achievement and

intellectual curiosity. He was a standout in other areas as well, playing key roles on the soccer field and the golf team, and serving as a founding member of the Upper Campus' robotics club. He played clarinet in school musicals and sang in the chorus. He demonstrated his leadership by serving as vice president to the Student Council his senior year. Minwoo's hard work and laser-like focus propelled him to great heights in his high school years, but it's clear we've only seen the beginnings of his contributions to this world.

Sarah Sharpe

Chapman University



Of all of the members of the Class of 2016, Sarah was among the last to arrive at the Upper Campus, showing up midway through her junior year. But she made the most out of her OVS experience. She was a dedicated student, taking a slew of honors courses and developing a particular affinity for environmental activism, a passion that earned her a year-end award for excellence in AP Environmental Science. She brought the same passion to her work as a

student journalist, proving herself a valuable member of the award-winning OVS journalism crew. In that role, she discovered her voice, and the campus will miss it next year.

Kendall Shiffman

Chapman University



Talent ran wide and deep in this young woman. Whether leading the OVS volleyball team to victory or guiding the work of the award-winning journalism crew, Kendall crafted an amazing story during her time at OVS. She distinguished herself in so many ways, serving as senior class representative to the Student Council and editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. She was a devoted athlete, practicing for and playing club volleyball when she wasn't leading

the team at the Upper Campus. She also was an award-winning member of the OVS journalism program, 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 that she is now ready to share with the wider audience that awaits her off the hill.

Davis Smith

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



It would be easy to think of Davis as simply *the golfer*. No one at OVS was more dedicated to his sport, and no one accomplished more, having earned CIF playoff berths each of his four years at the Upper Campus. More impressively, he was largely responsible for elevating the OVS golf team to the best squad in the Ojai Valley. But to think of Davis only in those terms does him a great disservice. He was an honors student who brought energy and passion

to every subject he studied. As Student Council president, he became the face and voice of the student body, and then devoted himself to bettering life for his fellow students on the hill. He was a fierce competitor on the soccer field and a good-natured comic foil as one of the emcees at the Festival of Talent. Above all, Davis was kind and caring, a good friend and a steady hand whenever one was needed. To end the year, he was named co-recipient of the Robert G. Cooper Award, which honors students who demonstrated the most growth as seniors. While that certainly is true for Davis, 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.

Satoshi Suzuki

Returning to Japan to continue his education



Our coaches fought to have Satoshi on their teams. Our musical directors praised his participation in chorus and his leadership backstage at school productions. And our teachers talked about how much he grew as a student, especially given how hard it was at first for Satoshi to learn English. It was a struggle, but as with all obstacles he faced, Satoshi rose to the challenge. He will long be remembered for his arcing fastball, which fooled many

a batter, and for his silky smooth jump shot, which helped propel his team to many a victory. On graduation day, the Head of School called Satoshi a young man of deep thought, reflecting on his Senior Seminar project on the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The project was thought-provoking, and clearly demonstrated just how far Satoshi has come.

Harris Tsui

Eugene Lang College, New School of Liberal Arts



On a golf course or basketball court, Harris was a study in concentration and precision. He made up half of a dynamic duo that made the OVS golf team the best high school squad in the Ojai Valley, and he qualified three years in a row for CIF post-season play in that sport. But while golf required a steady, quieter hand, it was basketball that allowed him to explore his full passion for sports. If the courts at the Upper Campus were lit into the night, there was a good chance that Harris would be on them, honing his

game. He applied the same kind of serious attitude to classes he loved, taking Advanced Placement courses in everything from Calculus to Physics. He is headed to the East Coast, where a larger audience awaits to see how high he can fly.

Lucinda Wang

University of California at Santa Barbara



At first glance, Lucinda appeared shy and quiet, the kind of student who might be content to fly under the radar. But to think so would be wrong. She emerged in her three years at OVS as a true student leader, raising money to feed the homeless, giving her time to support the Ojai Tennis Tournament, and walking the track on behalf of cancer survivors at Relay for Life. But perhaps the most telling story about Lucinda's leadership came at the end of her junior year, when she mounted a write-in campaign to fill

the role of Day Student representative on Student Council. No one ran for the position, so Lucinda took it upon herself to step up and ensure that her fellow day students were represented. Lucinda provided a valuable voice during her time at OVS, and now she will share that voice with a wider world.

Kevin Wang

University of California at Santa Cruz



Who will soon forget Kevin's love ballad to his girlfriend at Festival of Talent. Sitting alone on the stage, he poured his soul into his music, and won the crowd. That was Kevin in a nutshell in his years at OVS. When he was passionate about a subject, he poured all of himself into it. Like his art. Kevin was a uniquely talented artist, and he shared that passion with his peers during his Senior Seminar when he provided a step-by-step recounting of the process he went through to create a portrait of Mr. Floyd.

Kevin's artistic talent was recognized at the

end of the year when he was honored with the award for outstanding work in Advanced Placement Art. He brought the same passion to his love of sports, specifically soccer and lacrosse. He was at home on those fields, free to express artistry of a different kind and to learn much about himself

Winnie Wu

University of California at San Diego



Here's what everyone knows about Winnie: she is crazy about horses. 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 named recipient of the Sandy Ballou Memorial Trophy, which honors students who have demonstrated good horsemanship and sportsmanship. But to think of Winnie 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 slew of Advanced Placement classes. Most importantly, Winnie possessed a wide smile and a generous spirit during her time at OVS, and both of those will be sorely missed next year.

Victor Yen

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University



If you ever watched Victor run, you would know everything you needed to know about the drive and perseverance of this young man. He was by no means the fastest runner on the cross country course. But he ran with steady persistence, and worked tirelessly to achieve his running goals. He could barely complete a three-mile course when he started running, but he was tough as nails, showing up each day take on the hot, hilly training runs that were painful, but that he knew would allow him to improve. And he

did improve, becoming a valuable member of a good cross country team. He applied the same dedication to subjects he studied, excelling in math and the sciences, and sharing with his classmates during his Senior Seminar his mastery of the game of chess. Victor appeared shy and quiet, but those who took the time to get to know him knew he was funny, clever and a pleasure to talk to.

Cole Zellner

University of Utah



Whether he was digging out a ground ball in lacrosse or grinding out a news story for On The Hill, Cole exemplified the spirit of OVS. He found his niche in the classroom, working harder than most people know to navigate a tough curriculum. It didn't come easily for Cole, but he devoted himself to his studies and flourished, earning a year-end award for excellence in senior English. He wielded a wry sense of humor and became known for his interest in conspiracy theories and his quirky tastes in music, which he shared with students and teachers

alike. But two stories, in particular, tell the tale of Cole's growth during his high school career. The first occurred when he was initially denied by his first-choice college, the University of Utah. Unwilling to take 'no' for an answer, he wrote the university and petitioned for reconsideration. He repeatedly contacted admissions officers, who saw passion and let him in. Smart move on their part. Secondly, when it became apparent that there would not be a graduation issue of the campus newspaper, Cole stepped up to do the whole thing himself. He worked well after school hours to produce a quality newspaper, not because he had to, but because it was important to him. That, in a nutshell, demonstrates the grit that will take him far.

Adam Zhao

University of California at San Diego



Adam is determined to become a doctor, wanting to practice medicine so that he can help those who have little access to healthcare. That should tell you all you need to know about this remarkable young man. Since arriving at OVS his sophomore year, Adam has been nothing short of inspirational. He was a dorm prefect and an honors student, and volunteered his time to tutor his peers. He was a Student Council officer, a whiz on the basketball court, and an elite member of the best high school golf team in the Ojai Valley. Behind a piano

keyboard, he gave his time to support the voice classes, and instead of cruising on autopilot his senior year, he challenged himself by taking four Advanced Placement classes. His work was highlighted at the end of the year when he was recognized as the outstanding scholar in AP Statistics, and presented with the Sportsmanship Award, which recognizes those athletes who demonstrated integrity and leadership in their athletic pursuits. Adam did just that, on and off the field, and his contributions and good humor will be missed.

“Though we will all go our separate ways across the world, we, the class of 2016, share a connection to OVS and each other that will last for eternity.”

Davis Smith,
Student Body President

College Acceptances

We are exceptionally proud of the accomplishments of our graduating seniors. At times serious, at times playful and irreverent, these 23 students worked hard in preparing for college and were accepted to an impressive list of universities. The schools they have chosen reflect the talents, interests, and diversity of this graduating class and support our goal of helping students find the “right fit” school as they take the next step in their education.



Art Institute of New York
Asia-Pacific University, Japan
 Boston University
 Brandeis University
 California College of the Arts
 California Lutheran University
 Cal Poly Pomona
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
 California State University - Fullerton
 California State University - Long Beach
California State University - Los Angeles
 California State University - Northridge
Chapman University
 Concordia University - Irvine
 Digipen Institute of Technology
 Dominican University of California
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory University
Eugene Lang College, The New School
 Franklin & Marshall College
 George Washington University

Irvine Valley College
 Johnson & Wales University - RI
 Johnson & Wales University - NC
 Lynn University
 Menlo College
 New School of Architecture
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 Oberlin College
 Oregon State University
 Penn State University
 Purdue University
 Ritumeikan Asia Pacific University
Santa Monica College
 School of the Museum of Fine Arts
 Southern Utah University
 University of British Columbia
 University of California - Davis
University of California - Irvine
 University of California - Merced
 University of California - Riverside

University of California - San Diego
University of California - Santa Barbara
University of California - Santa Cruz
University of Colorado - Boulder
 University of Connecticut
 University of Idaho
University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
 University of La Verne
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
 University of Miami
 University of Oregon
 University of Rochester
 University of San Francisco
University of Utah
University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin
 Utah State University
 Washington State University
 Weber State University
 Whittier College
 Woodbury University



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.

J. Drake Marsh and Emerson McNeil

HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

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

Caspian Ellis, Jolene Fan, Matthew Thacher, and Sebastian Wayman-Dalo

MICHAEL D. HERMES AWARD

Given to the most outstanding eighth-grade student athletes.

Olivia Brown and Scott Inman

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.

Avery Colborn



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.

Rachel Greenleaf and Siyu Lai



PAUL PITTMAN AWARD

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

Ksenia Antonova

Head of School Address

Head of School Gary Gartrell describes how the 8th grade class excelled



The most important aspect of any school is always the people. Education only works if the students trust their teachers to guide them in the right direction. What is that direction you ask?

Our direction as a school was set over one hundred years ago, yet the philosophy of this progressive school is being validated by current research as the best path and environment for learning.

We always knew that.

Ned Yeomans, founder of Ojai Valley School and whose philosophy we follow, listed the most valued qualifications he felt a teacher should possess. He wrote: "There is only one kind of person really eligible as an administrator or teacher at a school, namely, an artist; for is not teaching an art? The truth of every subject taught is the emotion and the music at the center of it; and the fact about life is that we miss it all if we miss the joy. And that joy must be of the inward sort, which depends only on its wholesome and well-poised soul and body."

When I read that it made me realize how fortunate we are to have the staff that we do. Every teacher here is an artist at what they do, and they bring emotion and the music of learning alive everyday. Their students trust them.

Eighth graders: I've been around many of you for a long time. You are a very special group. In my 36 years here, there have been few graduating classes who have been as fun to be around, who were trusted so completely, or who performed as well. Your class will be truly missed. There are many things I will remember about each one of you.

The area where you most excelled was in how you honored the OVS traditions and how you have left a positive legacy. One example of this legacy is your collaborative 8th grade gifts, which the audience will hear about later. Your most important legacy, however, will be how you acted as role models to the younger students. You lived the philosophy of the school every day. You achieved the sense of wholeness of life by excelling academically, becoming skilled campers, positive leaders on the athletic fields, and outstanding performers in drama and music.

I could go on and on. There are so many ways in which you modeled excellence. You embraced the balance and symmetry of the OVS philosophy. You could read poetry at All School one week and send a capsule into space the next. You were given the opportunity to show and improve your character on a daily basis, and you did. Do you have the tools to make sound judgments? Well, not every time, but compared to most 14-year-olds in the world you do – by a long shot. We trusted all of you with adult-level tasks, from cooking on camping trips to running the All School meetings.

I know you're proud of what you have accomplished. What are the chances of attending a middle school musical that was two hours long, and still the audience wanted to see and hear more. *Brigadoon* was one of the best plays OVS has ever performed. Thank you 8th graders and thank you Mr. Street.

I knew that you were going to be a cohesive group when we camped at the Kern River in the fall. I will never forget "The Jump." I cherish "The Jump." Not because it was a physical marvel but because it typified the OVS spirit. Give it a try, go for it, and participate! You may

fail but you can try again. Now, let me tell all of you about "The Jump."

During the camping trip we played group challenge games. One challenge was to get the whole group from one side of a rope suspended four feet above the ground to the other. They all had to pitch in to help each other get over the rope safely without touching it. If the rope was touched, they had to start over. They had to start over many times. Collaboration was very important. Eventually every one but one student made it over. One had to stay to help the last few get across. It was Siyu who stayed. Siyu had a problem to solve.

It seemed that he had to get over the rope all by himself. But did he? What did he do? We all watched as he backed up 20 yards, did a few stretches, and took off running towards the rope. He did not say a word. At that moment I was scrambling trying to get my camera ready because something was going to happen. As he neared the rope he jumped straight up and over. He just went for it because he knew his classmates would catch him. On the other side, his very startled classmates did catch him and they completed the challenge. It was amazing to watch.

That moment sums up this great class for me. You just went for it, trusted each other and like all true artists, made sure that emotion, music, and joy were at the center of your year.



1 Sebastian Wayman-Dalo (L16) speaks at graduation

2 Elementary Chorus

3 Fifth-graders Hannah Little, Kali Smith, Sofia Valenzuela, and Tajmana Stone-Poyck

4 Fifth-graders Logan Wallace, Zachary Danino, and Hannah Little speak at the Elementary Promotion Ceremony

5 Kindergartener Nicholas Gary receives his certificate

6 Kindergartners Eloise Attwood, Phoebe Brink, and Hudson Brodowsky



Our third annual Gala was a great success as more than 220 current and past parents, alumni, faculty and staff members gathered under a canopy of lights at the Upper Campus for a Western-themed farm-to-table dinner and live auction to benefit the OVS Annual Fund. The event raised more than \$73,000, including \$24,000 for scholarships and financial assistance.

Thank you to the OVS families who donated their time and resources to make this event such a success! We will soon begin planning for next year's spring Gala.

Please contact the Development Office at (805) 640-2584, ext. 1221 if you are interested in volunteering on the auction committee, donating auction items, or would like to sponsor a portion of the event.

Philanthropist and Retired Lawyer Larry Fisher Joins OVS Board of Trustees



Lawrence (Larry) N. Fisher has been named to the Ojai Valley School Board of Trustees.

Grandparent of 4th grader Frances Ruane who has been at OVS since 2012, Larry is married with three children and two grandchildren. He and his wife Kathie recently relocated to Ojai from Orange County.

Larry graduated from USC Law School in 1968, with his J.D. and practiced law from 1969 – 2008. The first five years of his career were spent at Hahn & Hahn in Pasadena. From 1974 – 2008 he held increasingly responsible positions at Fluor Corporation (NYSE), one of the world's largest engineering and construction firms. After 33 years at Fluor, he retired as their Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, responsible for the worldwide operation of the Fluor Legal Services Group, consisting of 40+ lawyers, a staff of 80, and an annual budget of \$40 million.

From 1984-2008 Larry also served as legal counsel to the Fluor Foundation, the company's separate 501(c)(3) charity, as well as being Fluor's representative on the Board of the Orange County Performing Arts Center from 2005-2008. He is active in a variety of civic and professional organizations.

As member of Ojai Valley School's Study Advisory Committee for Phase II of *The Next 100 Campaign*, Larry has engaged OVS grandparents willing to participate in the study to assess the feasibility of this central phase of the campaign. Larry explains, "We are enthusiastic supporters of the school and the objectives of this project to bring significant enhancements to the Upper Campus."

"Larry Fisher immediately recognized and appreciated what Ojai Valley School is all about," said OVS President Mike Hall-Mounsey. "It is his personal connection and enthusiasm for the school, as well as his legal and global corporate experience, that make him such a welcome addition to our Board of Trustees."



Mealworm Madness

Seventh Grader Finishes in First Place in the California State Science Fair's Junior Zoology Division

by Emma Gustafson, (L12, U18)



Seventh grader Bella Slosberg raised mealworm colonies to determine if they could safely ingest and breakdown troublesome polystyrenes such as Styrofoam. Her project won first place in the California State Science Fair's Junior Zoology Division.

In late May, seventh grader Bella Slosberg stole the show at the California State Science Fair, taking top honors in the Junior Zoology Division with a project that could have far-reaching impacts on the world's ability to reduce plastic waste.

Slosberg started her science project in December for the OVS school science fair, setting out to raise mealworm colonies to

determine if they could safely ingest and breakdown troublesome polystyrenes such as Styrofoam.

But what started out as a school science project – appropriately dubbed Mealworm Madness – resulted in Slosberg being the second student in OVS history to earn first place at the state level.

On May 24, after hours of presentation and evaluation by nine different judges, the clock struck 4 p.m. and it was time for winners to be announced by their project numbers. Slosberg was floored when her number – J2216 – flashed on the board as the gold medal winner in her division.

“When I saw my project number on the side screen, my heart... I don't know... it tied up in a knot,” said Slosberg, one of only three first-place winners from Ventura County. “I was so happy, I hugged a stranger.”

The 65th annual California State Science Fair was held at the California Science Center in Los Angeles, drawing 941 participants from 421 schools across the state. In addition to Slosberg, OVS alumna Bella Welch (L15) and current student Aaron Wolf (L16) took part in the two-day event. Slosberg's project took first place in the Junior Zoology Division, while Welch's project, which explored how weight affected the flight dynamics of a dinosaur known as the quetzalcoatl, won fourth place in the Senior Zoology Division.

Welch, now a freshman at Nordhoff High School, started researching her science experiment under the tutelage of Lower Campus science teacher Matthew Inman, who continued to offer guidance even after she left OVS.

Inman did the same for Slosberg, helping her navigate around problems science experiments often present.

The Lower Campus science program has become a prolific producer of talent on Inman's watch, having generated over the years two first-place state science fair winners, a second-place finisher, two fourth-place winners, and two honorable mentions.

Before the state fair, Inman said he believed Slosberg's project stood an excellent chance of placing, given its attention to detail and her passion for the subject matter. When her name was announced, Inman said, he could not have been prouder.

“I was thinking about the odds – it is virtually impossible to earn recognition at that level,” said Inman, noting the number of middle

school students in California, the number that made it out of their school science fairs to participate at the county level, and the tiny chance of being good enough to stand out against a thousand first-place recipients from around the state.

“The projects at the state science fair were literally, the best, of the best,” Inman added. “You had to be so proud of her, the science program and the school.”

For five months, Slosberg tended to her science experiment every other day, constantly making improvements and tirelessly working on her presentation.

She hit on the experiment after making mealworm cookies at last year’s school science fair, which led to family friends telling her about a groundbreaking Stanford University study in which researchers discovered that mealworms could break down Styrofoam and plastics.

Slosberg reached out to one of the Stanford researchers to obtain the study and ask questions about the research before embarking on her own exploration on the subject. She has since spent so much time on the project that she now considers the time-consuming mealworms her best friends.

With those friends by her side, she took first place at the OVS science fair this year and took top honors at the Ventura County Science Fair, earning her a spot at the state level. Consumed by joy, Slosberg started the application process that night for the state science fair, staying up until eleven, and started making improvements to her science project that did not cease until the day she went to state.

When the winners were announced, Slosberg hugged one of the fair’s staff members, a complete stranger to her. Slosberg’s mother burst into tears.

“She learned that good science takes time,” said her mother Myr Slosberg, who teaches at OVS and has a degree in environmental education and environmental biology. “It’s not just what you know, but learning you need to communicate what you know, and that the reward should be the experience —not the prize.”

This isn’t the end of the experience for Bella Slosberg.

With her win at the state level, she is now eligible to apply for the National Science Fair. Out of hundreds of applicants, only 30 are chosen and awarded a full-paid trip to Washington D.C. with the chance to present their work in front of hundreds in the White House.

But whether she continues on at the national level or not, Slosberg already has accomplished what most young scientists can only dream of.

“Bella always does her best, and it is exciting for her to have earned this truly exceptional award,” Inman said. “OVS provides the opportunity for people to pursue their dreams in almost any realm.”



OVS alumna Bella Welch (L15) and current students Bella Slosberg and Aaron Wolf (L16) took part in the California State Science Fair.

Relay for Life

Before the end of the school year, a group of compassionate Ojai Valley School students traveled around Ojai, providing face-painting services to raise money for a great cause. The students joined a long-standing OVS tradition of supporting Relay for Life, a worldwide movement to help fight cancer and provide care for those grappling with the disease.

This year, senior Savannah Moler (U16) came up with the idea to face paint as a way to add to the money raised by those taking part in the Ojai Relay for Life at Nordhoff High School.

“I want to help as much as possible to raise money for this event because it’s such a significant issue,” she said. Last year, Ojai only had a 12-hour relay, much to the disappointment of many members of the community. This year, however, event organizers joined together and raised the walking time back to 24 hours.

Similar to past years, teachers and students walked the track at Nordhoff for the entire 24-hour period, camping out in the infield overnight. At the close of the event, OVS had one of the largest fundraising teams in the Ojai Valley, generating more than \$3,200 for the fight against cancer! “[The students] continue to amaze me in the amount of dedication they have to raising awareness for Relay for Life,” said Associate Admission Director John Valenzuela, a cancer survivor who helped organize the OVS team.



Write-On Spuds

OVS student journalists have taken a leading role in producing a new monthly section for the Ojai Valley News featuring the work of high school students throughout the valley. OVS has contributed more stories than any other school to the project, dubbed the Student Union, and each issue has prominently showcased the programs and people that distinguish the school. The inaugural issue featured five stories by OVS journalists, including front-page pieces by freshman reporter Clover Griffin (L15) and senior Kendall Shiffman (L12, U16). In recent years, the journalism program has won top honors for writing, photography and design at regional journalism competitions.

AP Exams

This year, 59 high school students took a total of 137 Advanced Placement (AP) exams starting in May. While most students take only one or two exams, several students took four or more of the rigorous tests. The exams, administered for the College Board, test high school students’ competency in subject areas equal to, and sometimes more stringent than, college courses. The list of exams being offered this year includes: English Literature, English Language and Composition, World History, U.S. History, Psychology, Biology, Physics 1, Physics 2, Environmental Science, Chinese, and Art. Next year, OVS will expand its AP course offerings at the high school to add AP Computer Science.

High Tea Tradition Continues

Flowers, fairies, butterflies, and spirited lawn gnomes graced our Greenberg Activities Center turned tea garden as our Primary division celebrated the Annual High Tea last spring. Family and friends were delighted as our youngest students graciously hosted an afternoon full of vivacious young talent on stage, fine etiquette, and delicious tea fare.



Students Spend Spring Break in Costa Rica

By the time Ojai Valley School students hit middle school, most of them have hiked through the Piedra Blanca formations near Rose Valley. Last spring, 14 Spuds got to hike a similarly named, but vastly different, Piedras Blancas about 2,900 miles away. It was one of many adventures the OVS middle schoolers experienced during their 7-day stay in the heart of Costa Rica. Between April 8-16, they lived almost entirely off the grid and became white-water rafting, sugar-cane making, jungle-trekking eco-tourists.

OVS kicked off the trip with an overnight stay in San Isidro General, then woke up early the next morning for a 4x4 off-road expedition to the community of Brujo. From there, the students, their chaperones and guides worked up an appetite with a 4-hour hike through the rainforest. “The hike to our first homestay to the Lopez farm was incredibly challenging,” said 5th grade teacher and trip chaperone Michele Floyd (L84). “I was very proud of the students for their ability to persevere and have a good



attitude about it. They were mindful of hydrating, eating properly, and were patient and encouraging of each other.”

The next day, the Spuds helped their homestay family collect and prepare sugar cane. It’s hard work, the kids discovered, creating sweet treats — but so worth it in the end when they got a chance to taste their own sugar. But before they saw the finished product, they grabbed their gear and rappelled down a 120-foot waterfall surrounded by lush greenery. They also made time for community service. Back in Brujo, the students grabbed paintbrushes and helped paint a local church. The next

day brought a visit to a local school, where the kids proudly presented a large donation of supplies for the teachers and student alike. On day 5, the Spuds got back on the water. A lack of rain this year gave the students the opportunity to raft on Rio Savegre, dubbed the cleanest river in the Americas.

Ziplining, surfing and team-building activities — along with sightings of sloth, coati, raccoons, leaf-cutter ants, birds, bats, giant cockroaches and countless other creatures — rounded out an adventure that won’t soon be forgotten by the OVS crew.

Project Planned to Reduce Water at Upper Campus

Contributions are helping fund the estimated \$50,000 purchase and installation of water-conserving geo-textile footing for the Upper Campus riding arenas this summer. This project will reduce water in the Upper Campus dressage and jumping arenas by an estimated 500,000 gallons per year. These improvements are in response to the continuing California drought and Ojai Valley School’s commitment to environmental sustainability. In the past year, sustainability measures on both campuses have included new filtered water stations, drought-tolerant landscaping, new high-tech irrigation systems, and installation of geo-textile footing at the Lower Campus equestrian arena. This footing is better and safer for the horses, and it is reducing our water use at a critical time in California. To learn more, contact the Development Office at 805-646-1423 ext. 1276.

1



2



1 8th-grade class posing in front of the Van Patten Library

2 Students who started in the primary division



3 Claire Chronis (L13), Copper Clark (L13), Taylor Snell (L13), Shawn Harvey (L13, U17), Josh Han (L13, U17), and Jeffrey Lin (L13, U17)

4 Emma Herzig (L12) and Kendall Shiffman (L12, U16)

5 Michael J. Hall-Mounsey, Kirste McIntyre, and Nicole (Gartrell) Ferro (L96)

This year marked the 21st annual Pons Dinner, which celebrates the bridge between middle and high school. It is also a time to recognize those Lower Campus graduates, now in their senior year, as they prepare to transition from high school to college.

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's festivities. A special thank you to our alumni and student speakers: Nicole (Gartrell) Ferro (L96), Lower Campus Student Council President Avery Colborn (L16), and Upper Campus Student Council President Davis Smith (L12, U16).

Nicole, who has been teaching at OVS since 2006, described her speech as being a-typical from the usual speech delivered at Pons. She explained that although she was not (and is still not) fond of camping, she thanks OVS for giving her more than a textbook education. Her OVS experience has changed over the years. She started out as a student, a summer camp counselor, an elementary teacher, and finally a parent of a current pre-kindergarten student.

"Whether it was participating in plays, on the soccer field or basketball court, or riding in the arena, there is something for everyone here," she said. "Everyone could find their niche and no matter who you are or what you love, your passion is always encouraged at this school."

Senior guest speaker Davis Smith marveled at all the things he never imagined he would accomplish, including backpacking more than 100 miles as a 7th grader, going undefeated in soccer his 8th grade year, traveling to Mexico on a foreign exchange trip – and getting accepted into his dream college, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. His advice to the incoming freshmen was to take advantage of every opportunity that is presented. He closed his speech by sharing the following sentiment: "Whether your high school careers lead you to the Upper Campus or even other places, we all share a bond that will never be broken; a connection to OVS."

OVS Alum Raises Her Voice to Raise Awareness

by Kendall Shiffman (L12, U16)



OVS alum Reem Altamimi has launched a successful music career after graduating high school in 2010 – Photo by Jisun Kim

On a cold night last December in Saudi Arabia, more than 8,000 women donned bright pink headscarves and crowded onto a soccer field at Princess Nourah University in the capital city of Riyadh, looking to make history.

Many already had taken part in an historic event, voting for the first time on that Dec. 12 day in the country's history. But they weren't nearly done there.

Scores of the same women filed into the university soccer stadium later that night to form the world's largest breast cancer awareness ribbon, a monumental feat that set a new Guinness World Record and brought much-needed attention to the fight against the deadly disease.

It was a remarkable show of solidarity, a night when Saudi women banded together like never before to speak with one voice about the health issues facing women in the Arab world.

But one voice rose above them all. And it belonged to Ojai Valley School alum Reem Altamimi, a Saudi native who wrote and recorded the song *We've Got Wings* to commemorate the event.

As the women joined together on the soccer field, forming a human ribbon that snaked around one goal and ended at the other, Reem's voice poured through the stadium's speakers, unifying all 8,264 women who took part in the record-setting event.

"This song is in honor of the fight against breast cancer, and the need to raise awareness for it in Saudi," said Reem, a 2010 graduate of the Upper Campus who contacted the event's sponsor, 10KSA, and asked if she could contribute the song.

On a cold night in Saudi Arabia, a record 8,264 joined together in Saudi Arabia to form the largest ever human Breast Cancer Awareness ribbon.

"Princess Reema, who started the (10KSA) organization, loved the song and asked me to get it produced so they could use it as the anthem for their breast cancer awareness campaign," Reem added. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity."

The anthem was the latest step in Reem's meteoric, musical career,

She first developed an interest in music at the age of 11, and arrived at OVS her sophomore year, honing that craft in chorus and school musicals, and voice class her senior year.

After graduating from OVS, Reem studied economics at UC San Diego. Her parents did not want her to study music, but she made a deal with her father that if she could graduate early, she would be allowed to stay in LA to work on a musical career.

When she was 18, she wrote the coming-of-age song "*Little Girl*," and followed that up with the critically acclaimed "*Gender Game*," which she sang last year at the 2nd Global Symposium on Gender in Media in New

York. Like much of her work, *Gender Game* focuses on gender equality, especially for women in the Middle East.

Now comes “*We’ve Got Wings*,” which is quickly becoming one of her biggest hits yet.

In addition to being performed on the world stage at the event in Saudi Arabia, the music video for the song recently won top honors at the Asbury Park Music in Film Festival and the California International Shorts Film Festival.

“I’m really so lucky and thankful to have worked with such amazing and talented people,” said Reem, who goes by the stage name TamTam. “I didn’t know what to expect with the song, because it was for an organization in Saudi, so it was so cool that it won something in the West.”

While the awards are gratifying, Reem said she is most pleased that the song has helped showcase efforts to fight cancer in the Arab world.

Today, in Saudi Arabia, women are diagnosed with cancer at advanced states leading to higher mortality rates, so much so that occurrence of breast cancer (in Saudi women) is 10 years younger than their Western peers, according to 10KSA.

Breast Cancer is the most prevalent cancer affecting women all around the world. However, in Western culture, society is relatively normalized to the discussion of the disease, but in Saudi Arabia, women do not have as strong of a voice to raise awareness.

10KSA wants the conversation of breast cancer to switch towards prevention and treatment, rather than defeat — and Reem’s song, “*We’ve Got Wings*,” does just that.

“I wasn’t in Saudi (for the event), but my aunts were there, and some friends, so they sent me videos,” Reem said. “I was so proud to be a part of such a special and important campaign.”

Senior to Alumni Dinner

Just before graduation, OVS Trustee Cooper Hefner (U09) spoke to the seniors during the annual senior-to-alumni dinner, held at Boccali’s restaurant in Ojai. Hefner encouraged the 23 students to appreciate their final days at OVS, and to value the relationships they’ve made with friends and faculty.

“Whether you’re choosing to go to college, jumping straight into a job, or taking a gap year, most of you will very likely feel as though you’ve outgrown OVS,” Hefner said. “But the amazing part about this community — that you will realize as you travel through not only college but life — is that this community will really never outgrow you.”



35 ALUMNI AT SUMMER CAMP

Alumni Working Summer Camp!

We are so grateful to have some of our alums back on campus to staff summer camp!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Brittany Whipple (L02, U06), Destani Cuccio-Green (L13), Belle Cook (L07, U11), Craig Floyd (U83), Gavin Floyd (L13, U17), Callen Gartrell, Joy Campbell (L14, U18), Kelsey (Gartrell) Bailey (L98), Hunter Helman (L06, U10), Paloma Sandoval (L02, U06). *Not pictured:* Caitlin (Black) Cooper (L97), Dana Black (L99), Mariah Lotts (L10), Claire Wickenhaeuser (L11, U15)

News and Social Media

Stay on top OVS news and events by following the OVS student journalism news site, *On the Hill*: <http://oth.ovs.org>

Follow OVS on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram! The OVS Alumni Association set a goal to increase the number of Facebook likes by 5% annually and achieved a 9% increase from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2016. We are on course to exceed that goal again this year. The OVS Parent Club launched a new FB page this spring, and be sure to follow images of OVS on our Instagram page. Even if you're not on social media, you can still check out the most recent OVS happenings at www.ovs.org/social, where you will find a vibrant collage of images and posts that update daily. Share your alumni or campus events pictures with the community by including #ojaivalleyschool.



Alumni Defeat Students in Spring Games

Thank you to all who turned out for the Basketball and Soccer games in February and the Bingo Memorial Lacrosse and Baseball games in May. It was great to see everyone!

Congrats to our Alumni team who won our most recent set of spring games: Baseball: 7-3, Lacrosse: 6-4

After the game, a handful of players also attend the third annual OVS Gala. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



REGIONAL

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's regional alumni and parent gatherings. Representatives from OVS were able to travel the globe, visiting locations such as Korea, China, as well as several US states. If you are interested in hosting an alumni and/or parent gathering at your residence, please contact Director of Admission and Advancement, Tracy Wilson (twilson@ovs.org).



1

Clockwise from left: Serry Park (L08, U12), Aria Ellet (U13), Wendy Lin (L08, U12), Fred Alvarez with daughters Apple Alvarez and Alex Alvarez, Bin Ko (L08), William Yuan (U13), David Beaudette (L66, U69), Brianna Snider (L04, U08), and Shelly Xu (U14)

Gatherings



2 **3** The Class of '53 enjoyed a gathering at the Camarillo home of Bob Koster in June. Pictured clockwise at top: Steve Bruenn, Bob Koster, Jim Demsey, Jerri (Batson) Prenzlöw, Mary (Wais) Dettmers, and Ann (Thacher) Bruenn.

4

SHANGHAI, CHINA



5

BEIJING, CHINA



4 OVS is pleased to welcome incoming freshman Justin Ni (U20). Justin and his parents, Xin Ni and Li Mu (pictured in the center) met with Craig Floyd during a spring reception in Shanghai. OVS was pleased to also host at this event Dong Wang, father of Johnson Wang (U17), and welcome entering freshman Junzhe Sun (U20) (pictured in the back) who came with his relatives Jia Liu and Jia Tao Sun, parents of Ivy Sun (U19).

5 Assistant Head of School Craig Floyd visited with current OVS families during a spring trip to China, including Andy Wei, father of Alex Wei (L16), Jingping Guo, father of Jenny Guo (L17), and Lifeng Yang and Qiang Li, parents of Tony Yang (L14, U18).



6 LEFT: Minung Choi (L10,U14), Bo Sun Ryu (U13), Jack McClenahan, Jungboem JB Shin (L90, U93), Eunsuk Patrick Rho (L90, U94), Sungwook Kim, Woo Jin Choi (L07), Lauren Park (L07, U11), Yeda Choi (L04), Jane McClenahan, Keunsoo Kevin Kim (L06, U10), and Shelley Hermes (U77).

With the help of Shelley Hermes (U77), Lauren Park (L7, U11) and other local alumni, Ojai Valley School hosted a Parent-Alumni Brunch at trendy Queen's Park in Seoul, followed by two alumni gatherings in other sections of Seoul later that week.

7 Hyun Park with her son Min Ung Choi (L10, U14).

8 Hyun-Keum Han, mother of Minseong Amy Kweon (L17) and Donghee Max Kwon (L19) with her beautiful Parents' Day bouquet.



Founder's Alumni Award committee member Scott Eicher (L65, U68) presenting the Founder's Alumni Award to Spencer at the 2016 Alumni Weekend.

2016 Founder's Alumni Award Recipient: Spencer Garrett

by Elizabeth (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)

"He tells the worst jokes in the dorm, he continually ruins the curve on chemistry tests, and he is probably the clumsiest varsity soccer player—yet he's the student body president." Ojai Valley School Observer, February '64

This unlikely but inevitable leader had been duly elected, of course, by schoolmates who knew, liked, and trusted Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) and who knew he could take some good-natured ribbing. He'd maybe honed that ability early on through years of being the new kid in school.

Though Spencer was born in Ventura (making him a 4th generation Venturan) shortly after WWII ended*, as the child of a career Navy officer, he followed a circuitous route back to his birthplace, a

route that included setting down roots in Albuquerque, San Diego, Whidbey Island (in Washington's Puget Sound), and Arlington, VA. By the time Spencer was in 8th grade, though, his family had come back home to roost in Ventura, and Spencer found his way to OVS.

His timing was perfect: Spencer got to be a senior at OVS for four straight years: once in the 9th grade at Lower and then each of his three years at Upper, as high school grades were added one at a time. He was one of 14 boys in the 10th grade class who lived in the Lower Campus infirmary until the Upper dorm was completed sometime after Christmas of 1962. It was the sole building on the campus at the time: there were no classrooms yet, no dining room, no girls' dorm. "We'd

go down to the Lower Campus for our meals and classes," Spencer explains. "We helped build the sports fields. We also worked on the amphitheater."

Conditions were rough for the members of what would become the first high school class to graduate from the brand new Upper Campus, the Class of '65. Seas of mud and days of scorching heat were examples of the elements they had to contend with on their hilltop perch. But they just made do and took pride in overcoming the obstacles they encountered. And Spencer was a problem-solver, not a whiner.

On the occasion of Spencer's 50th birthday, Mike Hermes, who had been Spencer's first dorm parent, wrote this, in reference to the everyday inconveniences those OVS Upper pioneers endured: "Either your parents didn't

have a clue as to the hardships each of you was subjected to, or they were perceptive enough to understand that this was truly a meaningful character-building experience.”

Hermes also expressed his appreciation for Spencer's leadership in pulling his class together, which he's done again and again over the last 50-plus years. Wrote Hermes, “[Spencer.] your common sense, intelligence, and character were always there for your classmates to observe and draw upon when needed. You were the ‘steady hand’ of the class of ‘65.”

Hermes' impression of Spencer is echoed by a classmate and still close friend of Spencer's, Kirk Warren (U65). “Back in high school,” recalls Kirk, “Spencer was ethically mature for his age, while some of us needed much more time to develop values of honesty, integrity, fairness, loyalty, compassion, and respect for others.”

After graduating from the Upper School, Spencer attended Pomona College, earning a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics in 1969. Also at Pomona was Kirk Warren. With their freshly minted degrees in hand, the two came back to Upper briefly to teach algebra and geometry. But the Vietnam War was in full swing, and the draft had just been instituted. Spencer's number was an unpropitious 47.

Following 3 1/2 years in the Navy (including a tour and a half of duty in the Tonkin Gulf of Vietnam), he completed an MBA at Northwestern University and came back to Ventura, where he and his brother, Scott (U67), started developing the Pierpont Racquet Club, one of the first multi-purpose athletic facilities in the country. The first swimming director Spencer and Scott hired at the Pierpont Racquet Club was a fetching young woman named Nancy, who would eventually become Spencer's wife. (They recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Both their children, daughter Cameryn (L98, U02) and son Cory (L02), attended OVS and join their father as supportive alums).

By the mid-Nineties, the Garrett boys had acquired and converted five tennis clubs in Albuquerque to multi-purpose athletic

facilities. After selling these in 1999, they used the proceeds to buy the historic Pierpont Inn in Ventura, which they owned and operated until 2005.

Spencer has done extensive volunteer work over the last several decades, including for the Ventura Boys and Girls Club, the United Way of Ventura County, the Interface Children and Family Services, the Ventura Music Festival, The Museum of Ventura County, and the International Health Racquet Sports Association. He agreed to join the OVS Board of Trustees in 2008 and, in the intervening years, has served ably on the building and grounds, audit, and executive committees.

Current OVS President Michael Hall-Mounsey is grateful for Spencer's generous involvement. “In my 35+ years at OVS, Spencer has shone as a constant volunteer and loyal friend to the school. Whatever he has been asked to do—whether it's leading an alumni event or fundraising campaign, speaking at graduation ceremonies, becoming a trustee, or even picking up a hammer and helping remodel a room in the boys' dorm, Spencer has always been there to help and provide thoughtful, often crucial support.”

Among the treasured benefits Spencer says he took with him from OVS were some enduring friendships. Classmate Hiro Noguchi (U65) became and remains one of Spencer's closest friends, for instance. “In between our junior and senior years, we drove cross-country together,” says Spencer. “I've visited him in Japan and in the Philippines more times than I can count over the last five decades.”

The hospitality has been reciprocated. Hiro's two sons, Harry and Corky, and his nephew, Ari, lived with the Garretts while they attended OVS. Spencer and Nancy hosted Hiro's daughter, Asa, too, and attended her wedding in Tokyo.

The bonds Spencer Garrett formed at the Ojai Valley School have proven strong and lasting. We are grateful for his unstinting support of the school and for his willingness to help in the myriad ways he has done to assure OVS a promising future.



1965: A young Spencer addressing his class – the first graduating class of the Upper Campus.



Spencer with Woody Halsey (162), the 2013 recipient of the award.

*Both of Spencer's parents had been in Pearl Harbor, HI, on December 7, 1941, when the surprise attack by the Japanese occurred. Spencer's father was on a mail run and so was off the island at the time of the attack; Spencer's mother was visiting her sister on Ford Island, where Pearl Harbor is located, on that fateful morning. Joe and Betty married in 1943.

Founder's Alumni Award

Deadline for nominations: January 31, 2017

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 2017 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? _____

Alumni Weekend

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2016 OVS Alumni Weekend! We had over 150 alumni and guests on campus and everyone seemed to have had a splendid time! Alumni Weekend is truly a team effort and we are so grateful for all the help we received from staff as well as our class agents.

Mark your calendars and begin planning to join us for Alumni Weekend 2017, June 9-11. All OVS alums and their guests are welcome to attend with a special invitation extended to classes ending in a 2 or a 7.

This Alumni Weekend will be hosted primarily at the Upper Campus as we celebrate Carl Cooper's 47 years of dedicated service to the school. In commemoration of this event, OVS will be offering an expanded schedule which includes special musical performances on Friday and Saturday evening. On Saturday, the Main Event Dinner will be held at the Upper Campus field under the stars. You can expect a very fun-filled schedule on Saturday with the opportunity to hike, test your limits on the ropes course, and relax poolside. A special brunch at the Lower Campus will bring the weekend to a close on Sunday.

If you are interested in joining the reunion committee or receiving a class directory, please contact us at alumni@ovs.org or 805-640-2578.

OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL SAVE THE DATE

2017 ALUMNI WEEKEND

June 9 - 11, 2017

Honoring Carl Cooper and his 47 years of service to the school

OVS welcomes all classes – especially those celebrating milestone reunions!

1952 1957 1962 1967 1972 1977 1982 1987 1992 1997 2002 2007 2012

HIGHLIGHTS



1 Jerry Knill (L63, U66), Robert Kotchien (L63, U66), LeeAnne (Sichel) Simonds (U66), Steve Manis (U66), Rob Kay (L63, U66), Fred Fickert (L63, U66), Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (L63, U66), Steve McIntyre (U66), and Bob Christensen (U66)

2 Bernadette DiPietro, Lisa Boyd, Natalie McKerjee (U07), Mairin McCarthy (U06), John Boyd, and Judy Oberlander

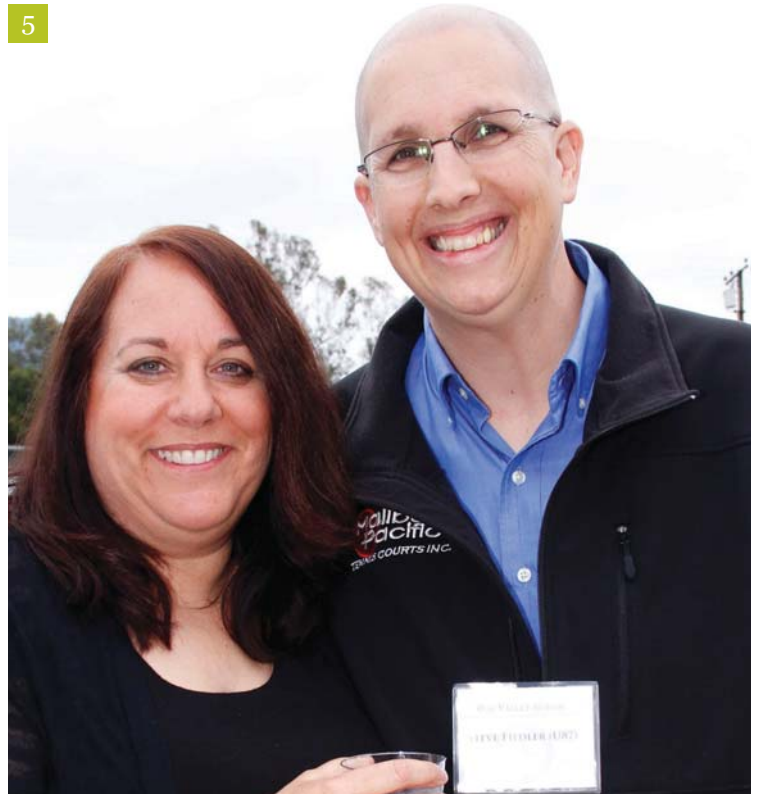
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4



5



3 Susan Macksey (U78), Lee Roberts (L72), and Andrew Knight (L72, U75)

4 Sarah Gates (L99, U03) and her guest Ryan

5 Steve Fiedler (U87) and his wife Cathy

6



7



6 Lana (Lucking) Fredell (L57), Carly (Lucking) Ford (L66), and Ruth (Lucking) Col (L61)

7 Michael J. Hall-Mounsey, Nancy Novak, Carol Hall-Mounsey, and Dana DeYoung

8



9



8 Guest, Kiki Saxon (L87, U91), Jess Brolin (L87, U91), Courtney Atinsky (U92), Jessica Fuller (U91), Jana Broecking (U91) with her husband Bill and their baby

9 Nancy Garrett, Woody Halsey (L62) and his wife, Pauline, and Michael J. Hall-Mounsey



10 Christian Elberfeld (L76, U80), Dana DeYoung, Matt Inman, Cameryn Garrett (L98, U02), Linda Gartrell, Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), and John Wickenhaeuser

11 Patti (Rascoe) Bakke (L76, U80), Patrick Faverty, and Karen (Roscoe) Farmer (L77, U81)

12 Tracy Wilson and Sally (McClenahan) Dyer (L87, U91)

13



14



15



13 Fred Alvarez, Bernadette DiPietro, Jody (Berger) Cooper (L71, U74), Courtney Atinsky (U92) and her guest Susie, Dana DeYoung, Chia Hersk (L88, U92), and Gretchen Stevens

14 Roger Wang (L87, U91) and Gary Dinkins

15 Roxie Brophy (L64, U67) and Liz (Curran) Hermes (L66, U69)

51 ALUMNI WEEKEND

16



17



18

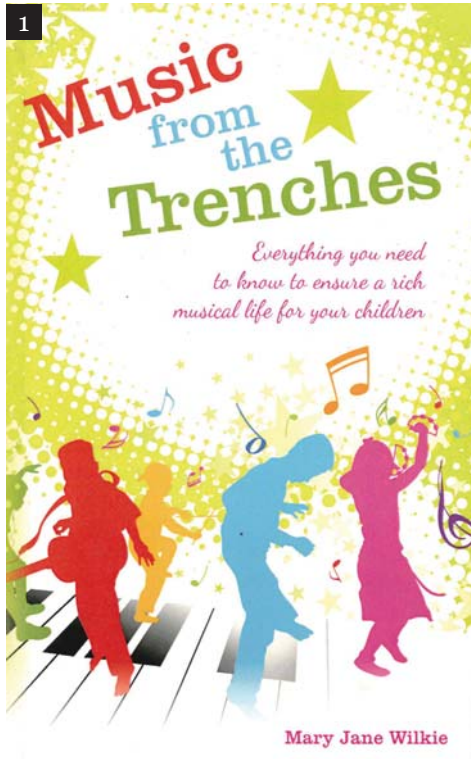


16 Doug Colborn, Jason Coudray (L00, U04), and Laurel Colborn

17 Nancy Dreier (U86) on the ropes course

18 Simon Falcioni (6,) rode Westin and Grace Bakke (10) rode Ginger with the assistance of riding instructors Caitlin Black (L97) and Jen Konz

alumni notes



Mary Jane Wilke, former OVS music and Spanish teacher, sent us a copy of her book, *Music from the Trenches*, published in 2014. The material for the book, explains Mary Jane, is derived from her experiences at OVS. She writes, “One of my goals with the book was to educate parents on the music-learning process, thus enabling them to make their own decisions, based on a solid understanding of how children learn music.” ¹

Lower 1953

Jeri (Batson) Prenzlów, along with some of her classmates, visited the Lower Campus recently and had this to say about her experience as a student: “My two years at OVS (7th and 8th grades)

in 1950-1952 were the best years of my childhood (and perhaps my parents’ lives, too)!

“I was very energetic, daring, etc. Not bad, just an early teen. Mr. Burr told me that I had the most ‘marks’ in the history of the school.

“Mr. Burr made me press my tongue on his handful of cayenne pepper for using a swear word (learned at OVS!) in front of him. HOT! But, I never repeated that word. By the time I was in 9th grade, OVS had helped me mature! Thank you all, for all you do!”

Lower 1955

Bill Wilmer visited the Lower Campus recently and filled us in on his family: “Sue and I are having great fun living in Mountain Ranch which just experienced the massive Butte Fire. We did evacuate for eight days but were fortunate to have escaped any fire damage although the fire came within one half mile of our house.” ²

“I have stayed busy since we moved here almost four years ago with a variety of home and property improvement projects that have included building a cabin, barn, shed, food pantry, four bookcases, fifteen wilderness benches, several picnic/rest areas, trail systems, an outdoor stairs system and much road repair including lots of drainage ditches.

“For me, living here is like being a kid in a candy store as I have such a love of the out-of-doors. Much of that love I developed when I lived in Venezuela before and during the time I was a student at OVS. My love of our California landscape came from the influence OVS and Wally Burr had on me during and all those glorious days we spent together in the Sespe during the May camping trips. I often think of OVS as I am on our land enjoying the day.

“Sue is a member of a female singing group that gives many concerts during the year and is soon to sing in Sacramento. She is also busy quilting, playing in a ukulele group and participating in a book club and hobby club. In addition, she has been reformatting my books for Kindle.

“[Our youngest daughter,] Cathy (U88), has been remarried just over a year. Cathy works for Logitech and has global responsibility for the total rewards program which includes all corporate and executive compensation, incentive, and bonus programs and policies. She travels to Switzerland three times a year to work directly with the Board of Directors and meets once yearly with them in San Francisco, where her office is based.

“[Our older daughter,] Chris, is a University of California graduate optometrist who was recently promoted from Chief of Staff of the University Tang Eye Center and Director of the Residency Program for the School of Optometry to Director of Clinics, Full Professor and Associate Dean of Clinics in the School of Optometry.

“We have four grandchildren ages 8, 10, 12 and 14. Three are boys and the 12-year-old is our granddaughter. Both Cathy and Chris live in the Bay Area, so Sue and I can visit easily and often.

“I recently had a very nice visit with Mike Hall-Mounsey at OVS when he showed Sue and me the revitalized shop thanks to the generosity of Alan Pearson (L55). Alan and I were good OVS friends. That day I also spent a couple of very enjoyable hours with Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) at the Upper Campus. Spencer was the star pitcher on the varsity baseball team I coached when I taught at OVS. Spencer is a superb athlete, and he helped lead us to an undefeated season as well as to the league championship. It was really good to see Spencer in his role as a trustee.

“This year, I have been able to put my six books on Kindle. If you’re interested, you can see them by searching how2puregold, my publishing name, or by my author name, William Wilmer.”

Lower 1963

Tamsin Everett brought us up to speed as follows: “I’m retired and spend my time doing very little. I ride my Arabian gelding, Noble, every day. I foaled Noble out 17 years ago and became “mom” when Brandie died 12 hours after he was born. I trained him knowing he would be an ‘old lady’s horse.’ Of course, I have a dog – miniature Dachshund, ‘Tim.’ I’m a big fan of *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkein; I have just about all of Tolkein’s books. Enough said.”

Fred Fickert (see U66)

Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor (see U66)

Lower 1971

“Good to visit classmate Scott Jeffreys (L71) and OVS at spring break this year,” writes **Bruce Frank**. Bruce says that he enjoyed having a last tequila at Ojai’s closing of Los Caporales Restaurant and Tequila Bar. He is in Cabo San Lucas for a good part of the summer and, depending on the outcome of the presidential election, may wind up making Mexico his new homeland. Bruce made it to the San Francisco area alumni event and enjoyed connections to former schoolmates there.

ATTENTION: We welcome your updates anytime! Alumni news received by December 31, 2016 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.



Lower 1977

Claire (Kellerman) Malibu Graham
(see U81)

Lower 1987

Roger Wang (see U91)

Lower 1990

Shaun Davis (see U94)

Eun Suk “Patrick” Rho (see U94)

Lower 1995

Charles Whipple (see U99)

Lower 2000

Mike Cha is a project manager for an architecture firm, EGA Group, in Seoul. He is getting married in December.

JiHo Park attended the alumni gathering



that was hosted in Korea in May. JiHo is an assistant manager in purchasing and materials for BHI, Co. Ltd. in Haman City in Korea.

Lower 2004

Congrats to **John-Clark Levin**, who will be leaving this fall to pursue a Ph.D. at Cambridge University. As a member of St. John's College, he will be researching better ways of forecasting and adapting to the impact of technological change.

Lower 2005

Hyojung “Marie” Shin attended the May 14 alumni gathering at One Bite brunch café in Seoul, Korea. Marie is currently working at FIFA Match Agency in Seoul, Korea organizing friendly matches and training camps for teams prior to Olympic, World Cup, and national tournaments. After graduating from university in British

Caitlin Black (L97) and **Nate Cooper** (L91, U95) married on June 25 in Ojai. The couple, after a private ceremony, held their reception under a canopy of lights on the Upper Campus. **4**

Columbia and an internship with the Major Baseball League, Marie was a sports writer for the Seattle Mariners. She has just recently returned to Korea.

She sends the following request: “Mrs. Wallace, Ms. Scott, and Mrs. Slosberg: Please come to Korea to visit sometime soon! I really want to visit Ojai. Last time I was at OVS, I was 13 years old! Lots of love, Marie.” **3**

Lower 2006

Hunter Helman (see U10)

Keunsoo Kevin Kim (see U10)

Lower 2007

Lauren Park (see U11)

Lower 2008

Henry Mooney (see U12)

Lower 2011

Connor Floyd (see U15)

Zach Majernik is a student at Texas Lutheran University majoring in journalism. He plays clarinet in the Pep Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, and is a reporter for the TLU Lone Star. He will be headed to London for a fall semester abroad after working at Briarwood summer camp near Dallas.

Upper 1966

Fred Fickert is still sailing as well as making wine as an amateur. He sailed from Stockton to Cabo last year with two friends. Ann [Fred's wife] is learning dressage.

Lynn (Yoakum) Taylor let us know that her book on OVS took 1st place in the Arizona/New Mexico book awards in the history category as a first-time-author. She also announced that she had a new granddaughter, Lilly Lynn, born August 1, 2015.

Upper 1969

Darlene Moore, mother of **Randy Elliot**, recently passed away. Darlene worked in the Upper Campus kitchen for several years in the 1960s. Please see the In Memoriam article about her.

Upper 1976

Katheryn (Devoli) Hoehn, who attended this year's Alumni Weekend, expressed appreciation for an extraordinary teacher she'd had at Upper: "I will always remember and respect my English teacher, J.B. Close, who taught me to love literature. I have carried his lessons with me my entire life and will always be thankful for that."

My youngest child left for college this year," reports Kathy, "leaving me with an empty nest for the first time since 1978. I'm working with spiritof45.org to honor the men and women who served in WWII, especially those who lost their lives. My three granddaughters live nearby in Santa Cruz and keep their 'grammy' happy and busy. I enjoy staying connected with old friends."

Laurie Williams had this to say about being an OVS student: "My years at OVS were the best of my youth. I made lifelong friends and was given a great education."

Upper 1978

"OVS was my first experience of genuinely enjoying school," writes **Susan Macksey**. "Not all the time, of course, but, for once, I didn't feel embarrassed about being smart, or about liking to read, or knowing stuff about stuff because there were other kids there who valued the same things I did. I was happier there than I'd ever been before. And I'm still grateful for what I got at OVS."

Upper 1981

It was great to hear from **Claire (Kellerman) Malibu Graham**, who has relocated and sends this update: "I am here in Scotland, after dreaming of making this move for 1.5 years. I was completely supported in coming to Scotland, to nourish my Soul by walking with my ancestors, both living and living in Spirit. All my worldly possessions have been simplified to four bags, my guitar, and eight boxes on Maui, which is so liberating. I feel free.

"This is my first vacation in six years. I am so happy to have had three full years working with the world's top permaculture and regenerative designers and farmers, so I can share that wisdom here with the cattle ranchers and farmers across Scotland, teach Earth Architecture, sing, paint, travel to my ancestral homes, and finally spend quality time with my father's side of the family: warm, kind, gentle, intelligent Souls. It is feeling like home, and a huge contrast after ten years in bikinis and slippahs/flip flops living on Maui, in Hawaii. I love scarves, sweaters, boots, cozy beds, and real conversations so am liking it here very much.

"Look me up if you are coming to Scotland. I have no known plans beyond soaking in every step, all over Scotland: Orkney, Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh, The Festivals in August, Stirling, Glasgow, and wherever I am led. I am listening to where doors open and am available to organize Ger Lyons' Core Transformation and Cellular Healing Training Events here as well, after seven years of training myself. I have witnessed my own and others' amazing and powerful healing. gerlyons.net - Celtic Mystic & Global Healer"



Upper 1991

Cal Berkeley alum and enthusiastic supporter **Roger Wang** with his sons, Ben and Ethan, met the Berkeley men's coach at this year's Ojai Tennis Tournament. **5**

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

Upper 1994

Congratulations to **Shaun Davis** who received an award for outstanding service as a firefighter. His chief recognized him in remarks that highlighted his multi-faceted contributions to the Montecito Fire Department. **6**

Eunsuk Patrick Rho (pictured above with Jack McClenahan) and friends joined OVS alumni at Craftworks Taphouse and Bistro on May 12. Patrick is Marketing Strategy

Team Leader for Amore Pacific, which provides global customers with beauty, household, and healthcare products. **7**

Tomoko (Seino) Hotema, currently living in Hawaii with her husband Andreu and their three children, visited California in April for a wedding. While she was in Ojai, she stopped by Lower and Upper Campus to visit with faculty and staff. Tomoko is pictured above with Jack McClenahan, Development Coordinator. **8**

Upper 1999

Charles Whipple, III wrote the following for his sister Michele (Whipple) Floyd's OVS all-school presentation, and Michele was kind enough to forward it to the alumni office. "Ojai Valley School's camping program was one of the very first positive experiences I had at OVS. [I learned] very quickly on my first camping trip that it was not just a week off school, so much as a week out of the classroom with a different team-focused agenda. [The notion of] 'team' was instilled right down to the way we were taught to pack our backpacks. You carry all the items you need, plus a portion of the team's food and shelter in addition. We helped each other and learned from each other. One step at a time, we reached our goals. Our trips were not measured by miles or elevation changes, but by the number of memories and the amount of fun and bonding. To learn how to learn out of the classroom can change one's perspective on learning for the rest of life."

9

Upper 2006

Congratulations to **Jordan Rigberg** on many fronts! On March 16, 2016, Jordan earned his MBA from Santa Clara University. The very next day, he and his wife, Tamara, welcomed their second daughter, Leighton. His first daughter, Charlotte ("Charlee") just turned two in May. Jordan currently works as a senior associate at Silicon Valley Bank in Palo Alto, CA. He and his family are moving to Denver, CO in July.

10

Upper 2007

Lauren Park attended two OVS gatherings in Korea this year. She is pictured with Mrs. Han decorating the brunch table with rose petals. She writes, "To Whom It May Concern: I am starting law school in the fall of 2016. And, I rarely know what I am up to for the most part. Please refer to my LinkedIn, if interested. Listing all the persons I care/love from the Spudland is nearly impossible, but: Dearest OVSians, you made me who I am right now. SUPER GRATEFUL! XOXO, Lauren"

11





Upper 2010

Keunsoo Kevin Kim says hello from the Lotus Lantern Festival in Seoul. Kevin graduated from State University of New York in Binghamton with a B.A. in English Literature the summer of 2015. He's currently teaching English to elementary through high school age students who attend local international schools here in Seoul. ¹²

Hunter Helman, who started at OVS as a kindergartener and returned to the Upper Campus last year as a weekend supervisor and assistant soccer coach, took over the reins this school year of the high school's fall and winter soccer programs.

A star athlete during his time on both campuses, he spread his natural knack for leadership from football to soccer to baseball at the high school, earning the position of captain in all three sports. ¹³



Upper 2012

We were glad to hear from newly published internet author **Henry Mooney**, who writes this: "Growing up in Ojai, and Southern California in general, it's hard not to be passionate about the environment, or at least constantly immersed in it. Southern California is surrounded by big mountains, warm weather, the Pacific Ocean, and other environmentally-minded people. So, growing up, I spent a lot of time outside playing in the ocean or hiking (or backpacking with OVS!). I got a good solid foundation for appreciating the outdoors, especially through OVS! Not only did I go camping or backpacking every single year when I was a student, but I took AP Environmental Science with Mr. Wickenhaeuser in my senior year, which really solidified my appreciation for environmental conservation."

"I've always loved the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, geology, astronomy, etc.), and I couldn't pick one to major in at Stony Brook. So I picked Environmental Studies for my major instead. It combines every natural science as well as some more transferrable skills like calculus, statistics, law, government, oceanography, and policy, so a student can apply his or her knowledge of the natural sciences toward a wider goal (in my case, environmental conservation and energy development).

"My book! Well, I'm sad to say that not everybody is on the same train with the 'green wave.' But I don't even think that's the right way to describe any generation's environmental movement. A great deal of opposition toward more environmentally-friendly initiatives seems to come from the perception that 'being green' must mean that someone is a hippie, vegan,



crossfit enthusiast, etc. Or there's the mindset that if something isn't affecting you directly at this point in time, there's no cause for worry. 'I'm cold today, so climate change and global warming aren't real.' That kind of thing.

"What many don't realize is that there are definitive scientific reasons why the transition to more environmentally-friendly initiatives must take place if we want to be able to physically sustain a growing global population. It's not just that a handful of people want to see the pretty forest adjacent to their neighborhood preserved because it's nice to look at. There are physical, chemical, geological, and biological processes on

this planetary body orbiting the sun that cannot continue to support our current global economy (and these processes upon which it depends) if we continue 'business as usual.' It's science!

"The greatest impact people can have (all 7 billion of us) is in our day-to-day lives and involves simple, doable measures like taking shorter showers, turning the thermostat down, using reusable bottles, driving less, etc. The ripple effect made by seven billion people adopting at least ONE of the techniques listed in my book on Amazon will make a huge difference.

So that's why I wrote it. Not everybody has to learn about global environmental issues to have a positive impact; it really just involves simple lifestyle adjustments (not 'changes') and bada-bing bada-boom! It's that easy!"

Henry's eBook, *It's Not That Hard: Easy Adjustments to Make Your Everyday Life a Little More Environmentally Friendly*, is available through Amazon.com for only \$2.99. You can also visit his adventure travel consulting website at www.fitmos.net. Check it out! 14

ATTENTION: We welcome your updates anytime! Alumni news received by December 31, 2016 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.

Darlene Moore Former OVS Employee

Longtime Ojai Valley resident **Darlene Moore** died on September 12, 2015. She was 88.

Born and raised in South Dakota, Darlene spent her childhood on family dairy farms that also grew corn and flax seed. Growing up during the Depression, Darlene helped work on the family produce farm, selling fresh vegetables from a produce truck driven by her father. She learned to work hard at a young age and preserved this virtuous ethic her entire life.

But hard work was balanced by recreation. Darlene loved fishing with her Norwegian father, ice skating, biking, horseback riding, camping, and going to 5-cent picture shows. After attending a business college in Sioux Falls, Darlene married her high school sweetheart, Max Elliott, who enlisted in the Navy and served on a cruiser in the Pacific during the last years of World War II. Darlene and Max initially made their home in Seattle, where their daughter, Cheryl, was born. Later, the family moved to San Diego, where sons Daryl and Randall joined the family.

After six years, Darlene and Max divorced. Darlene later married Tinker Jesse Wilson and moved to Ventura County. They subsequently had a daughter, Candice, and son, Ted.

Ever industrious, Darlene took on diverse occupations to help support her family, ranging from being a waitress, seamstress, carhop, and Avon representative, to becoming a Tupperware sales rep. She also created crafts at home and sold her tooled leather purses and Plaster of Paris masterpieces door-to-door.

Darlene taught her children to love the outdoors by taking them camping and



teaching them survival skills as well as how to enjoy horseback riding and fishing. She had a great capacity for fun, and her lively household resounded with popular music. She knew all the lyrics by heart.

In the mid-1960s, Darlene became a cook at the newly opened Upper Campus of the Ojai Valley School, staying in that job for eight years. She worked for the next 15 years at the State of California Rehabilitation Center in Ventura. Her marriage had ended, but new horizons beckoned her, and, in 1986, she moved to the beautiful coastal town of Florence, Oregon.

Darlene made a wide circle of friends in her new home through her volunteer jobs at the college and the hospital as well as through her church activities. She stayed active, regularly swimming and taking walks. It was a peaceful and serene time of her life, enabling her to reconnect with the tranquil explorations of nature she had experienced in her youth and so fondly remembered. When the Northwest weather was inclement, Darlene's favorite activities included playing Scrabble, doing crossword puzzles, and watching old westerns and classic movies.

Although she had been born into a Lutheran family, Darlene converted to Catholicism shortly before she left Ojai, becoming a member of St. Thomas Aquinas's congregation. Once she moved to Oregon, Darlene became active in the local Catholic church and reached out with her many skills to help those in need. Darlene delivered communion to shut-in seniors for years and served the Florence Auxiliary, donating over 5,000 hours to this charity. She also knit extraordinarily beautiful baby blankets and donated them to church fundraisers.

Her passion for traveling and sightseeing took Darlene to the Hawaiian Islands, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Greece, Norway, and, most memorable, to the Holy Land. A descendent of the famous Charles and Laura Ingalls (*Little House on the Prairie*), Darlene also travelled to Desmett, South Dakota, to participate in the bi-annual Ingalls' family reunion.

Darlene was a loving, generous woman, good to the core, and imbued with values she has instilled in her children, who miss her every day and who cherish all the good times they shared with her.

She is survived by her children: Cheryl Elliot, of Nipomo; Daryl Elliot of Idaho City, ID; Candice Wilson, of Ojai; and Ted Wilson, of Ojai. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Ginger Lee Wilson and Justin Miracle Wilson as well as by her four great-grandchildren: Britney, Jasmine, Scarlett, and Cody.

Darlene was predeceased by her son Randy (U69) in 1970.

Donations in Darlene's memory can be sent to St. Mary's Youth Group, P.O. Box 2640, Florence, OR 97439 or to Ojai Valley School.

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patagonia

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