

The background of the cover is a painting of a landscape. On the left, a large tree with green and brown leaves stands on a hill. A dirt road winds from the bottom left towards the center. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there are rolling hills with patches of green and brown. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Family Tree

Fall 2019

A magazine for the extended family of Ojai Valley School

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Thank you to writers Avery Colborn (L16, U20), Jaclyn Sersland (U19), Lilli Trompke (U19) Bella Slosberg (L17, U21), Fred Alvarez, Misty Hall, Ally Feiss (U16), Tracy Wilson, Wendy Tremiti, Patricia Palau, and Jack McClenahan, as well as designer Logan Hall at Sideways 8 Creative. Thank you to photographers Misty Hall, Darcie George, John Boyd, Ted Tambakis, as well as Bella and Avery for their contributions to this issue. Finally, thank you to alumnae Kelly Somers (L73,U77) and Lavinia "Binnie" Baumhoff (U79) for their photos from Alumni Weekend.

ON THE COVER

The Road to Upper Campus is just one of the stunning landscapes and seascapes painted by junior Jocelyn Gonzales (L17, U21), one of four Ojai-area students selected last year to take part in the City of Ojai Arts Commission's Summer Mentor Program. Jocelyn worked with renowned pastel artist Jannene Behl to create nine beautiful paintings, including a pastel of Frost Hall at the Lower Campus. Jocelyn's work has been displayed at Ojai City Hall and during the spring Talent Festival at Upper Campus.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



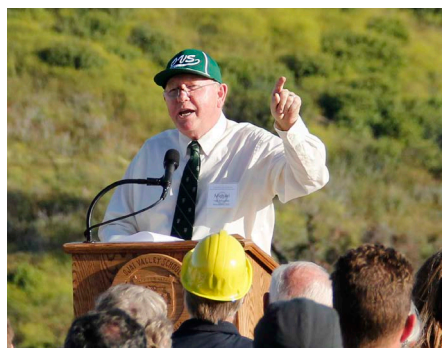
CAMPAIGN UPDATE: BREAKING GROUND

Dear Friends:

With summer upon us, Ojai Valley School is now poised to begin construction on our historic building project that will transform the Upper Campus for years to come. We will replace two signature buildings destroyed in the Thomas Fire and add a modern Student Commons and Library that will rival most small universities.

By fall 2020, when the \$15.5-million project is expected to be completed, the campus will house new classrooms, science laboratories, a library, dining hall, commons, kitchen, and dorms. This will allow us to increase our enrollment and recruit top students eager to join a resilient community that hasn't just rebounded from disaster – it's leapt forward.

Beyond the new facilities, the rebuild has provided a rare opportunity to embrace the future of technology and



sustainability at our high school. The new Aramont Foundation Science and Technology Center will include seven classrooms and laboratories, as well as a makerspace for engineering and robotics. The Center will support courses for environmental and biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, physics, digital design, as well as social sciences, journalism, and photography.

In the footprint of the former girls' dorm, destroyed in the fire, the new Grace Hobson Smith House will rise

up with a single-story architectural design to house 51 resident girls in single, double, and triple rooms. It will also house four, two-story apartments for our faculty families. The dorm will feature a central courtyard and a spacious lounge with expansive west-facing views of the Ojai Valley.

Finally, the Student Commons, a 12,590-square foot two-story building on the site of the former science center, will include a modern library and reading porch, an atrium-style dining hall and kitchen, a student lounge, college counseling office, learning center, and meeting rooms. It will create a collaborative learning environment and central dining area that will become the hub of student life.

The buildings will be sustainable, solar-powered, and resource efficient to create a healthier school – all while reducing stress on the environment. Our intention is to pursue LEED Gold certification for all three buildings, and

we have contracted with a nationally recognized sustainability consultant to lead this effort.

We want to thank architect Fred Fisher and his team for a midcentury design that celebrates the spirit of innovation and love of the outdoors that sets Ojai Valley School apart. We'd like to also thank our honorary campaign chair, alumnus Keith Carradine (U67), as well as members of our Board of Trustees – Jack De Nault, Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Andy Helman, Gigi Ordway (U78) and former Board members Larry Fisher and David Trudeau – who were all present for our groundbreaking ceremony in June. We would also like to recognize past parent Steve McGillivray, who supported us after the fire and is now our building contractor.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the leadership of a few key families and individuals, who early on pledged their support for this effort and in doing so inspired others to give. This is especially true for Luci Arango (U84), alumnus and parent of two

graduates, whose namesake Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center burned in the Thomas Fire in December 2017. Luci was there during our volunteer work days, helping us recover. Now, through her advocacy and the generous \$1 million contribution from The Aramont Foundation, the new Aramont Science and Technology Center will give students a cutting-edge science center that will support their success.

We also want to thank our generous lead donors whose early advocacy and contributions helped launch the campaign, including Ed Littlefield (U67), John Slavik (L66, U69), Jody Boswell Hall (U67) and the Boswell family, the Hobson-Smith family, Gigi Ordway (U78) and the LPO Legacy Foundation, Janis Black Warner and The Stanley Black Foundation, ZhenWu Lin and Yue Zhang, Larry and Kathie Fisher, Spencer and Nancy Garrett, Jack DeNault and the DeNault family, Lorie and Andy Helman, Nick Thacher (L60), Robert G. Cooper Jr. (L61), as well as the Weckerle, Kim, McCarthy and Drier

families. We are grateful for your continued support.

Our Restore Renew Rebuild campaign is far from over. We still need to raise funds for furnishings, lab equipment, landscaping, and electrical upgrades, including a battery back-up system that will enable us to store solar power and be energy self-sufficient in the event of a power outage.

We moved fast in the wake of the fire, and we are committed to getting our students out of temporary classrooms and dorms and into these new buildings within the next year. We suffered significant losses, but in true OVS spirit we have rebounded and look forward to a momentous year ahead.

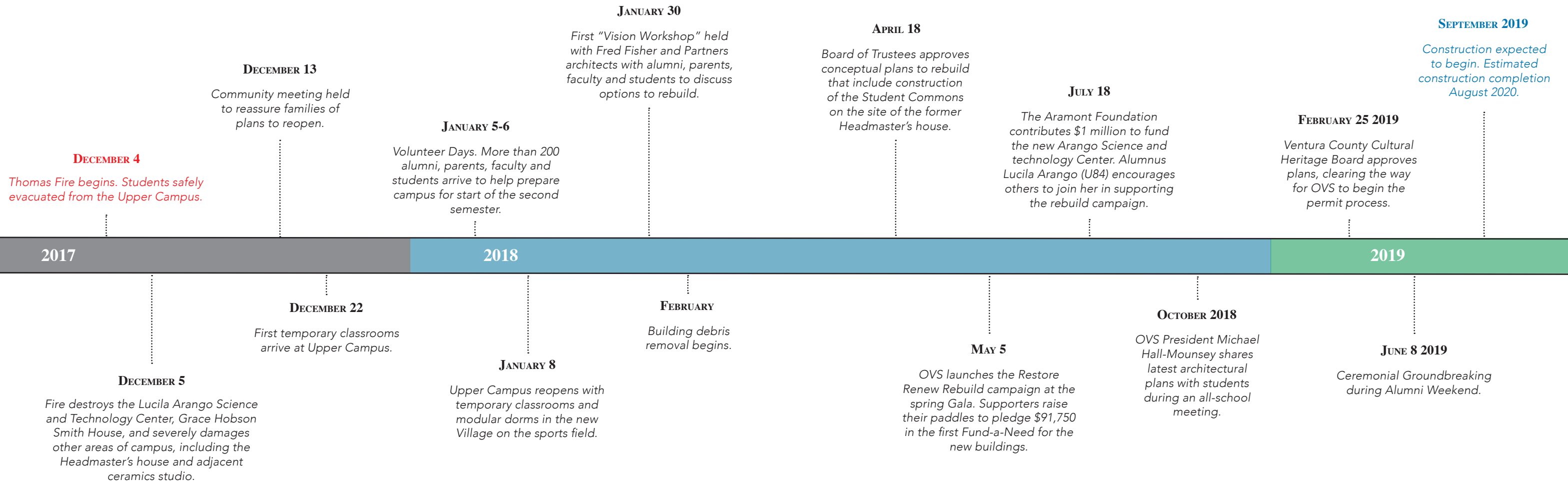
Sincerely,

Mike Hall-Mounsey

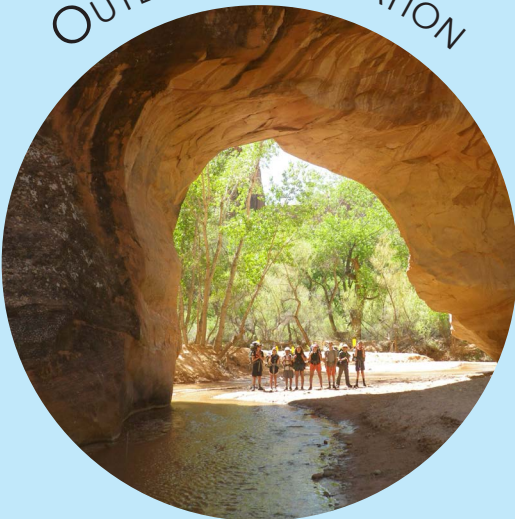
Michael J. Hall-Mounsey
President/CEO

RISING FROM

THE ASHES



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



On the day before graduation, eighth-graders ventured to the Sespe Wilderness for their traditional hike from White Rocks to 10-foot Hole. A few days earlier, kindergartners continued an OVS tradition by climbing through the Boney Bean cave and splashing through the waterfall. At the Upper Campus, the seniors participated in their final trip - an exploration to Big Sur that included a senior solo. Those trips concluded a dynamic year in Outdoor Education. At the Lower Campus, this included eight elementary camping trips, nine middle school base-camping and backpacking adventures, and nearly a dozen weekend excursions, which featured river rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, rappelling, mountaineering, and equestrian trail rides. At the Upper Campus, 19 trips were organized during the year, with high school students heading to the Sierras, Kern River, Escalante in Utah, and more.

SPORTS



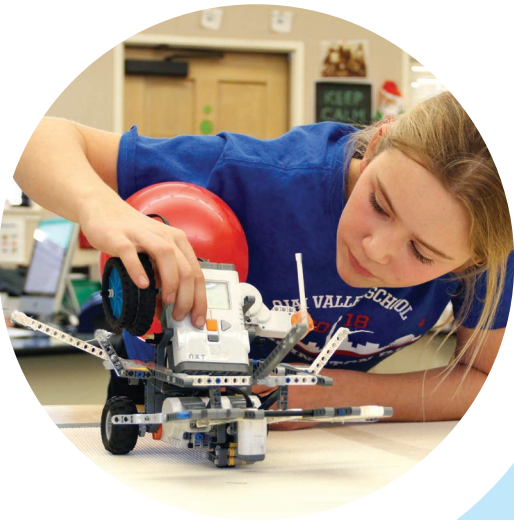
OVS runners and throwers brought home nearly a dozen medals at the school's first Omega League final track meet with two athletes earning spots in CIF Prelims. Corbin Muller dominated the 100-meter race to qualify and Adam Pepper-Macias (L17) qualified in discus. Due to league realignment, the track program in the Condor League ended four years ago, but entry this past season in the Omega League allowed the high school to offer the spring sport again. Nearly a third of the Upper Campus student body joined the track team.

PERFORMING ARTS



Under a canopy of stars and oak trees, high school students performed at the annual Festival of Talent in May. The vocal, instrumental, and dance performances showcased the depth of talent at Ojai Valley School and were enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience gathered at the Carl S. Cooper Amphitheater. A showcase of fine art, photography and ceramics preceded the musical performances. To accommodate our resident families traveling from outside the area, the event has been moved to early May. Mark your calendars for next year's Festival of Talent on Friday, May 1, 2020, and the OVS Gala on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

ROBOTICS



OVS Robotics is expanding this fall to include a middle school team, advancing a popular program that brings tech-savvy students together to compete against peers from across Southern California. Ojai Valley School has been a leader in the maker movement, a trend that emphasizes the kind of learning-through-doing that our school has embraced since its inception. Robotics began as a STEM initiative in 2003 and continues today with high school students participating in competitive robotics. Now, that participation is expanding with a middle school team. The addition "takes our desire to make engineering, coding, and mathematics relevant, and adds a much-needed social and competitive component," said Mike Mahon, Assistant Head of School at the Lower Campus. "Educators have worked for generations to discover why students so readily compete in sports, or the Equestrian arena, and how we can create a community just as voracious about math, science and engineering." Enter the robot. While details of the upcoming competitive season are still being worked out, Mahon said the addition of another OVS team will give our middle schoolers an opportunity to showcase their skills: "I'm positive we have found a vehicle poised to celebrate an intellectual accomplishment with the same vigor as an athletic accomplishment."

COMMUNITY SERVICE



For a full 24 hours, Ojai Valley School students and teachers took turns circling the track at Buena High School in late April during the annual Relay for Life, a worldwide event sponsored by the American Heart Association to honor survivors and those lost to cancer. Led by the Upper Campus Student Council, the school's relay team raised more than \$6,438 for cancer research and devoted considerable time on the eve of AP exams to walk for and alongside cancer survivors. Students camped on the track infield and took shifts throughout the night. They also participated in the nighttime Luminaria Ceremony, in which participants silently walked a lap to remember loved ones lost to cancer and to honor those whose fight continues.

GALA

6th Annual Spring

Thanks to the more than 240 alumni, parents, faculty and friends who attended our 6th annual OVS Gala and Auction! It was our largest attendance to date and a wonderful night with an important cause.

Together, we raised more than \$112,500 in support of the OVS Annual Fund, making it also one of our most successful fundraising events to date. This included \$13,000 at the Silent Auction, \$32,900 at the Live Auction, and \$37,950 in donations to the Fund-A-Need paddle raise. Additionally, members of the community who could not join us on Saturday donated \$10,600 in pre-Gala donations. Taken together, these generous contributions will support our scholarships, faculty enrichment grants, campus improvements, and other school needs supported each year by the OVS Annual Fund.

Beyond the fundraising, it was a beautiful night to gather with friends and enjoy a wonderful dinner that featured local growers, vintners, brewers and bakers. We appreciate the contributions of so many members of our community. We look forward to next year.

Mark your calendars for May 2, 2020!



Retirements

DANA DEYOUNG



After 28 years teaching in the primary division, kindergarten teacher Dana DeYoung is retiring from Ojai Valley School to travel, focus on her health, and spend time with her family. She brought the same rambunctious spirit to her classroom as the five-year-olds she taught, and walks away knowing she learned as much from them as they did from her.

"I went to school everyday with joy," DeYoung said, crediting the school for supporting her. "OVS and I were a great team. It was an environment to learn and grow and be creative." Head of School Gary Gartrell noted DeYoung's many accomplishments when announcing her retirement: "Dana has been integral in planning and solidifying traditions, curriculum, and cultural events that have nurtured many young Spuds in their most formative years."

After immersing herself in the Montessori School philosophy as a parent and teacher, DeYoung became Ojai Valley School's first

pre-Kindergarten teacher in 1991. After eleven years, she moved into the Kindergarten classroom. Her on-going education included studying the latest research in child development and participating in early childhood education conferences and workshops.

DeYoung's former students and parents fondly remember her hands-on learning projects, like hatching baby chicks from an incubator, and the patient, nurturing teaching style she brought to class each day. Parents Cecilia and Jeff Starin said their two daughters, now in first and second grade, thrived in DeYoung's classroom. Cecilia said: "She has a deep understanding of the needs of the young child and the ability to bring forth in them their best."

During her tenure, DeYoung took her passion for educating young people beyond the Ojai Valley, establishing a nonprofit organization to rehabilitate a struggling township school in South Africa, where her eldest daughter, Autumn, lives. Today, the Philippi Children's Centre is a fully functioning school with an accredited teaching staff and more than 200 enrolled students. "She was always an incredible teacher and even at five years old I was so inspired by all that she's done in South Africa and what she does every day to help others," said Avery Colborn, a former DeYoung student who is now a senior at the Upper Campus. "She taught us to be kind to everyone, just as she is. Looking back, I am so thankful to have been a part of her class. I know Lower Campus will miss her dearly."

JULIE COOK



In her nearly 40 years behind the wheel of big yellow school buses, Julie Cook figures she has driven more than a million miles. But as the school year ended, the longtime Director of Transportation pressed the brakes and is now cruising into retirement.

Cook logged her last mile for OVS in May, quietly ending a career during which she came to treasure the school's sense of community, inclusivity and family. "These people care about me and I care about and them," she said. "The people at OVS are my second family."

After earning her Commercial Drivers License, Cook ran across a job posting for a bus driver

at OVS. She got the job and, years later, was named Director of Transportation. She was responsible for scheduling bus runs, arranging safety inspections, overseeing vehicle maintenance and driving students – all of which she handled with a cool, steady demeanor.

"Julie always stays calm but takes care of business," said Gary Gartrell, Head of School at the Lower Campus. "I'm happy for her that she has the opportunity to retire and pursue all the different hobbies that she has."

Cook already has many plans, including travel, ceramics and gardening. "I have so many things in my head that I want to do," she said. "I just want to let myself ease into the transition and take everything as it comes."

SARAH HOUSEMAN



Longtime teaching assistant Sarah Houseman is grooving her way into a new career! After 21 years, Houseman moved on from OVS recently to pursue her passion for fitness. She now co-owns Studio 8 Fitness in Ventura and enjoys teaching a variety of classes designed to make "working out" fun.

OF FRIENDS AND FARMSTANDS

By Avery Colborn (L16, U20)

It's a matter of trust.

That's true each day for 14-year-old Lily Fields (L19) when she restocks the fruit stand she manages outside of her east Ojai home. She first opened the stand when she and her mom moved to Ojai about a year and a half ago. Together, the two grow a variety of vegetables and citrus, and collect eggs from 14 chickens, all of which they sell at the stand.

When she goes out to check the cash box, an army green ammo canister drilled down into the wooden stand, she is especially excited to count her earnings for the week, since 100% of the money will be sent to Uganda to help children in need.

"[Running the stand] makes me feel like I'm making a difference on this planet by helping people in need," said Lily, a recent Lower Campus graduate and an incoming 9th grader at Upper Campus. "Just doing random acts of kindness is just good to do in the long run for everyone."

In a town famous for its citrus, many residents of Ojai have come up with

a creative solution for their excess produce: honesty boxes.

Scattered throughout various neighborhoods, streets and orchards, these fruit stands function on the honor system, relying on the integrity of their customers to leave the right amount of money for whatever produce they take.

But they are more than just fruit stands. Honesty boxes almost serve as an ode to the way things used to be done, to times before agriculture was an industry, when people not only knew their neighbors, but trusted them too.

For about a dozen years, Lower Campus Science Teacher Matthew Inman was the person people in his Ojai neighborhood would go to for fresh produce. He used to run his own stand of home grown fruits, flowers, plants, and even some of his son's self-made pottery. The idea of the stand first originated when the stone fruit trees that Mr. Inman and his family had planted for their own use started producing too much fruit all at once, and they had to come

up with a solution of how to utilize it purposefully.

From that time on, the Inmans' honesty box stand became a popular place for passers-by and even regular customers to buy fresh, organic fruit. Mostly, those people were honest about paying for what they would take. But on some occasions, unfortunately, they would abuse the self-serving concept that so nicely reflects Ojai's trusting nature.

"Not all people were honest about it," Inman explained. "Some folks just took the fruit, others took the money."

In spite of some dishonest customers, there would be a profit of anywhere between ten and fifty dollars per week, depending on the time of the year. Eventually, the stand itself became too difficult to maintain, and, after 12 years, it had to be shut down.

"We spent about an hour a week tending the farm stand, like putting



"Farm stands and honesty boxes are kind of like front porches and sidewalks. They bring a community together."

- Matt Inman, science teacher and farmstand owner

school has gotten involved."

Already, the honesty box has brought in a good amount of money, but Woll's advisees decided unanimously to donate all the proceeds to Help of Ojai. Eventually, when they make enough money, they'll alternate between supporting Help of Ojai and the Humane Society.

out new fruit and collecting the money, but zero time maintaining or improving the actual farm stand structure," Inman said. "I promised my wife I would make her a really nice and new one."

For the new fruit stand, that may be coming soon, Inman wants to up his game.

"I would like to sell surplus eggs from my own chickens," he said. "This goal ups the game a bit though, because it is preferred to keep the eggs cool. Maybe the new and improved farmstand will have a built-in ice chest or something similar."

Whether or not he will have one of his own again any time soon, Inman will always remain fond of the little honesty stands around the neighborhoods.

"Farm stands and honesty boxes are kind of like front porches and sidewalks," he said. "They bring a community together."

A number of students and teachers from OVS have fruit stands at their own homes, but one group of students started their very own on the Lower Campus. Last September, the eight students in P.E. Teacher Shandon Woll's middle school advisory set out to join the long-standing tradition of honesty boxes and start one of their own. With the help of faculty members, that vision came true in February.

Math Teacher Doug Colborn and Woodshop Teacher Ryan Lang both contributed. Colborn built the fruit stand while Lang put a lock box there for buyers to leave their money. Since the honesty box took off in February, it's been a huge success. The whole community has gotten involved to keep the stand running by donating avocados, citrus, kale, and even flower seeds in packets the art students created.

"Our advisory gave it to the school and we take care of it," Woll said. "But the great thing is that the whole

Ojai's honesty boxes stand as perfect examples of how many would define the town: a community that trusts one another.

Back in the east end, the mix of oranges, Meyer lemons, avocados and other produce at Lily's bright yellow-and-white stand generate about \$50 to \$60 in a typical week. The record, though, was a whole \$118 dollars in one week.

Maintaining the stand isn't an easy job. But Lily feels it's all worth it because she knows her work is going to a good cause. Her stand is decorated with colorful tapestries and displays photos of children in Uganda who are helped by her donations.

"We keep running the fruit stand because we believe that there is still so much we can help with," Lily said. "We can keep helping and there really are no limits to doing that."

Jaclyn Sersland (U19) and Lilli Trompke (U19) contributed to this story.

Graduation

Class of 2019



Head of School Message

By Craig Floyd — Head of School, Upper Campus

Behind me sit 30 individuals – artists and engineers, athletes and equestrians – who have become an integral part of the Upper Campus community. Collectively, they are the Class of 2019. But they are definitely individuals.

Each graduate has his or her unique interests and passions. Those characteristics distinguished them, especially in this last year of high school, as they grew more independent, confident, and capable. This was evident in the classroom, but also on the sports field and especially in the outdoors, where these seniors pushed their limits. They accepted the challenges that OVS put in front of them and successfully navigated them all.

To say this class did many things is an understatement. But what impressed me most was that with so many different activities going on, they didn't veer in opposite directions or become self-absorbed. Rather, they became more cohesive as a class.

We will never forget how they rallied together upon returning to school on January 8, 2018, following the Thomas Fire. They were determined to make the campus the best it could be while recovering from a disaster that impacted us all. These seniors taught us that even a devastating wildfire could not destroy our community. They demonstrated leadership and hard work. Some arrived early to help prepare campus for its reopening – painting dorm rooms, assembling furniture, and restoring the amphitheater. Others dedicated themselves to rebuilding the robotics program that had a competition the week after school re-opened. Later, in the fall, they returned resilient and ready to take on anything that came before them.

This was evident in the way these seniors tackled their college applications. Twenty of them applied Early Decision/Early Action. As a group, they earned acceptances to more than 160 colleges and universities, and several got into their top-choice schools. The colleges clearly saw what we know about this group: they want to be challenged. As a class, they took 71 Advanced Placement courses. They played on sports teams and participated in the spring musical, Mamma Mia. They went



on 62 outdoor trips totaling 144 nights, including the honors trip to Utah, river rafting on the Kern, and the senior trip to Big Sur that involved an overnight solo.

Early in the second semester, they competed in the Los Angeles Regional Championship as part of the Robotics teams. They wrote articles for the school newspaper, created masterful pieces of art in the AP Art, Photography and Ceramics classes, and competed on the baseball, golf, track, and equestrian teams. They presented their Senior Capstone Projects ranging in topics from how to rebuild an old truck, to how to rehabilitate horses, to drawing portraits of classmates in different mediums. One student even went skydiving.

As a school, we want to see our students push beyond limits. We want them to discover their potential and develop the work ethic and confidence to take on any challenges that life may throw their way. Earlier this week, one of these graduates seated before you wrote an entry in her journalism blog, saying: "I'm excited to walk into the unknown and I have OVS to thank for it all – for being a school that's given me the opportunity to branch out and try everything I could ever want to try. I didn't have to stick to one niche. I got to be a risk-taking athlete, an unfiltered writer, a confident leader, and everything in between."

I'm confident this group is ready for the next chapter. Their paths will lead them all over the globe, but they will remain in touch. Their actions have bound them together, and all of us will long remember their sense of community.

Senior Lilli Trompke wrote a journalism piece about the Thomas Fire, titled "Cremated." It was published in its entirety last year in the Alumni Notes magazine, and I encourage you to all read it. Her words about what we lost, and what we brought back, are true poetry. The ending of her piece epitomizes this class and OVS:

We brought our strength and our community and care and love amongst us.

We didn't forget our incredible OVS spirit, and to be honest I don't think we would ever be able to forget that.

Major Awards

WALLACE BURR AWARD

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

Max Wu



ROBERT G. COOPER AWARD

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

Eli Miller



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.

Leo Liang



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.

Soham Kondle



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Nolan Colborn, Olivia Brown

J.B. CLOSE AWARD

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

Meline Ellwanger

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.

Ivy Sun

CARL S. COOPER AWARD

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

Avery Colborn, Aaron Wolf

DOROTHY BURR LITERARY AWARD

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

Leo Liang

30 PEOPLE. 14 LANGUAGES. 8 COUNTRIES.



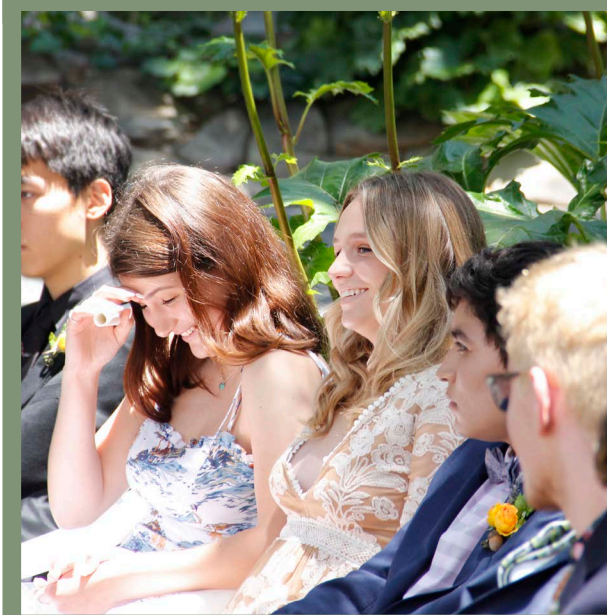
"We are about to leave the comfort zone that we have lived in for the past four years. But we are not scared, because the memories we made at OVS will continue to support us, to give us courage to success."
- Max Wu



ONE CLASS, ONE DREAM, ONE WORLD.



"Any time someone asks me what my favorite part of going to this school is, I always say the same thing: the community. The group of people I had the privilege of surrounding myself with every day for the past four years is one that I'll never forget."
- Caroline Morrow



Senior Bios



Jacky Cai, UC Santa Cruz

Don't let his calm, quiet demeanor fool you. At this young man's core is a brain at work. Jacky was one of the earliest members of the OVS Robotics team, and distinguished himself as a fierce competitor in a field where brains are mightier than brawn. He was also a force on the golf course, excelling at a thinking-man's game. In the classroom, Jacky flourished as a student, especially in math and the sciences. Universally, his teachers lauded the curiosity he brought to his coursework, noting that he demonstrated intellectual precision and the preparation necessary to further his knowledge and understanding. As a lead attorney in the Mock Trial for his government class, he showed the importance and payoff that comes with solid preparation, helping lead his team to a big win in a civil case over water rights.



Danny Cha, UC Davis

What a smile. It could light up a room as it did when he maintained his innocence in the senior government class Mock Trial, where he was accused of first-degree murder. His teachers and dorm parents certainly saw that smile – many, many times – when Danny was seeking to earn the benefit of the doubt in animated conversations about OVS life. But he could also be a tough guy when he put his mind to it. Always pushing himself to be better, Danny took a range of Advanced Placement classes that demonstrated his commitment to challenging himself with rigorous coursework. Outside of the classroom, he worked hard on the cross-country course, the soccer pitch and the track, where he became a 400-meter and 800-meter specialist in his senior year. He played hard, but he played fair. He was as quick to make a run toward the goal as he was to extend a hand to a competitor who had hit the ground.



Lico Chan, University of Oregon

Animated, gregarious, and self-assured, Lico was full of spirit, opinions, and conversation. He lived his OVS years to the absolute fullest, experiencing so much of what this school has to offer. On the soccer field, in the equestrian arena, in the dorms, on outdoor excursions, and in the classroom, he did it all. His resume was a testament to his love for the school community, but was also evidence of the curiosity and commitment he infused into everything he did. This was especially true with horseback riding, a sport he fell in love with at OVS. Lico dedicated himself to becoming a better equestrian, going from being a novice to mastering many facets of the sport by his senior year. He became so accomplished that he joined the school's competitive equestrians on trips to Ireland and Portugal. To understand his enthusiasm for all things OVS, you need look no further than our recent Kern River whitewater rafting trip, where he rode the bull – sitting on the front end of the raft as it crashes through the rapids – with a giant smile on his face.



Toddy Chunyu, Franklin & Marshall College

A quiet force on campus, Toddy showed his dexterity as a student of math and science, and took a particular interest in all things dealing with computers. His Senior Capstone Project focused on building a high-end water-cooled personal computer, and he developed a reputation in the dorms as the go-to guy if you had a computer problem you couldn't solve. In the aftermath of the Thomas Fire, Toddy volunteered to set up and refill bird feeders around campus to help feed local wildlife and he worked to build garden boxes outside the newly created girls' dorm Village. He was a prolific ceramicist, earning a mention for his prowess in that area at the end-of-year awards ceremony. Toddy's commitment to excellence was never clearer than on the tennis court where he was a fierce and formidable opponent.

Sophia Cluff-Thompson, Northern Arizona University

She is a compassionate, caring person – one who won't tell you what she does well, but rather will let her talents and contributions speak for themselves. Sophia found her passion in the equestrian world. She is an expert horseback rider, having dedicated years to perfecting the relationship of horse and rider. But, perhaps more importantly, she spent the past several years volunteering her expertise to rehabilitate injured and abused horses at a local barn, working seven days a week on her own time to regain their trust and return them to productive lives. It really is heartening to see a student care so much about someone or something other than herself. She also worked hard in the classroom, developing one of the skills we cherish most at OVS – a fearlessness to speak out, ask questions and stand up for what she believes. At the end of her senior year, Sophia earned the class award in Marine Science for teaming up on an invention to sop up oil spills, demonstrating her personal commitment to environmental sustainability.



Nolan Colborn, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Nolan was born into the OVS family as the son of two longtime educators, and he began school in pre-Kinderergarten. His teachers describe him as a conscientious student, one who pursued academic questions for the sake of learning, not just to earn a grade. He served as a Day Student Prefect and member of the school-wide Leadership Council. He was elected by his peers to serve as senior class representative to Student Council. He earned the award for best witness in a criminal case during Mock Trial, playing the role of a grieving brother with honest conviction. An intense and gifted athlete, no one will ever say he didn't leave it all on the court or pitch. He served as captain of the varsity baseball and basketball teams, and last year was voted Omega League co-MVP for baseball. But the best thing about Nolan was not his athletic skills, but his ability to see sports for what they are – an opportunity to build character and form long-lasting bonds. For three consecutive years, the faculty and coaches awarded him the Sportsmanship Award, a recognition that is more about the size of his heart than the scope of his talent.



Cici Feng, University of Washington

The word "tenacity" comes to mind. In the classroom, Cici brought maturity and wisdom to her studies, wowing her teachers as an insightful and imaginative learner. She demonstrated her abilities across the board, although she was drawn to math and the sciences. In fact, the Society of Women Engineers honored her last year for her outstanding work in the sciences and this year she was recognized as an AP Scholar with Honors for her high marks on multiple Advanced Placement exams. However, it was quite amazing to see that same tenacity displayed in other arenas. In dance, equestrian and ceramics, she applied the full force of her effort to mastering a wide range of disciplines. This year, she joined the basketball team, something definitely out of her comfort zone. But Cici worked hard to learn the game, to set solid picks and to play hard-nosed defense. We'll never forget the way she jumped up and down, as if on a pogo stick, when she sank her first basket. Se was also a contributing Yearbook photographer, worked backstage on the spring musical, and was a co-founder of the film club.



Anthony Flores, Santa Barbara City College

Quiet and friendly, Anthony's calm and cool demeanor belied a wicked sense of humor and some deep athletic talent on the golf course. It's interesting to hear him talk about golf, noting that everything about the game – from how to play to its dress code – was completely foreign to him at first, but he worked past these challenges and excelled as an athlete on the course. He has benefitted from our school culture that emphasizes not only academic engagement, but also the development of one's character, interpersonal relationships, and exploration of nature and the world around them. One cannot speak of this young man without mentioning his love of cars. He delivered his Senior Capstone Project talking about high-end sports cars. Finally, it should also be noted that he took down all comers in his AP Spanish class in a March Madness-style tournament to choose the best Spanish-language song.





Conway Gilbreth, Southern Oregon University, Honors College

A brilliant student, Conway tackled a range of rigorous Advanced Placement courses and was recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as one of the top 3% of 11th graders who took the PSAT in their junior year. Beyond the classroom, he was able to relate compassionately to others and value a variety of perspectives. He sought out challenges, even when those challenges pushed him to the edge of his comfort zone. He learned to speak Mandarin fluently through a Chinese immersion program. He took part in a six-week apprenticeship at the University of Wyoming, studying the effects of pasture and alfalfa crops on soil quality for a study lead by the state’s Department of Ecosystem Science & Management. He volunteered for special events hosted by the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and donated his time with the Rotary Club to spruce up a local cemetery that had fallen into disrepair. A few years ago, he was awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award for volunteering to provide academic tutoring to children living in shelters, motels and other unstable situations. Through it all, he was a giant presence in the life of our school, from his comedic performances in the winter musical to his leadership role on the robotics team.



Sonya Kiperman, Whittier College

Sonya joined OVS late into her high school journey, coming to us from her home in Kiev, Ukraine, midway through her junior year. However, she quickly emerged as a cheerful participant in all facets of boarding school life. She could be found serving alongside her classmates at the Relay for Life, playing soccer, and immersing herself in a Harry Potter movie marathon with her friends. She grasped the opportunity to study abroad and steeped herself in the full American school experience – being fully engaged in her studies as well as ample extracurricular, outdoor, and social activities. Always pushing herself to be better, her commitment to excellence was never clearer than when she was on the soccer pitch, serving as a co-captain. She was a bit banged up in her final season, but her enthusiasm for the sport was undaunted. But it was perhaps her Senior Capstone Project that best encompassed the greatest lesson she learned as an OVS student – it was a beautifully crafted ode to the power of connection and friendship, and the importance that has played in shaping her into the student she is today.



Soham Kondle, California Northstate University College of Health Sciences

The heartbeat of the Upper Campus the past two years, Soham infused energy and enthusiasm into all-school meetings and other community gatherings. A deep thinker to be sure, he is a rare learner who will surprise you with the depth of his thought and the power of his perception. His SAT club will live on and work wonders for generations to come. He has served in student leadership roles such a Prefect and Student Body President. Last year he was chosen to attend Boys State, where he was selected by his peers from across California to serve as “City Manager” as they worked to establish a model government. He has competed on the basketball court, baseball field and track as a student-athlete, and had lead roles in our school musicals and talent festivals. His magical moves as a Bollywood hip hop dancer will long be remembered. Finally, he was a scholar of distinction, earning recognition at the Awards Ceremony for his proficiency in Advanced Placement Environmental Science. His teacher noted he had accumulated such a wealth of knowledge that he could have taught the class. Soham was presented with the Andrew Kille Award, given to the most outstanding member of the senior class.



Wendy Lazo-Dowdy, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Simply put, Wendy was a superstar – a talented actress, singer, equestrian, outdoor enthusiast, campus leader, and scholar of distinction. Whether it was in the barn, caring for her four-legged friends, or on stage in the school’s Garage Band, Wendy left an indelible mark. Perhaps her AP Art teacher summed it up best when she exclaimed, “Creativity is a superpower, and Wendy has oodles of creativity.” Indeed, Wendy distinguished herself as a leader, being named a dorm prefect, sophomore class representative, and a delegate at California Girls State. She was an insightful, imaginative learner, racking up numerous academic awards in her time at OVS, including Biology and AP World History. She was named an AP Scholar with Distinction for her performance in multiple college-level classes. A true artist, she was named, three years in a row, the winner of a student art contest to design an OVS greeting card for the Chinese New Year. Wendy set herself apart as a talented actress and singer, singing lead vocals in the school’s Garage Band and performing in every school musical in the past four years, including a leading role last year in Beauty and the Beast and the lead role in this year’s production of Mamma Mia.

Leo Liang, University of Michigan

When the robotics lab burned down during the Thomas Fire, Leo vowed to rebuild the program bigger and better than it was – and he did, taking OVS Robotics to new heights in his senior year. He was recognized for his commitment and contributions to that program at the Awards Ceremony before graduation, and also praised for his work in physics, mathematics, and poetry, for which he earned the Dorothy Burr Literary Award. Leo became a warm, welcoming presence on campus, and we will miss his humming of show tunes and national anthems, his spontaneous piano playing in the cafeteria, and his silly jokes and random factoids that always left us smiling. He stretched himself to become a well-rounded individual, taking to heart the school’s philosophy of “whole-child” education. He took advantage of opportunities to take tough courses in those areas that were not his strongest, rising to the challenge in social studies and English. He won numerous academic awards and served as a substitute teacher in his Computer Science class – just one of the courses in which he scored a 5 on the Advanced Placement exam. An AP Scholar, Leo was presented at graduation with the A. Carl Kotchian Award for outstanding academic achievement, effort and intellectual curiosity.

Bill Liu, UC Irvine

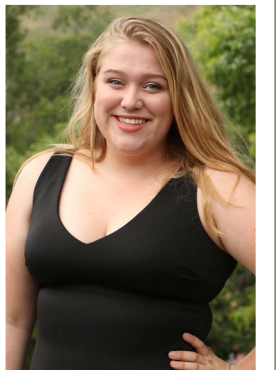
As his final act in his final class, Bill led his Mock Trial team to victory in an important civil case over water rights. Then, at the Awards Ceremony, he earned his final academic recognition as he was given the Digital Design Award for his keen eye and attention to detail. Bill made the most of his time at OVS engaging in the wide range of opportunities offered in outdoor education, resident life, athletics, and college preparatory academics. He plugged into a diverse range of experiences, especially in his junior year after fire destroyed key buildings and a large swath of his high school campus. In the aftermath of the fire, Bill volunteered to set up and refill bird feeders around campus to help feed local wildlife and he worked to build garden boxes outside the newly created girls’ dorm, which was put in place after the former girls’ dorm burned down. Always pushing himself to explore new things, Bill served as a programmer on the robotics team, ran cross-country, and played basketball.

Kelly MacConnell, King University

Her teachers described Kelly as an enthusiastic learner, one who is genuinely curious about the work rather than the grade. She engaged in the wide range of opportunities offered in outdoor education, resident life, athletics, and college preparatory academics. As a student journalist, she served as a voice for her fellow students through her writing for the student blog and newspaper. She wrote personally about love, loss, and the accomplishments of her peers, whether they were reading Dr. Seuss stories at Lower Campus or orchestrating t-shirt drives to help poor women in Haiti earn sustainable incomes. She put her all into the music program, performing in chorus, the spring musical, and performed her own original song at the Festival of Talent. She possesses a deep faith, a spiritual side that certainly found its way into her work at the barn, where she communed with her four-legged friends and emerged as a talented equestrian. In the fall, she plans to pursue music at King University in Tennessee.

Eli Miller, Maine Maritime Academy

Eli probably learned as much about himself during his OVS years as he learned in the classroom. He spent his two years at Upper trying to improve himself. He played on varsity teams, and his coaches noted his hard work in practice each day to improve his skills and to become a more valuable team member. He was the vocal leader of the baseball team, always engaging his team and fans. His memorable “Sponge Bob” chant – where he made us all yell “Aye, Aye Captain” – was certainly a highlight of the league championship game. Never short on conversation and full of opinions, Eli turned those traits into strong suits. Sit in a jury room with him during the Mock Trial and you will witness the force of his conviction. Most importantly, in his time at OVS he has formed an exceptional friend group. No senior demonstrated more growth, as was evident by him being awarded the Robert G. Cooper award as the student who showed the most growth in his senior year. Eli will return to his home state of Maine this summer and plans to attend the Maine Maritime Academy.





Caroline Morrow, Emerson College

Caroline cut a wide swath in the academic arena, challenging herself with tough Advanced Placement courses in everything from Environmental Science to Psychology. She set a high academic bar, proving herself to be a curious and conscientious student, one dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Last year she won a valley-wide poetry contest (students from six schools in the Ojai Valley entered poems) hosted by the Ventura Arts Council. She also won achievement awards in journalism, the class where she truly found her voice. As Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, she demonstrated an unmatched writing talent and an uncanny ability to manage a talented stable of staff writers. Born with the power to expertly put words together, she wielded that power fiercely and fantastically in her time at OVS, culminating at the Awards Ceremony where she earned the highest recognition possible in AP English Literature. But perhaps most importantly, Caroline embedded herself into the fabric of campus life, serving on Student Council, acting as a class representative and captain of the volleyball team, and braving the spotlight as she performed in the school musicals.



Maya Mullins, Richmond University in London

A voracious learner, explorer, and thinker, Maya’s teachers described her as hard working and attentive, bringing a quick wit and sharp sense of humor to any discussion or class presentation. Her AP English teacher noted Maya’s excellent performance in that class, commenting that she was a student who pushed for true understanding of the concepts being taught. That hard work paid off with an excellent score on the AP exam. She earned the library award at the end-of-year Awards Ceremony, and rightfully so as it seemed as if her nose was always buried in a book. She played on the soccer team and was a dependable member of the stage crew that has helped put on the school’s musical productions. She was also just lots of fun to be around. Just ask our Outdoor Education director, who supervised Maya on several trips. She made the long miles pass quickly with her good humor and upbeat spirit. And none of us will forget her musical performance as a member of the group Van 30 singing John Denver’s “Country Roads” at last year’s Festival of Talent.



Faridun Nuraliev, Santa Barbara City College

A naturally gifted student and strong thinker, and a workhorse in the classroom, Faridun was one of the friendliest faces on campus, wielding a wide smile that was hard to resist. At OVS he stretched himself to become a well-rounded student, taking to heart our philosophy of “whole-child” education. That commitment was perhaps best exemplified on the soccer pitch, where he demonstrated a true passion for a sport he loves and seeks to master. Simply put, he was a beast in goal, turning back defenders and putting his own body in harm’s way again and again to defend his turf. When injury sidelined him during the season, he took on a role as unofficial coach. He could often be found working with younger goalies – for both the boys and girls teams – during the sports period to contribute to his team and his school in any way he could.



Elliot Oeschner, Santa Barbara City College

Smart, funny and kind, Elliot was a naturally gifted student and a strong thinker. His teachers commented that his curiosity and questioning helped everyone around him learn. He was willing to ask probing questions and clarify tough material, and in that way his perceptive nature shone through. Fluent in French, Elliot considered studying in France and was accepted to the American University of Paris. Yet he decided to stay in California, his home state, and begin his collegiate studies at SBCC. In his years at OVS, Elliot took to the outdoors, coming to understand the myriad lessons waiting to be learned on the trail, and he discovered his gifts as an athlete. He ran cross country, played baseball, and, in his senior year, joined the track team, where he specialized in the 800- and 1600-meter runs. It was there he learned his most valuable lesson: improvement comes through hard work and life is a race to be run with gusto. His coach said he would not soon forget the way Elliot unleashed a wicked finishing kick in his final track race – running out of his shoe on the homestretch. He gave it his all.

Lucy Orgolini, University of Colorado, Boulder

Demonstrating her powers of debate, Lucy’s Mock Trial performance in her Law & Society class was, simply put, a tour de force, showcasing her skills for sound reasoning and emphatic argumentation that we have all come to know during her time at OVS. She is funny and friendly, and an energetic presence in all aspects of school life. Her teachers describe her as conscientious, bright, and engaged – and a quiet, powerful leader who lets her actions speak for themselves. Whether it’s being appointed a trip leader on a cultural enrichment and service excursion to Peru, working the stage crew at the school musical, or helping clear invasive plant species as part of an environmental science project on the Channel Islands, she is fastidious in her work from start to finish. Her quick wit and sharp sense of humor are certain to liven up any discussion or class presentation. She earned the AP Psychology award for her insightful contributions and her teacher called her a natural scholar and noted that, while she doesn’t plan to study Psychology, any academic discipline would be made better by her contributions. Outside the classroom, she was a dedicated member of the school’s soccer team and an active participant in the Outdoor Education program.



Jaclyn Sersland, George Washington University

Talented, hard working, an extraordinary equestrian, a gifted writer and good friend – this was Jaclyn. She demonstrated tremendous growth in her years at OVS, taking on all challenges and mastering multiple subjects. She was a leader in the athletic arena, emerging over the years as a standout equestrian, so much so that she was often tapped to help younger, less-experienced riders master the basics of the sport. But perhaps most importantly, Jaclyn embedded herself into the fabric of the life of OVS, selected over the years to serve as a Dorm Prefect, Student Ambassador, and member of the school’s Leadership Council. If there was an opportunity to volunteer, Jaclyn was among the first to sign up. If there was a chance to improve her community, Jaclyn never hesitated to extend a helping hand. She has designs on perhaps one day becoming a prosecutor and demonstrated her effectiveness in this area by delivering a precise, passionate closing argument in the criminal case, as she did during the Mock Trial in her Law & Society class. In ways big and small, she has been an outstanding member of the Ojai Valley School community.



Kaden Skillern, San Francisco State University

Kaden challenged himself by taking Advanced Placement classes and earned honor grades to make the Headmaster’s List, which is reserved for students with high effort and academic achievement. He delivered his Senior Capstone on the benefits of meditation and led students and faculty to meditate with him. Kaden’s commitment to excellence was clear on the golf course, where he was was the top player on our varsity squad. He committed himself to improving in this sport, practicing and playing after school, on weekends and on vacations. He sunk a hole in one at the Ojai Valley Inn, pulling off one of the rarest feats in sport. Kaden was a craftsman in other ways as well, emerging as an expert ceramicist during his time and an excellent litigant during the Mock Trial, where he zealously defended the rights of the community association to divert a river to store water in the event of wildfire.



Ivy Sun, UCLA

There is no area of campus life untouched by her talent, hard work and enthusiasm. Through meticulous preparation and desire to perform at her highest level, Ivy stood out in the classroom, becoming a regular on the Headmaster’s List, which recognizes students with outstanding GPA and effort marks. She was named an AP Scholar with distinction for her performance in the most rigorous courses we offer. Over the years, Ivy has won numerous year-end awards in academic subjects ranging from biology to world history and was recognized last year with a certificate of merit by the Society of Women Engineers. In her senior year, she was recognized as the outstanding student in AP Computer Science and AP Chemistry. She was a founding member of the robotics team at OVS, and dedicated herself to rebuilding that program after the Thomas Fire left it in ruins. Her commitment to excellence was evident in the equestrian arena, where she tackled one of the hardest endeavors she has ever undertaken – much tougher than mastering AP Calculus, AP Biology or AP Computer Science. But for the past two years she has been awarded the Sandy Ballou Memorial Trophy for excellence in horsemanship and her instructors can attest to her dedication to the sport.





Nanako Tatewaki, UC Santa Cruz

A hard worker and deep thinker, Nanako demonstrated a true commitment to learning. She started as an ESL student, and demonstrated tremendous growth during her high school years, gaining proficiency in a number of academic areas. But it was in mathematics and the sciences where Nanako truly excelled, taking on a number of challenging Advanced Placement classes and performing at a high level. She earned numerous year-end achievement awards. Just as importantly, she emerged as a committed and effective student leader. She was elected by her peers to serve as class representative her senior year, and was lauded by faculty when she volunteered to serve as captain of the annual Relay for Life squad. Her commitment to excellence was never clearer than when she was on the athletic field. A fierce and formidable opponent on the basketball and volleyball courts, she emerged as a natural leader who was elected captain to those teams for the past several years.



Lilli Trompke, University of Washington

Funny and a good friend to all, humble and understated, Lilli soaked up the OVS experience and made the school better as a result. Her resume reads like the chronicles of any number of the young heroines she is so fond of reading about in her English classes. A leader in the fight against cancer in our annual Relay for Life campaign, eradicator of invasive plants at the Channel Islands National Park, standout equestrian, Garage Band drummer, thoughtful poet, dedicated journalist and extraordinary creative writer. She racked up a multitude of writing awards during her time at OVS, winning the Dorothy Burr Literary Award and the Judith Oberlander Poetry Award. In her junior year, she shared the Carl S. Cooper Award, which recognizes underclassmen for their leadership and character. At the year-end Awards Ceremony, she received the Journalism Award for her many and mighty contributions to that program. In giving that award, her teacher read her final journalism blogpost, a poignant Goodbye to OVS that brought many to tears. She is the rare student who strives for excellence in all she does, not to build a resume or for name recognition, but because that is her default position and it is embedded in her DNA.



Vincent Wang, Pasadena City College

Who knew such a great stage presence lurked beneath that kind, friendly façade? Vincent nailed his part as host and emcee at the Festival of Talent in his senior year, cracking jokes as if he had been doing stand-up all his life, and he won over the jury at Mock Trial, getting voted best witness in a civil case for his portrayal of an expert wildlife biologist. He is a gifted writer, earning praise from his English teachers for his ability to connect words and thoughts. But he perhaps demonstrated his greatest growth outside of the classroom, where he was a key member of the robotics team and among a core group of students who dedicated themselves to rebuilding that program after the Thomas Fire. In that same way, Vincent’s character and confidence was evident on the golf course, where as a member of the varsity team he dedicated himself to mastering that most frustrating of sports, developing patience and nerves of steel to improve his game. At the Awards Ceremony, he was celebrated for his work behind the scenes at school musicals. But this year, it has been wonderful to see him step into the spotlight and earn the applause he is due.



Niklas Weckerle, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

There is no part of the OVS experience untouched by this young man. On the soccer field, on the baseball diamond, in the backcountry, in the dorms, in the robotics lab, and in the classroom, he has done it all. His resume is a testament to his love for our school community, but it’s also evidence of the curiosity and commitment he infuses into everything he does, and he has displayed tireless enthusiasm for all things OVS. His heart is big. He has volunteered his time to feed the homeless, raise money for cancer survivors and clean up beaches. Last spring, he traveled with some of his classmates to Peru to help beautify a school in one of the poorest pockets of that country. Similarly, after the Thomas Fire he was one of the students who arrived early, before the start of the second semester, to help ready the campus to open on time. At the Awards Ceremony, he was recognized for being named all-league second team for his baseball acuity. What we know about Niklas is that he’s the kind of guy you want on your team.

Max Wu, UCLA

Mr. Community Service. Max orchestrated the Relay for Life and so many other community events led by OVS students. He is a big-hearted guy who prodded and urged and encouraged all of us to be better. He was twice named the recipient of the coveted Wallace Burr Award, which recognizes the student who has made the most significant impact on the OVS community by giving unsolicited service. He also was all heart on the court, where he practiced and perfected his favorite sport, basketball, and on the track and cross-country course, where he ran with guts and grit. He embraced this unique American learning experience and made it his own. He has worked hard to develop a deep understanding in a broad range of courses, taking challenging Advanced Placement classes in everything from Computer Science to U.S. History. He leaves having made an indelible mark on our community.



Sharon Ye, UC San Diego

We’ve seen her grow from a shy, introspective freshman to a bold, outspoken senior. She found her love in the equestrian arena, taking on a sport in which initially she had little confidence but where she worked hard to develop the skills and poise necessary to join the school’s equestrian trips to Portugal and Montana. Her college essays spoke of this evolution and revealed the power that comes with overcoming your fears and accomplishing a difficult task. She found her voice in the computer lab, where this year, as editor in chief, she orchestrated production of the school yearbook. She discovered her grace in the ceramics studio, where her time and attention earned her a share of the Ceramics Award at the afternoon Awards Ceremony. She has emerged as a strong and self-assured individual, a leader in all facets of our high school community and she is a testament to the benefits that come to those daring students who are willing to throw themselves headlong into the OVS experience. Certainly what she has learned in the past four years is that she has the ability to think deeply, express herself confidently, and take on any challenge that comes her way.



CLASS OF 2019 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

*matriculations noted in bold

The University of Alabama
Allegheny College
The American University of Paris (3)
Arizona State University
Belmont University
Boston University
California Lutheran University (3)
California Northstate University
Cal Poly Pomona (2)
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (2)
CSU Chico (3)
CSU Fullerton
UC Berkeley
UC Davis (7)
UC Irvine (4)
UCLA (2)
UC Merced (4)
UC Riverside (6)
UC San Diego (4)
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz (6)
Carson-Newman University
Chapman University (3)
University of Colorado Boulder

Colorado State University (2)
University of Connecticut (2)
Denison University
Emerson College
The Evergreen State College
Franklin & Marshall College
Freed-Hardeman University
George Mason University
The George Washington University (4)
Gettysburg College
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hofstra University
Hult International Business School (4)
Humboldt State University
University of Illinois (2)
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University (2)
James Madison University
King University
Lee University
Lipscomb University
Long Island University, Post
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University (3)

Maine Maritime Academy
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2)
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
University of Michigan
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Northeastern University (2)
Northern Arizona University (2)
University of Oregon (5)
University of the Pacific
Pennsylvania State University (2)
Pepperdine University (2)
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
University of Redlands
Reed College
Richmond, The American International
University in London
University of Rochester
Saint Mary’s College of California
San Diego State University

San Francisco State University
University of San Francisco (2)
Santa Clara University
Seattle University
Skidmore College
Southern Oregon University-Honors College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University (2)
Trevecca Nazarene University
Union College
Union University
University of East London
The University of Northwestern Ohio
University of Roehampton
University of Utah
Vassar College
Washington State University
University of Washington (4)
Whittier College (2)
University of Wisconsin
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Head of School Message

By Gary Gartrell — Head of School, Lower Campus



Each of the 27 young women and men seated before us has accomplished a significant milestone in their lives. We are here today to honor them, recognize their achievements, and celebrate their journey. Today we pause to reflect on all that has brought us to this moment, and we look ahead with confidence, knowing that we have positioned them well.

The real goal in education is to cherish and develop the individuality of each student. It is not just to aid the student in understanding the world, but to instill a desire to improve the world. Our faculty believes in this cause, and this is what drives the incredible work they do every day. Our students embrace this mission and none more so than the members of this eighth-grade class.

The theme for this year was Live Well. Learn Well. Be Well. The goal was to highlight the importance of a balanced life. This eighth-grade class has developed and sharpened the behaviors and skills that are crucial for high school and beyond.

And how do you practice those skills? By participating in class discussions, community service projects, international travel, sports teams, performing arts, equestrian, poetry readings, outdoor education, weekend activities, All School presentations, and taking on leadership roles.

Setting the right tone back in September, we traveled to Hume Lake in Sequoia National Park for our traditional fall camping trip as previous 8th graders have during the past 25 years. There is a giant redwood log that has been floating in the lake for a very long time. During this annual trip, hundreds of OVS students have participated in Champion of the Log competitions. When we showed up this year, the log was missing. It was not stuck in the sand as it has been the last several years, nor was it floating in the swimming cove as we usually find it. Had the log finally sunk to the bottom of the lake? Mr. Inman jumped in a kayak and did a little exploring. About a half mile away, in a cove around the corner, the log was discovered. Mr. Inman returned to the group and asked if they wanted to paddle over and bring the log back to the

swimming beach. A group of students enthusiastically accepted the challenge. The Log Rescuers took turns towing, pushing, and pulling the big log back to its proper place. The entire class spent the rest of the afternoon kayaking, swimming, and determining who could or could not be pushed off that log. It was a great day, and that spirit of participation never wavered for the entire year.

I hope that you leave OVS with a sense of confidence because of all that you have learned this year –academically, socially, and emotionally. Ned Yeomans, the founder of OVS, felt that school should be fun, hands-on, and teach you about the beauty in the world. That is why we have you participate in such a variety of educational experiences. You have so many skills that a typical eighth-grader does not possess.

I hope you leave here with the willingness to take risks and know that it is okay to make mistakes. I hope you continue to advocate for yourself. I hope you have learned that participation and perseverance pay off. I hope you felt the long hours it took to memorize your lines for The Sound of Music were worth it and that you are proud of the effort you put into your academic finals. You are an OVS 8th grade graduate, and you are well prepared for whatever your future may hold.

I hope you never become too cool to participate. I hope that in years to come you look back on your time here and reflect on all the different things you engaged in and all you accomplished – the fun you had with friends, teachers, and dorm parents – and that you smile and think it was a pretty cool experience.

Back in 1924, 8th grader John Pascoe commented about his OVS teachers: “This respect for individuality and confidence and shared experience was a gift to us from the teachers. It is something to be grateful for.” I hope all of you 8th graders feel the same.

Major Awards

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Tigran Nahabedian



HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

Given for the significant contributions an eighth grader, or eighth graders, have made during their years at Lower Campus.

India Getty-Pruss, Zachary Danino



J.B. CLOSE AWARD

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

Logan Wallace



PAUL PITTMAN AWARD

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

Hannah Little



MICHAEL D. HERMES AWARD

Given to the most outstanding eighth-grade student athletes.

Lilia Duque, Eugene Fisher



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.

Hope Henderson, Max Kwon



8th Grade



6th & 7th Grade



Elementary



Prekindergarten and Kindergarten



Pons Dinner



This year's graduating seniors (left) and 8th graders (right) marked their "bridge" to the next chapter at Pons Dinner.

The Bridge

This year marked the 24th annual Pons Dinner, which celebrates the bridge between middle and high school. It is also a time to recognize the Lower Campus graduates, now in their senior year, as they prepare to transition from high school to college.

This year, alumni guest speaker James Casey (L95) shared with the students in attendance his fond memories of the school — both as a student and now as a parent of two young children. His daughter, Kendall, will enter Kindergarten in the fall and his son, Jackson, will begin in pre-K.

"My love for this school runs deep," Casey said, "and I can honestly say that my years here played a large role in helping me to become the man that I am today."

Casey reflected on his experiences growing up in the early 1990s, from camping trips to Hume Lake and All-School assemblies on the old concrete steps long before the Greenberg Activities Center was built. He also talked about the close friendships he formed with teachers and peers.

"The friendships that you make here really do last a life time," he said.

Casey reflected in how he showed up to support the school after

the Thomas Fire. He was among the volunteers who helped the Upper Campus reopen after the December 2017 Thomas Fire devastated the high school.

"I returned with many alumni, teachers, students and residents of the Ojai Valley to assist with the Upper Campus rebuilding efforts last year and it felt like 1995 all over again," he said. "The love and support that you receive from the OVS community lasts forever. It's like an old friendship that sparks to life even after years have passed and you may not have seen each other. The campus will always be home to you."

"I am confident that OVS will continue to grow and change as the years pass," he continued. "It will continue to improve and add new classes, buildings, and faculty members. One thing that I can assure you will not change is that it will always feel like home to you. You will always feel welcome here. I have a suspicion that some of you may find yourself in my shoes one day. You will return to this place that was so magical during your childhood and you will want nothing more than to have your own children attend this school. After all, we know how special it really is."



Dorm "brothers" Vincent Wang and Jacky Cai (left) and actual brothers Henry and Eugene Fisher (right) share a laugh.



Lower Classes of 2017 (above) and 2018 (below) returned to visit and reminisce.



Lin shares college wisdom at Senior to Alumni Dinner



Lin and the Class of 2019 celebrate at Boccali's.

Just before graduation, members of the Class of 2019 took a break from final exams and gathered for a casual pizza dinner at Boccali's restaurant in Ojai to celebrate their transition from seniors to alumni. Guest speaker Jeffrey Lin (L13, U17), currently a student at Loyola Marymount University, encouraged the graduates to open themselves up to new ideas and opportunities. "Take a course that has nothing to do with your major because you want to," Lin said. "Join clubs and go to events. Get a job or volunteer at a charity. Get off campus and explore the city or state you now call home. Or do none of that, it's up to you. It doesn't matter what college you got into or what major you picked. It's what you make of the experience that matters. No matter where you choose to spend the next chapter of your life, know that it's going to be hard. If it's not, you're doing something wrong."



Roger's return: Tennis Tournament brings Wang back to campus

By Bella Slosberg (L17, U21)

It is said that people always return to the place they love — and that certainly was true this spring for alumnus Roger Wang (L87, U91).

Twenty eight years after graduating, Roger returned to the Upper Campus in late April to watch his son, Ben, participate in the 14-and-under division of the 119th Ojai Tennis Tournament. The Ojai hosts the Pac-12 championships as well as junior and high school divisions, allowing aspiring collegiate athletes to play alongside some of the top-ranked tennis players in the nation.

As a student, Roger represented OVS at The Ojai every year from 1987-1991, playing in the 14-and-under division. He also played on the Upper tennis team.

Roger went on to graduate from UC Berkeley and currently serves as the business services manager for the Ventura Police Department. He lives in Ventura and volunteers time with

various foundations that promote youth tennis — a sport that brings his own family together.

"We do a lot of tennis stuff together for fun and competitively," he said. "Tennis is a camaraderie and it's something you can do your whole life, and I'm so glad my kids love it as much as I do."

In addition to watching Ben play in April, Roger also had the opportunity watch his eldest son, Ethan, compete on the OVS courts in March. Ethan plays tennis for Foothill Technology and its team played a CIF match at the Upper courts.

"It's a kind of surreal to be back here with two kids that that are playing the same sport that I love," Roger said during his visit. "It reminds me of when I was a kid at OVS playing tennis."

For Roger, coming to OVS was like returning home. From the courts, he could look up to see his classrooms and he was able to connect with several of



his former teachers, including ceramics instructor Jody Cooper, English teacher Crystal Davis and Biology teacher Lisa Boyd, who served as his music teacher and dorm parent.

"So many memories come up for me when I'm here," Roger said. "It's great to come to OVS as an adult and see all of the faculty that are still there, and it's like nothing has changed. I remember being in the dorms, I remember being in English class with Ms. Davis, I remember being at this amazing place that I first discovered tennis."

Love

is in the air

By Avery Colborn (L16, U20)

It all started in the hallway.

Anika DeWitt (L00, U04) wasn't looking when she walked out of her counselor's office at the start of her sophomore year, preoccupied with a change in her schedule. That's when she nearly slammed right into Sam Pepper (L99, U03), a shy boy who was in the grade above her.

After sharing a smile, they both went their separate ways.

But whether it be due to pure coincidence, or to some higher power, they once again ended up together in the perfect place to kindle a romance: Physics class.

The rest was history.

"Right away, we got along like best friends who had known each other for our entire lives," said Anika, who, six years after attending OVS, would marry her high school sweetheart. "I think from the very beginning Sam and I realized that we had a really great friendship."

Over the years, dozens of alumni couples have tied the knot. Though some only met for the first time at alumni events, or didn't even begin a romantic relationship until they were out of school, they eventually found themselves together at the altar.

For at least five of those couples, they actually attended high school at the



Emma Tillinger Koskoff (U90) and Nick Koskoff (U90) circa 1989 (above) and today, with children Lola and Alden.



same time. And three of the five dated the person they would later marry.

Such is the case with Patrick (U91) and Sally Dyer (L87, U91).

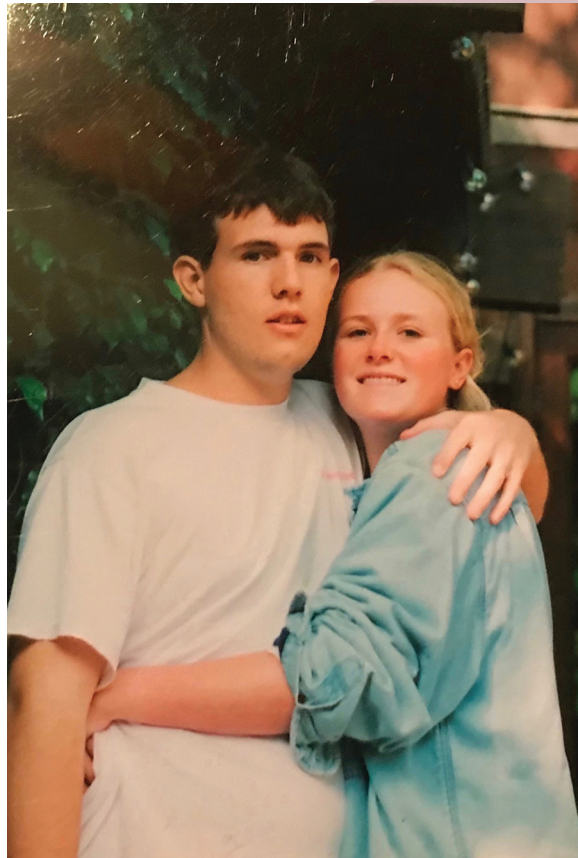
In the fall of 1989, Patrick was the new boy on campus. And, as current and past Spuds know, new students are the cause for much excitement. On behalf of all of her friends, Sally decided to approach Patrick one night after study hall. She expertly broke the ice by complimenting his great socks, telling him she had a pair just like them. Though Sally's pick-up line didn't work out immediately, the two started to develop a friendship as they spent time together on backpacking trips, at sports games, and countless other activities.

"We spent time cultivating relationships the OVS way," Sally said.

That spring break, they drove together up to their respective homes in the Bay Area. It was that six-hour drive that resulted in them dating their senior year.

But after graduation in 1991, Patrick and Sally purposely broke things off as they headed to college in order to experience school and meet new people on their own. But, after only a semester of being apart, the two reunited at UC Davis where they remained for the rest of college.

Upon reminiscing of their early relationship, Sally recalled a special moment they shared on their senior trip to Yosemite.



Anika DeWitt and Sam Pepper bonded in physics class. Today, their world revolves around their son, Holden.



young relationships are, Emma said. "We were great friends and cared deeply for each other," Emma recalled. "We have the best memories from our time together at OVS."

But as high school came to a close, Nick and Emma broke up, leaving them both devastated. As time went on, they simply lost touch. But as the saying goes, if you love something, set it free; if it's meant to be, it will find its way back to you.

"The entire class was out in the moonlight of Crane Flat and it was snowing," Sally described. "It was complete magic and I think we fell in love forever in that moment."

Sally and Patrick have been together for 29 years (married for 21) and live in Colorado with their 17-year-old daughter, Hana, who has grown up alongside recent OVS graduate Lucy Orgolini (L15, U19).

Emma Tillinger Koskoff (U90) and Nick Koskoff (U90) share a similar story.

Their story started when Emma's friend met Nick and his cousin at summer camp. She excitedly called Emma to tell her that two cute boys from Beverly Hills would be coming to school in the fall. Emma and Nick met on a hike to the Topa Topas, which used to kick off the school year. Throughout their time in high school, the two were on-again, off-again. Their relationship was complicated, as most

And, as fate had it, one Sunday in May of 2008, 19 years after the two had broken up, Emma received a Facebook friend request from Nick.

Both recently divorced, Emma was working on a film in Boston and Nick was living in Los Angeles. By the following Tuesday, the two were talking on the phone and, by Friday, Emma was on a plane to L.A. They've been together ever since.

"Oddly enough, we are both happy that we went our separate ways for those 19 years that we lost touch. Young love is complex and if we had stayed together, who knows if we'd be together now," Emma said. "Ours is a wonderful love story and we both feel extremely lucky to have ended up together."

Emma and Nick have now been together for 10 years and have an 8-year-old daughter, Lola, as well as a 15-year-old son from Nick's first marriage, Alden, who Emma loves as her own.

Though many are critical of young love and say that it is fleeting, one thing rings true from the stories of these couples: no matter the age when it begins, if a love is authentic, it can endure.

If you would have told Sam and Anika



From footwear to forever: Sally's compliment on Patrick's socks kick-started a love spanning almost three decades.



Pepper what their lives would look like nearly two decades after they first bumped into each other in the hall, they surely wouldn't have expected that they would go on to spend the rest of their lives together.

After Sam graduated from high school and Anika moved back to Santa Barbara, the two spent the next few years navigating their relationship and facing the challenges of long distance.

With a few bumps in between, Sam and Anika finally found themselves together again in Boulder, Colorado, where Anika was attending college. A year after she graduated, the two were engaged.

After sixteen years together, the two are now living in Crested Butte, Colorado, with their 18-month old son, Holden, and have another baby boy on the way. They still share a love of Harry Potter, the outdoors, and spend time doing some of the same activities that they first bonded over in high school.

"I look at our beautiful life and I know that we owe a lot of what we have to the school. Our years together at OVS are the foundation of this amazing life," Anika said. "It feels like just yesterday we were in physics class stealing

glances from each other, but then I remember just how many years have gone by and how many things have happened in those years. I am married to my best friend and for that I am eternally grateful."

Marina Mahler:

A Symphonic Life



Marina Fistoulari Mahler (L58), granddaughter of composer Gustav Mahler, attended Ojai Valley School from the fourth through the ninth grade. Her mother, sculptor Anna Mahler, and her father, conductor Anatole Fistoulari, were living in England at the time of Marina's birth in August 1943, at the height of World War II.

After the war, Anna and Marina moved to the United States and settled in Southern California. Unhappy with Marina's primary school experience in Los Angeles, her mother enrolled her in Ojai Valley School, where she was a resident student until 1958, except for one year away in Canada.

"Ojai Valley School — in a valley surrounded by mountains — I remember as if it all took place under my closed eyelids, hovering there quite clearly, continuing as if in a long night's dream, branded in my memory along with the deepest, oldest feelings, as powerful and rewarding as a fairytale, repeated and repeated endlessly."

Coming from a musical and artistic family, Marina loved the opportunities OVS afforded to create her own works of art and participate in musical performances surrounded by the natural beauty of the Ojai Valley.

Her OVS contemporary Nick Thacher (L60) remembers Marina performing in an outdoor production of James Thurber's *The Thirteen Clocks*. "Mrs. Burr cast me as the Gollux," recalls Nick, "my cousin Weezy as the witch Haggar, who wept jewels; and Marina, the goddess of the school to us seventh grade boys, as the Princess Saralinda, who rode off with the prince into the sunset, or at least in the general direction of the OVS stables supervised by Paul Pittman."

After furthering her education at Girls Collegiate School in Claremont, and then at UCLA, 22-year old Marina married contemporary composer Paul Glass. The Ojai Valley News reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Paul Glass and mother of the bride Anna Mahler were recent visitors from Hollywood at the Ranch House in Meiners Oaks where they had a champagne (sic)

wedding feast." Glass was in the midst of doing three consecutive film scores; so to take a break, the couple traveled to the south of France for "a three-week retreat that became three years" according to Marina, in Sainte-Maxime-Sur-Mer and Cogolin.

While there, she wrote Mr. and Mrs. Burr to say, "I believe I loved your school more than anyone else who

"I believe I loved your school more than anyone else who had the chance to go there...the part of my life I spent in the place you are giving your life to, is, for me, an undisputed and lasting foundation."

- Marina Mahler in letter to Dorothy and Wallace Burr

had the chance to go there...the part of my life I spent in the place you are giving your life to, is, for me, an undisputed and lasting foundation ... Ask me when I am fifty-five or eighty years of age and I will tell you the same things."

Marina also came to love the Var region of France, which inspired her to build her dream home on a coastal mountainside overlooking those same towns where she had lived years ago, across the bay and yacht harbor of Saint Tropez, and to the Mediterranean beyond.

Having worked as an interior decorator when she returned to England after her marriage to Paul Glass, Marina has been fully involved in the architecture, décor and many artistic and historic elements of her new home, from the art nouveau driveway gate to the massive glass-topped dining table supported by ancient Roman pedestals, to stone

sculptures by her late mother.

In 1974 Marina began a 13-year marriage to Milan Havlicek, and a year later gave birth to Sasha Havlicek, her only and very accomplished daughter. Sasha earned her Bachelors and Masters at the London School of Economics and Political Science, holds a graduate diploma from the Institut D'études Politiques, Paris and is the founding CEO of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue in London. She and her husband Torben, with son Sebastian, help Marina with her home building projects when they visit.

In letters to the Burrs and to former Director of Alumni Affairs Pat Clark, Marina said of the OVS motto Nothing Less Than Your Best, "though it did not affect me at school except to make me feel guilty for all the work I wasn't doing, (it) seems to have sunk in over the years and affects now my daily work and my personal life."

Her life is incredibly varied, energetic, imaginative, productive and collaborative, animated by what she calls "the Mahler Effect."

Before her mother's death in 1988, she started the Anna Mahler Association in her name. Under the auspices of the Anna Mahler Association in 2010, Marina initiated a residency and projects program, now known as the Mahler and LeWitt Studios, where artists, curators and writers can live and work in the same studios as Anna Mahler and Sol LeWitt.

Marina visited OVS in August 1989 after having lunch in Santa Barbara with "her favorite teacher" Otis Wickenhaeuser. She and her daughter, Sasha, toured campus with Mike Hermes. (Featured in Winter 1989 Family Tree.) At the time, she was in the process of creating the "Gustav Mahler and the 21st Century International Association" as an international charity for the contemporary arts. (Featured in the Fall 1993 Family Tree.)

Marina has long been dedicated to assisting young people to pursue their education and dreams, especially in music and the arts. With the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Marina is Co-founder



Marina Mahler, on the terrace of her home in the south of France.

and Honorary Jury Member of the Mahler Competition, limited to 12-14 young conductors age 35 and under. Gustavo Dudamel, now Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, won the first competition in 2004. For several years around the time of the OVS Centennial in 2011, she generously created "The Marina Fistoulari Mahler Scholarship in Honor of Otis Wickenhaeuser" to provide need-based financial aid for Lower Campus boarding students. Today, many of Marina's activities take place under the auspices of the Mahler Foundation, of which she is the Founder President. For the hundredth anniversary of the original Mahlerfest in 1920, Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw will again host an international Mahler Festival called "Mahler's Universe" featuring performances by some of the world's foremost orchestras and singers. Among them, Marina reports, "I am a patron of the amazing very young newly formed Orchestra for the Earth. We will be bringing them to the Mahler Festival in May 2020 in Amsterdam."

The Mahler Foundation is commissioning ten new documentaries that will focus on Mahler's first nine symphonies, the Adagio of his tenth, and Das Lied von der Erde "The Song of the Earth" – bringing new insights, stories and points of view — allowing the audience to experience these musical masterpieces with a new awareness. The Mahler Foundation will use this special occasion to partner with Het Concertgebouw to co-commission a series of works by contemporary composers to be premiered alongside Mahler's symphonies. They will be presenting a two-day symposium – the Gustav Mahler Forum– exploring issues crucial to Mahler's personal sensibilities and concerns, including the environment, cultural identity, and religion. The Foundation will also launch the Mahler Award – an international honor recognizing an individual or organization that demonstrates exceptional achievement in these areas as well as contemporary art and youth culture. "I believe that my grandfather who called himself the Singer of Nature,

who said 'Ever since my childhood Nature has been for me one and all,' who believed the art of living to be the greatest art, who delved so deeply into the problems and joys of being alive, could be an even wider source of comfort and strength," Marina wrote of the composer. "And we only need to reach out. And so we have acted upon this belief."



Marina loved the many artistic opportunities at OVS. This piece of her student work remains in her home today.

Alumni Baseball Game

Thank you to all the alumni who participated in the spring Alumni Baseball Game! This year's event, held on May 25 at the Upper Campus, drew one of the largest crowds in recent memory as more than two dozen alumni showed up to play, cheer on the players, and reconnect with friends. It was great fun to see so many Spuds turn out for the game, and stay for a poolside barbecue with our current students afterward.

As always, the baseball game produced some fun family storylines. Upper Campus Head of School Craig Floyd (U83) played on the alumni team with his son, Connor Floyd (L11, U15), who arrived in Ojai just days after graduating from Clarke University, where he played first base and left field on the baseball team. Parker Colborn (L05, U09) faced his younger brother, Nolan Colborn (L15, U19) in Nolan's last game as a student.

Max Wheeler (L06, U10), Arya Torab (L04, U08), Alex Vangelos (U09), Miles Munding-Becker (L09, U13), Hunter Helman (L06, U10), Gunnar Helman (L08, U12), Carmen Barkan (U99), Rob Davis (L84, U88), Jason Goldman (L01, U05), Jeff Lin (L13, U17), and Masaki Takamatsu (L11, U15) all played as well.

Thank you everyone for your participation! We look forward to next year!



Brothers Gunnar (L08, U12) and Hunter Helman (L06, U10) get cheerfully photobombed by Carmen Barkan (U99).

Clarke University grad Connor Floyd (L11, U15) arrived back home in time to team up with his dad, Upper Campus Head of School Craig Floyd (U83).



Spuds in Sedona

Since their first "Sedona Reunion" in the summer of 1992, alumni of Lower Campus class of '61 and neighboring classes have gathered every four years in scenic Sedona, Arizona at the green and woodsy Living Springs Camp in Oak Creek Canyon. As many as 68, including some teachers, have attended the gatherings. There have been ten of these reunions, two of which brought the group back to the OVS campus, while eight have been at the camp in Sedona.

Past participants had asked to have them more often and settled on July 12-14, 2019 for this year's rendezvous. They came from Washington State, New Mexico, Missouri, Arizona, Nevada and California.

As with all previous installments, Frances ("Fanny" or "Casey") Case (L61) has been the petite but powerful driving force behind the Sedona group, with the assistance of her husband Smokie. Why does she do it? Frances writes, "Certainly it brings me pleasure to see you all again. But more than that I love the feeling I get when I see so much joy on your faces resulting from the magic of seeing classmates, the magic of shared & new experiences; The Magic of Sedona."

Also assisting and attending were Bob Anthony (L61), Liza Cass White (L61) and

husband Stuart, Susan Crawford Engle (L61) and her sister Laurie and family, Jim Churchill (L61), Bob Cooper (L61), Ruth Lucking Col (L61), Julie Fowler Westerfield (L61) and husband Gerry, Lana Lucking Fredell (L57) plus 10-year old Molly Daniel, Fanny's grand-girl. Non-alumni, but contemporaries in age, were Jane and Jack McClenahan visiting from the OVS Development Office.

Set just south of Oak Creek and rock-walled channels from the adjacent trout farm, Living Springs Camp has a main house with bedrooms and baths, additional cabins, a bath house, a central meeting room "The Spring House," and a central kitchen with shared chores to be done just like OVS. Some choose to stay in a Sedona hotel or B&B or their own camping/RV set-up, but Frances advises, "Most participants would rather brave the beds designed to be used by kids attending overnight camps than sleep removed from the campground. OVS day students always knew the most interesting things happened when they were not on the campus. The same applies to the goings-on at Living Springs!"

Unlike other OVS regional alumni events, Sedona is not organized or directed by the school in any way. Carl Cooper (L64, U68) says, "Fanny has

found a magic recipe for helping her schoolmates hold onto their treasured childhood. Lower class of '61 was an amazing, gifted and strong class with bonds that have sustained their friendship over the decades. Sedona is our best model for independent alumni events and it would be great if the natural leaders of other classes/eras could create something similar."

Are you enticed by renewing and deepening old friendships while enjoying gorgeous red rock canyons, scenic hikes, cool swimming holes, and sleeping under the stars of Sedona's dark skies? The next Sedona Reunion will be held in the summer of 2021, specific mid-July date TBD. If you have an interest in attending, call Frances Case (520) 886-7211. If you have an interest in organizing a special event for your era, please contact Wendy Tremiti in the OVS Alumni Office (805) 646-1423, x 1275.



Liza, Jim, Frances
Gary, Julie, and Bob

Alvarez reunites with Boston Spuds

Earlier this summer, OVS College Counselor Fred Alvarez met up with five Upper Campus alumni. Ellen Liu (U14), Madison Demery (U11), Sam Du (U14), Grant Spencer (U14) and Bruce Quinn (U14) are all living in the Boston area — and were eager to meet up with Mr. Alvarez while he was attending a college counseling seminar at

Harvard University.

"It's always so great to meet with our young alums, and I have a special fondness for those in the Boston area," he said. "Yes, they're off doing amazing things in college and beyond. But they're also quality people and it reminds me just how lucky we all are to have this extended OVS family."



Mr. Alvarez, Ellen, Madison,
Bruce, Sam and Grant

To the OVS Community.

At the request of President/CEO Michael Hall-Mounsey, I have embarked upon an exciting adventure – writing a new and continued history of Ojai Valley School focusing upon the period since the founding of the Upper Campus in the early 1960s to present day. All summer I have been doing research and interviewing members of this community, enjoying the process of discovering so much great material.

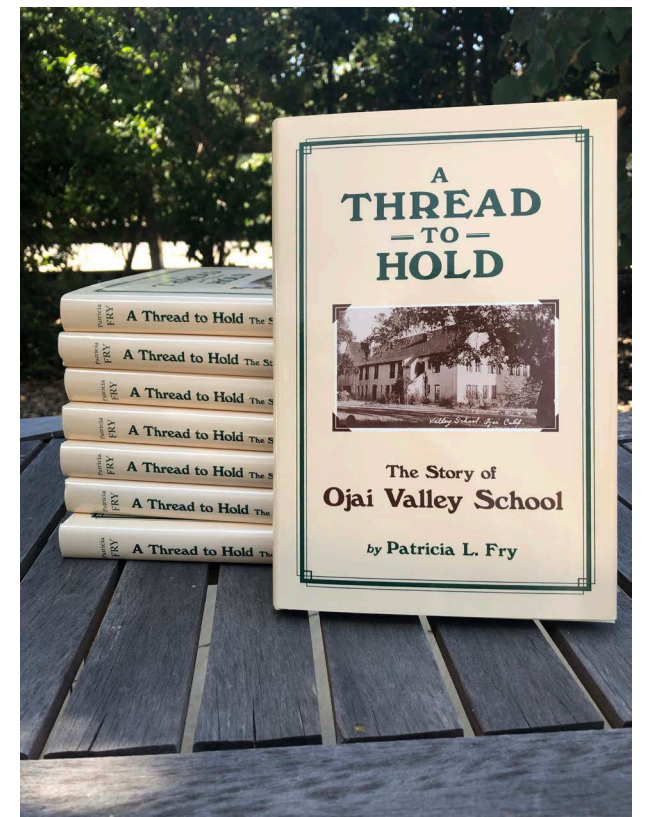
As many of you know, I have basically been connected to OVS for much of this time, having taught summer camp while I was a UC Berkeley college student (1959-61), serving as Equestrian Director (1986-2011), and now teaching Expository Writing and English Language and Composition at the Upper Campus (2011-present). For me, it has always been a labor of love for this little school and its wonderful students.

Now, I am seeking your assistance. This book, which will essentially pick up where Patricia Fry's *A Thread to Hold* ended, will be so much better if it reflects your ideas, as well as my own research. I invite you to think about your life at OVS – academics, athletics, outdoor education, drama productions, robotics, horse shows, community service work, dorm life, social activities, and so forth. I encourage you to share your memories of the teachers who inspired you, the experiences that shaped you, and the lessons learned inside and outside the classroom. It is my goal to include many of the experiences of students and faculty from the last 60 years.

Please contact me with ideas and comments you may have about this project. Thank you for your help.



Sincerely,
Terry Wilson
Ojai Valley School
terrywilson@ovs.org
(805) 646-5593 ext. 2312



SAVE THE DATES!

Please mark your calendars to join us for the following alumni and community events in the upcoming school year! Contact the Alumni Office at alumni@ovs.org or call (805) 640-2584 ext. 1277 for details.

2019

September 21 - Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour festival
October 18 - Regional Alumni Event in Longmont, Colorado
November 16 - Regional Alumni Event in Seoul, Korea
December 3 - OVS Day of Service in Ojai

2020

February 8 - Alumni Soccer and Basketball Games
May 1 - Festival of Talent
May 2 - 7th Annual Gala and Auction
May 23 - Alumni Baseball Game
June 5-7 - Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend



1. Andrew "Andy" Knight (L72, U75), Former Faculty - Virginia Lumb and Jason Culp (L74, U78)

2. Binnie Baumhoff (U79) and Kelly Somers (L73, U77)

3. Binnie Baumhoff (U79), Binnie's partner Ron Garrison and Terre Steinbeck (L76)

4. Bruce Milton (U70) John Enders (U70) Nathan Ahrens (spouse of Evelene Kline Ahrens (L95, U99) and Craig Floyd (U83)

5. Dinner

6. Former Faculty - Gary Dinkins and John Osborne

7. Gigi Ordway (U78), Binnie Baumhoff (U79) and Karen Drucker (L74, U78)

8. Staff Jack McClenahan and Annelore Butler (spouse of Henry Butler (L56)

9. Stream crossing during Alumni Hike to White Rocks



Groundbreaking Ceremony



Pictured clockwise from top: President/CEO Michael Hall-Mounsey, Jeffrey Lin (L03, U17), Steve McGillivray, Fred Fisher, Keith Carradine (U67), Jack Denault III, Andy Helman, Lorie Helman, Gigi Ordway (U78), Spencer Garrett (L62, U65), Pat Farber, Wendy Fisher and Larry Fisher; Hall-Mounsey speaks at Groundbreaking Ceremony; Cole McIntosh (L10, U14) and Ali Fortier-Weller (L11, U15); Mike Mahon and Myr Slosberg.

FOUNDER'S ALUMNI AWARD



The Founder's Alumni Award was created to honor alumni whose achievements exemplify the school's principles and values. Ojai Valley School is honored to recognize Dr. Henry Butler III (L56) – a hard-working and distinguished surgeon who has dedicated his life to helping others – as the recipient for the 2019 Founders Alumni Award.

Dr. Butler was presented with the award during Alumni Weekend. Last year's award recipient, Tony Thacher (L55), introduced Dr. Butler, who then shared with the alumni gathered the story of how he arrived at the school as a boy in 1950. He described arriving in Santa Barbara by train from San Francisco on a chilly January day, and then arriving at his new home in Ojai. Thanks to the loving supervision of Miss Louise Schreiber, housemother in the dorm, he laid down roots. He fondly reflected on OVS as a place that saved him from despair and provided him a foundation of solid schooling.

Dr. Butler graduated from OVS in 1956. He went on to high school in Los Angeles and graduated from Harvard University A.B. cum laude in 1964, earning his B.S. in chemistry. He continued to further his education at Columbia University where he earned his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1965, while living in New York, he wrote to Headmaster Wallace Burr. It was his first letter since leaving school. "I wish I had done it sooner, for as you must know both you and the school have been a great

influence on me," he wrote. "Since your visit last year I have given serious consideration to both law and medicine."

Dr. Butler would go on to serve more than 46 years as a surgeon in both the Army and Navy. He and his wife, Annelore, a pediatrician, decided to affiliate with the armed forces so they could serve and practice overseas. They spent most of their time raising their three children in Germany, near their French border. During his service, Dr. Butler took two trips to Haiti, volunteering to help those in need following a devastating earthquake. Amongst his hands-on medical endeavors, he currently counsels surgery patients and helps them overcome the emotional distress they may face with the facial deformities from cancer surgery. Alongside his impressive repertoire of volunteer work, he teaches two cardiac and trauma-resuscitation courses to doctors on active duty.

At the same time, Dr. Butler continued to give back to the Harvard community, volunteering with the admissions department to interview incoming freshman. He also volunteered as a surgeon with the Indian Health Service (IHS), which provides health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

He recently re-engaged with the OVS Alumni Office, volunteering to serve as a class captain to connect with fellow alumni. When he and Annelore made plans to travel cross

country from their home in Virginia for Alumni Weekend, they had no knowledge that the Founder's Alumni Award Committee had selected Dr. Butler as the 2019 award recipient.

"His achievements are so outstanding, it is time for him to be recognized," a member of the Committee said.

Indeed, Dr. Butler's generous actions throughout his many endeavors demonstrate the true essence of the OVS spirit and philosophy of *Integer Vitae*, meaning wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and therefore poise and strength of life.

"Without question, Dr. Butler exemplifies poise and strength," said OVS President/CEO Michael Hall-Mounsey. "His life, from his first day at the Lower Campus through medical school and beyond demonstrates how he has persevered, given back, and honorably served. His recognition of the Founders Alumni Award is well deserved."



Congratulations to our Upper Campus alumni who graduated this spring with undergraduate and graduate degrees from colleges and universities across the country. We are proud of your accomplishments!

Upper 2010

1 - Ousmane Fofana (U10) earned his Master of Science, Foreign Service (MSFS) from Georgetown University. OVS Classmate Hunter Helman joined him at the commencement in Washington D.C. in May.

2 - Jessica Sims (U10) graduated from Cal State University, Channel Islands with a BA in Psychology.

Upper 2012

3 - Evan Cooper (L08, U12) completed his MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University. He has a BA in Political Science from Chapman University. Evan plans to work in American politics for a candidate as yet unnamed. Evan is pictured with his father, James Cooper (L70, U73) at his graduation. Evan currently lives in the Washington D.C. region.

Upper 2013

4 - Taylor Aronow (U13) completed her MA in Leadership Studies from Chapman University after previously earning her BA in Integrated Studies, and a minor in Leadership Studies, also from Chapman. She is now ready to start working on her Special Education Credential. Taylor spent the last year as an assistant teacher at Chapman. While she enjoyed working in a higher education setting, she wants to teach in an elementary school and then get her PhD to pursue a career in either school administration or higher education.

5 - Jayme Clapoff (L09, U13) graduated from the Ontario College of Art & Design with a Bachelor's degree in Design Advertising. She is still living in Toronto, Canada, and started working with the Four Seasons Resorts and Hotels at their corporate offices in Toronto.

6 - Jared Silverman (L09, U13) graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, with a Bachelors of Music with an emphasis on Music Business. He is currently applying for jobs in the music industry and plans to move to the Los Angeles area. "I would also like to mention that I am grateful for the music opportunities provided by Mr. and Mrs. Boyd during my time at Upper," Jared said. "Thanks again. Go Spuds!"

Upper 2014

7 - Keaton Shiffman (L10, U14) graduated with a BS in Kinesiology from Occidental College. Keaton spent an extra year at Occidental following extensive surgery from playing college football. In his last semester, he presented a thesis on the psychological effect of chronic pain and its contribution to the diagnosis of depression and anxiety. While in school, Keaton has been working in the music industry, managing the rapper Quez. Keaton plans to pursue music business as his career. Keaton is pictured with his former OVS history and journalism teacher, Fred Alvarez.

Upper 2015

8 - Tzu-Hsin (Kelsy) Chou (U15) earned two degrees, a BA in Psychology and Social Behavior and a BA in Education Science,

from the University of California, Irvine. Kelsy plans to work in human resources consulting or academic advising.

9 - Connor Floyd (L11, U15) graduated from Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, with a BA in Sports Management and a BA in Philosophy. Connor played baseball for Clarke and was team captain in his senior year. He was also voted Most Valuable Teammate. Connor is back in Ojai this summer with his girlfriend, Caroline Herrig. She is working in special education services and Connor hopes to pursue work as a baseball agent.

10 - Matthew Gustafson (L11, U15) graduated with honors with a BA in history from the University of chRedlands. Matt has finished his pre-health curriculum and plans to advance to veterinary school next year. Matt received the Lockhart award for an "outstanding history student pursuing graduate studies" and was nominated by the faculty for Phi Beta Kappa Society membership. He spent five weeks during the summer in Australia, spending time on Fraser Island and many other locations camping with the University's outdoor education program.

11 - Danlin "Natalia" Huang (U15) graduated from UC Berkeley with degrees in Economics and Italian Studies, having earned Highest Distinction Honors in both majors. She is traveling with her family for a bit this summer, then starting work at a consulting firm, Capgemini, in San Francisco.

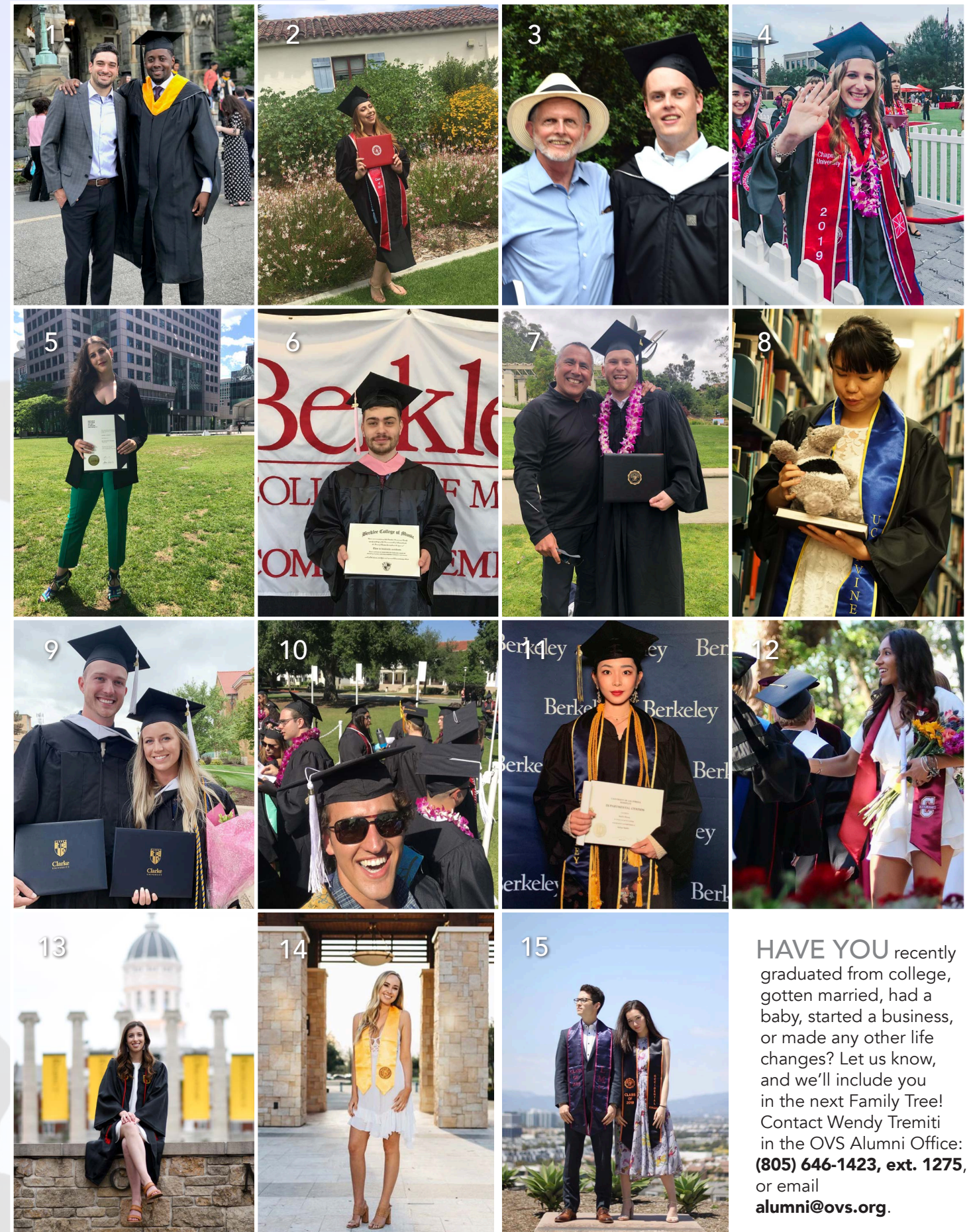
12 - Jenna McIntosh (L11, U15) graduated from the College of Charleston in South Carolina with a BA in Psychology. Jenna was a member of the College's equestrian team all four years. She is working and studying for the LSAT, having recently moved back to California to be closer to her family.

13 - Daphne Psaledakis (U15) graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Journalism and a BA in International Studies. She will spend the summer in Brussels for an Overseas Press Club Foundation fellowship at Reuters.

14 - Sarah Silver (L11, U15) graduated from Arizona State University, with a degree in Psychology. This summer she has spent time traveling in France, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Netherlands, and more. After her return from Europe, she will be venturing to Africa before moving to San Diego, CA in search of a job.

15 - Momoe Takamatsu (U15) graduated from Occidental College with a degree in Kinesiology. She will begin her graduate studies in the fall at Oregon State University. Her goal is to complete a Master's in Athletic Training, working towards becoming a certified athletic trainer. Fred Alvarez, Momoe's former OVS cross country and track coach, attended her graduation.

15 - Masaki Takamatsu (U15) graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is heading to graduate school at Columbia University. Masaki will pursue a Master's of Management Science and Engineering, which is a partnership program between the Business School and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.



HAVE YOU recently graduated from college, gotten married, had a baby, started a business, or made any other life changes? Let us know, and we'll include you in the next Family Tree! Contact Wendy Tremiti in the OVS Alumni Office: **(805) 646-1423, ext. 1275**, or email alumni@ovs.org.

Heroes Among Us

This year, the OVS Alumni Office journeyed into the past to gather stories and create a registry of alumni who have served in the United States armed forces as well as international alumni who served in their countries. The project is ongoing and the list is by no means complete. Fittingly, this tribute coincides with the 75th anniversary of World War II and the series of commemorative events held this summer to honor veterans and educate future generations about the military campaigns that changed the course of history.

Honoring those who serve

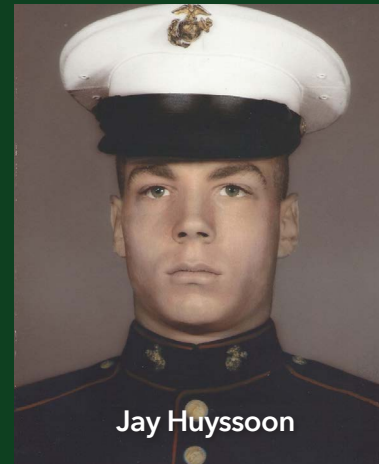
OVS recognizes and honors its known Alumni Veterans, who are listed by class

*Michael Lejeune (L27) King's Royal Rifle Corps of the British Army
*John Makepeace (L27) United States Army
*John Marcus Kaufholz (L27) United States Navy
*Berrien Anderson (L30) United States Navy
*Alan Robertson (L30) United States Navy
*William Lucking (L32) United State Navy
*Robert Dennison (L32) United States Army
Richard Durant (L32) United States Army
*John David Cist (L33) United States Navy
*Barney Lefferts (L35) United States Army
*Kelty Cassell (L35) United States Army
*James T. Drace (L36) United States Army Air Force
*Richard Bard Jr. (L36) United States Army
John A. Dron (L37) United States Marine Corp
*John H. Gardner (L37) United States Navy
*William G. Bade (L38) United States Navy
*Alper Abdy Garren (L38) United States Navy
*Allan Kempe (L38) United States Army Air Corps
*Larner H. Spaulding (L42) United States Navy
David C. Cook (L53) United States Navy
Peter Comstock (L53) United States Navy
Tom K. Knott (L53) United States Navy
Robert Calder Davis Jr. (L54) United States Air Force
*Timothy J. MacAlpine (L54) United States Army
Ernest M. Smith (L55) United States Navy
Jon H. Baake (L55) United States Army
Patrick H. Buckner (L55) United States Army
David Chenoweth (L56) United States Navy
Douglas McCaskey (L56) United States Army Reserve
Henry E. Butler III (L56) United States Army & United States Navy
*Michael Stark (L56) United States Marine Corps.
Montino Bourbon (L56) United States Army
Foster M. Buckner (L57) United States Army
Nicholas Wygant (L57) United States Marine Corp.
Raymond G. Haddon (L57) United States Air Force
*Willard M. Fesler (L57) United States Navy
Darryl Marsellus (L58) United States Navy
William D. Graham (L58) United States Navy
Mark T. Beals (L59) United States Army
John S. Huyler (L60) United States Navy
William Norton (L60) United States Army
*Garrett Edward Eddy (L61) United States Air Force
Michael G. Hartlein (L61) United States Navy Air
Putnam R. Fairbanks (62) United States Army

W. Spencer Garrett (L62, U65) United States Navy
Jay Huysssoon (L65) United States Marine Corps
*Jeffrey Okun (U65) United States Air Force
Marc Malin (U65) United States Air Force
Robert Kay (L63)(U66) United States Army
Leonard P. Warren (L63) United States Army
Dave Forrest (L64) United States Army
Jonathan A. Levi (U66) United States Navy
Charles E. Whipple II (L64, U67) United States Navy
Robert K. Ferguson (L64, U67) United States Navy
*William Lund Stearns (U67) United States Marine Corp.
Mary Ann Swigart (U68) United States Air Force
Jonathan Van De Venter (U69) United States Army
*Bruce Gribbin (U70) United States Coast Guard
Eric G. Troup (L67) United States Army
Joseph Grafe Nesbitt (L67, U70) United States Army
Miles T. Levit (U70) United States Army
William Reed Hair (L72, U75) United States Coast Guard
David Vaughan (U78) United States Army
Bradley Berning (U79) United States Army
*Brandon R. Borchert (U81) United States Navy
Tamara Sue Dole (L78, U82) United States Navy
Gustav Waterhouse (L80) United States Army
Christopher Fitz (U83) United States Navy
Sara Hartwick (U84) United States Air Force
James Harp (U85) United States Marine Corp
Sharyn L. Cohen (U89) United States Army
Laura Casper (U93) United States Navy
Shaun Davis (L90, U94) United States Coast Guard
Richard Christensen (L94, U98) United States Army
Sage Wallower (L96) United States Navy
Christopher Weiss (U97) United States Marine Corp.
Andrew Bliss (L02, U06) Minnesota National Guard
Darren Long (U07) United States Army
Sarah Voorhees (L03, U07) United States Air Force
Sean Dunbar (L07, U11) United States Army
Cooper Hefner (U09) United States Air Force Reserve
Amir Podoswa (U15) Israeli Army
Joseph Foulger (U16) United States Marine Corp.
Chen Yueh "Josh" Han (L13, U17) Taiwanese Navy
In Ho "Ted" Jung (U17) ROK Army

* deceased

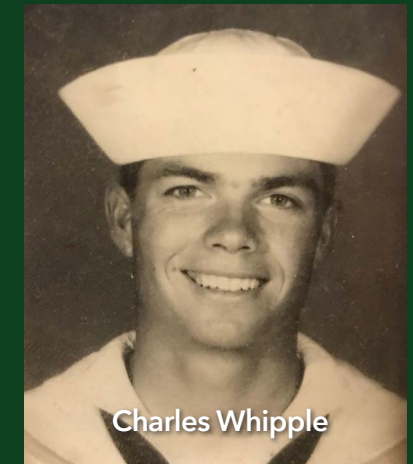
Please contact Alumni Relations Associate Wendy Tremiti at 805-640-2578 or e-mail wtremiti@ovs.org to update your service information or add the name of a loved one to the list.



Jay Huysssoon



Robert Kay



Charles Whipple

Jon Baake (L55)

I was in the Army 30 years, retired as a Colonel. However, most of that time was as an Army Reservist. Other than active military, I spent 40+ years working for the Army and other Federal Government agencies in all aspects of information technology. I retired in 2007 as the CIO of a small Government agency: the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation.

Henry E. Butler III (L56)

I served 20 years in the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and then eight years in the United States Navy as a Commander. I have many memories over the years. I enjoyed my time on the USS Enterprise – the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. During my time on the ship, I performed 5-6 surgeries, mostly appendicitis and plenty of stitching wounds. Over the years I have carried things with me that Ojai Valley School taught us. Mostly OVS taught us to think about other people. So many memories at OVS like my roommate Hayne Leyland that we again were roommates in College. Faculty and staff like Bob Cooper, Louise Schreiber (who was my dorm mistress), Oliver Walcott, Otis Wickenhaeuser and Paul Pittman to name a few. If it weren't for Paul Pittman and his cleverness I would have lost my arm on a hike. Never forget the grace that Mrs. Burr would have us recite before each meal.

Mark T Beales (L59)

I joined the Army in April 1966, did my basic training at Fort Ord in Monterey, and was assigned to the 6th Army

Headquarters Data Processing in the Presidio, San Francisco. That worked well as I lived at home and drove down the hill to the Marina Gate to my unit each morning. In October, I received orders to a mobile data processing unit in Thailand. About a week before I shipped out, my orders were changed to the 1st Detachment, 1st Data Processing Unit at 8th Army Headquarters, Seoul, Korea. I made E-4 and E-5 ranks while in Korea. Juliann and I were married in Tacoma, Washington, in August 1967 when I came back on leave. In November, 1967, I received orders to 3rd Army Headquarters at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia. I left Korea after my 13 month tour, returning to Tacoma for two weeks leave before heading for Atlanta. During my leave, I went out to Fort Lewis (near Tacoma) and found an opening in the Data Processing Unit at the Personnel Center where all Army troops returning from Vietnam were processed. Fortunately they had an opening, so with the help of a fraternity brother working for Senator Magnuson, I was able to get my orders changed to Fort Lewis. I separated from the Army in January 1969, with 15 months in grade as an E-5. I finished my last semester at the University of Puget Sound, getting my BA in Business & Economics in June 1969. I enjoyed my time in the Army and am glad I served.

William Norton (L60)

Some of my best memories growing up revolve around my time at OVS and particular faculty, such as Bob Cooper, Sr. (famous bike trips up the Sespe and astronomy class grinding

our own mirror for our home-made reflecting telescope, and the list goes on), JB Close, Mrs. Burr, and that list goes on. Anyway, I served 12 years in the U.S. Army before industry made me an offer I couldn't refuse. During that time I served two years in Vietnam as a pilot, then went on to graduate from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland and finished out a full career as an experimental test pilot, retiring from Boeing in 2005 as the Chief Test Pilot for Rotary Wing Production. My last experimental aircraft was the V-22 Osprey, which I took from prototype to production. In 2005, I picked up my second career when I was called into the professional ministry and after graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary I have been the senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Globe, Arizona for the past 10 years. Needless to say, it is an all-consuming passion and I am privileged to lead one of the finest congregations on the planet.

W. Spencer Garrett (L62, U65)

After college (and teaching one semester at OVS) I went to Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, was stationed on a destroyer out of San Diego, and did a tour and a half in the Far East with time in Vietnam. That was a long time ago, and I am not sure they had even invented cameras yet so pictures are few and far between.

1 - Jay Huysssoon (U65)

Served from 1966-1970, U.S. Marine Corps, Rank E5 Sergeant. Most of my enlistment was spent at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, California



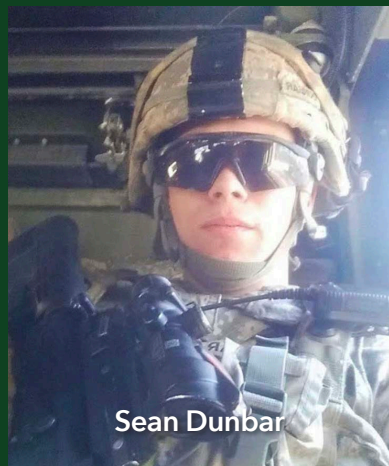
Shaun Davis



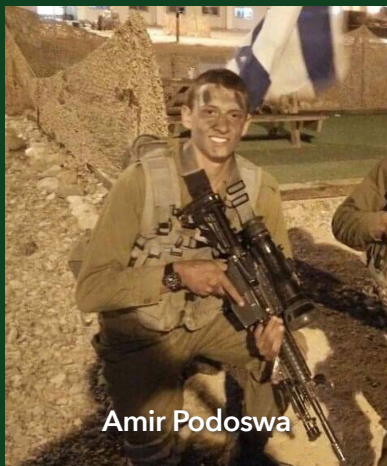
Andrew Bliss



Sarah Voorhees



Sean Dunbar



Amir Podoswa



Joe Foulger

as an Air Traffic Controller. I was never sent to Vietnam and only ventured to a couple of other states for training. I have fond memories of the job I had even though I went in a different career path in civilian life. I am very proud to have served as a U.S. Marine. As the saying goes, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

Marc Malin (U65)

As far as military background, and life in general, I've been a very lucky guy. After high school, I was working full time, carrying a full load in college and ROTC. I went in the Army as a private in '66 and got off active duty in 1971 as a captain. After OCS, I went through Special Forces (SF) training and spent two years as XO of A teams, with the 1st & 5th SF Groups in SE Asia. The 1st was referred to as Special Action Force Asia and in the 5th I worked in Mobile Strike Force also known as Mike Force. In Mike Force, I was sent out with five SF sergeants, two platoons of Cambodians, and two platoons of Nungs to re-open a SF camp on the Cambodian border that had been closed for a few years. I was the only officer in the camp. We had no counterparts. I returned from Vietnam in '70 right before my 23rd birthday and I planned on staying in the army. My next assignment was to a conventional unit. I'd worked with the best soldiers in the army in SF and my new position encompassed ceremonial, supervisory, summary court martial and survivors assistance duties. That wasn't a fun assignment, so I resigned my commission. After I got out, I went in the SF reserves running teams. For six years from '80-'86, I was the CO of the only

HALO team in the reserves. I was on standby for Desert Storm, but it didn't last long enough to go. I was an officer in The SF Association, VFW, and other vet organizations. My closest friends and old sky diving buddies are my brothers I served with in SF. Like I said, I'm a really lucky guy. I do equine competition working cattle for recreation now. I still have my business in Arizona and ranches in Arizona and Colorado.

2 - Robert Kay (L63, U66)

After OVS, I attended Ripon College and was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program there. Commissioned in the Signal Corps, I served at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, with courier duty in Vietnam, then back to Fort Sill. I left active duty after six years. I spent 17 years in the Reserves and when my two sons, Rob and Ryan, went into the Army (West Point Grads, '96 and '98) I retired as a LTC. I enjoyed my time in the service and am actually still serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Dave Forrest (L64)

I served in the U.S. Army, 1966-69; Trained at Ft. Ord, California, for six months; was stationed in North Carolina for seven months and Korea for 22 months. While in Korea, I supplemented my Army Sergeant pay by teaching conversational English in an adult school in downtown Seoul. The school more than doubled my salary for teaching two hours on Tuesday evenings and two hours on Thursday evenings. To do so, the school charged the students such exorbitant fees that the students argued about who

I should let take me to a museum or royal palace on the weekend. They wouldn't let me contribute a dime, and I saw two amusement parks, a country club, three museums, three royal palaces and too many restaurants to count. When the North Koreans captured the USS Pueblo three weeks after my arrival, they still let us go to town, but in uniform with our M14 rifle and 60 rounds of live ammo – that was weird. About 18 months later, the North shot down one of our reconnaissance flights and, again, we had to go uniformed and armed when off base. Interesting brackets for my stay in Korea and a couple whizz bangs in between. About the middle of my tour, 800 North Korean soldiers invaded on the east coast of South Korea and a much smaller unit tried to infiltrate Seoul to assassinate the president.

3 - Charles E. Whipple II (L64, U67)

Chuck served four years in the Navy and was deployed to the Mediterranean during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed working in the check crew on the Phantom in what he sums it up as a "super garage." He has so many stories, but many are of the "non-publishable" sort that are "great and hilarious."

Joseph Grafe Nesbitt (L67, U70)

My lifelong ambition was to be a civil engineer. I attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and was rewarded a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship. In March 1975, I went on active duty as an engineer officer. First assignment was in Nurnberg, Germany. I had a great time but did no engineering. My first

duty assignment was the Engineer Equipment Maintenance Officer in a Maintenance Company, managing the repair of broken generators, pumps, and assorted pieces of engineering equipment. My ROTC scholarship payoff was a four-year active duty commitment. However, instead of a terminal assignment, my next assignment was to the Ordnance Officer Advanced Course with an additional two years of active duty tacked on. Tours of duty included: Regimental Materiel Management Officer, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Bliss, Texas; Materiel Officer and Company Commander, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Operations Officer, 324th Support Group, Panama; Materiel Officer and Maintenance Battalion Executive Officer, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky; Training Officer, First Army, Fort Meade, Maryland; Back to the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) as Main Support Battalion Commander; G-4, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea; Chief, War Reserves, The Pentagon (longest 18 months of my life); Commander, Combat Equipment Group-Afloat, Charleston, South Carolina; and G-4, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. To break up the garrison time, the Army made sure I got my dose of schools to include: Airborne, Jumpmaster, Air Assault, Command and General College, Logistics Executive Development Course, Army War College with a side trip for a Masters in Public Administration. I received combat patches from Grenada (82nd Abn Division), Operation Desert Storm (101st Abn Div (AASLT)) and Afghanistan (XVIII Airborne Corps).

In between, my wife, Jody, and I had three children, Paul, Kristen and Mark. In 2004, I retired and moved to Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

4 - Shaun Davis (L90, U94)

I served four years and five months with the United States Coast Guard, and spent two years and five months aboard the U.S.C.G. Cutter Sherman stationed out of Alameda, California doing mostly fisheries law enforcement and drug interdiction off the coasts of Alaska, Mexico and Central America. I then spent the last two years of my enlistment at a small boat station in Fort Bragg, California. I went to Motor Lifeboat School at Cape Disappointment in Iwaco, Washington and was certified to drive 44' and 47' motor lifeboats. Our primary mission at Fort Bragg was search and rescue. As a 47' MLB coxswain, I executed over 120 search and rescue cases. Most importantly, this was where I met my beautiful wife, Tami Davis. I was honorably discharged in May of 2002 as a Boatswain's Mate 3rd class.

5 - Andrew Bliss (L02, U06)

I was a combat medic with the Minnesota National Guard for six years, reaching the rank of E-4/specialist. I had one deployment to Kuwait where I was part of security forces for a port and worked in a clinic. Also on my days off I would volunteer for area reaction force missions. As far as memorable experiences, there were all different things from being on a plane and the flight attendant asking the guy next to me to "please move your machine gun so I can serve breakfast" to when we were searching vehicles one day and

my partner found what he thought was an IED. When he touched it, the device started making a beeping sound as if it were counting down. He was unable to say anything so his first reaction was to toss it to me so I would know there was something odd. I caught it and took out the batteries. It stopped beeping and he looked at me amazed, saying that was close and as soon as we went to get our interpreter he saw it and started laughing and had to explain to us it was just a tracking device for shipping containers. Andrew is pictured with his wife, Sarah, and son, Aiden, the day he came home from Kuwait.

6 - Sarah Voorhees (L03, U07)

I served four years as an Airborne Systems Engineer in the Air Force. I got very lucky with a unique assignment: I worked in the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron, which had about 150 people divided among four different planes, and we typically deployed with a crew of 9-12, which became your family for the 2-4 months on the road. The 45th has a special mission and is well known for having some of the better deployment opportunities. I was able to spend quite a bit of time in Okinawa, Fairbanks, Greece, Diego Garcia, and Qatar. Between destinations, I was also able to visit bases in England, Germany, Spain, and many of the states. My squadron heartily adopted the sentiment of work hard, play hard. Sometimes missions would be 27 hours; sometimes we would have 12-16 hour flights eight days in a row. But when we finished our mission, regardless of how long the day had been, there was always a celebration. Between flights, there was often plenty



Minwoo Sohn



Chen Yueh Josh Han



In Ho Ted Jung

of time for exploring. Pottery Village in Okinawa, downtown Doha and Souq Waqif in Qatar, deep sea fishing in Diego Garcia, and Denali National Park in Alaska were some of my favorites. Some of my strongest memories are little things though. The sunrises in Qatar, where we often spent nights up and slept during the day because of our work schedule and the heat, and there was just something so beautiful about the sunrise. Every now and then, Omaha has a dusty, hazy sunrise, and it takes me right back.

7 - Sean Dunbar (L07, U11)

I joined the Army in 2013, having now served almost six years. I am active duty, currently a Corporal. My MOS is 13F, which is a Forward Observer; I call in artillery and airstrikes while attached to frontline combat units. I served my first year in Korea with 1-15 FA in the 2nd Infantry Division on the COLT team out of Camp Hovey. After that I went to Ft. Drum, New York and was assigned to 1-89 Cav in the 10th Mountain Division. I deployed to Afghanistan with them in 2015-2016 in Helmand Province. In June 2018, I came to Ft. Bliss and am serving with 4-27 FA in the 1st Armored Division.

8 - Amir Podoswa (U15)

I joined the Israeli military in August 2016. I joined because I wanted a way to improve myself and I didn't feel particularly ready for college leaving right out of high school. I also wanted to do something that would fulfill me and be representative of what I believe, and something that I could feel passionate about. I joined the Army, and I was one of the few selected to go to a Special Forces try-out. By

November 2016, I was part of a Special Forces unit. After spending five months in the unit, I decided to move onto a combat engineering brigade and then moved onto a commander's course. When I finished, I was awarded for my performance and became a squad commander in the combat engineering brigade. My platoon did several things: we recovered terrorist weapons, brought in injured people from Syria, etc. Eventually, I suffered an injury to my shoulder, which led to my being released from my duty in the Israeli military.

Amir is now a freshman at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

9 - Joseph Foulger (U16)

I've been in the Marine Corps for two years, now a Corporal currently working on Camp Pendleton. Right now I'm actually training every day to try and get ready for Assessment and Selection to become a Marine Raider. I've wanted to be a part of the special forces community for as long as I can remember and I just got news a few days ago that I was selected to go to A&S in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and try out to become a Raider this coming January. So for the next year I'm going to be doing everything possible to get ready to make sure I pass Assessment and get selected so I can live out my dream. It seems kind of crazy that in just two years I managed to set myself on the path to the career I've always dreamed of.

10 - Minwoo "Mini" Sohn (U16)

I started my service on October 2018. I am active duty Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, currently a private first class. I had five weeks of basic train-

ing, and I was sent to ROK Armor School to learn basic knowledge to be a tank artilleryman. Then I was sent to 28th infantry division, tank battalion, where I am currently. I was assigned a new job as an administrative specialist. My job is to maintain administrative process to improve efficiency and accuracy for the company. I do handle some of the confidential files, develop an efficient system for soldiers on guard duty, and manage munition and storage. Occasionally, I distribute food and supplies for the company.

11 - Chen Yueh "Josh" Han (L13, U17)

I joined the Taiwanese Navy on March 6th, 2019 for my mandatory service as a Taiwanese citizen. Due to policy changes, my service time has been reduced from one year to four months. During those four months I have learned more about discipline and to be able to appreciate the small things in life. Military service also has shown me different people from all walks of life coming together and becoming friends in the most difficult moments. Now, about to finish my service time, I hope I can visit OVS soon and continue my education in Vancouver BC and pursue a Bachelors in Visual Media.

12 - In Ho "Ted" Jung (U17)

Serving in the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army. It is true that all drills are tough and life here is not as comfortable as I used to have. But the endeavor I pay here contributes to protect civilians. Making proud of myself, and serving two years as a soldier, is to shape my personality and push me forward, just as life as an OVS student did so.



Lower 1942

1 Sheila (Markoff) Lodge (L42) stopped by the Lower Campus on her 90th birthday in June following a hike in Rose Valley with her family. Sheila spent two hours walking the campus, looking at old pictures in the Alumni Office, and sharing stories. It had been about 20 years since she had visited the campus, but we understand, given she's been a very busy woman serving her Santa Barbara community for the past 46 years. Sheila joined the Santa Barbara City Planning Commission in 1973 and later joined the City Council. She was the first woman elected mayor of Santa Barbara in 1983 and served 12 years – longer than any other person in the city's history. Her longtime husband, Superior Court Judge Joe Lodge, passed away 11 years ago. Today, Sheila continues to serve on the Planning Commission.

Lower 1956

Henry Butler (L56) was honored as the recipient of the 2019 Founder's Alumni Award during Alumni Weekend for his dedicated service. Read more in the Alumni Weekend section.

Lower 1959

Mark T. Beales (L59) has been keeping busy, and generously giving back to his community in Washington State. "It's hard to believe that I have been retired from the mortgage banking business for 27 years, having retired in June 1997," he wrote. "I replaced my work life with volunteer activities and served on numerous boards, associations, and committees serving the people of Mill Creek, Snohomish County, and the State of Washington. I'm down to serving on one board, that being the Snohomish County Public Facilities District Board, which oversees the distribution of state tax revenues, which support a local convention center, a flight museum, an event center and a performing arts center. This Board is not as demanding for my time as others I served

with previously, thereby allowing Juliann and me to spend more time with family, friends and travel to destinations around the world. Life and health are good. What more can one ask for? My best to fellow classmates of Lower 1959."

Lower 1965

David Whipple (L65, U68) see Upper 1968

Lower 1976

Chris Warner (L76, U80) see Upper 1980

Lower 1984

Pema "Kelly" Bishop-Clark (L84, U88) see Upper 1988

Lower 1991

2 David Moreno (L91) and Chuck Burright played a round of golf on Father's Day weekend, then joined Eleanora Burright and David's wife, Quyona, and their son, Elon, for dinner followed by a visit with Lower Campus Head of School Gary Gartrell.

Lower 1956

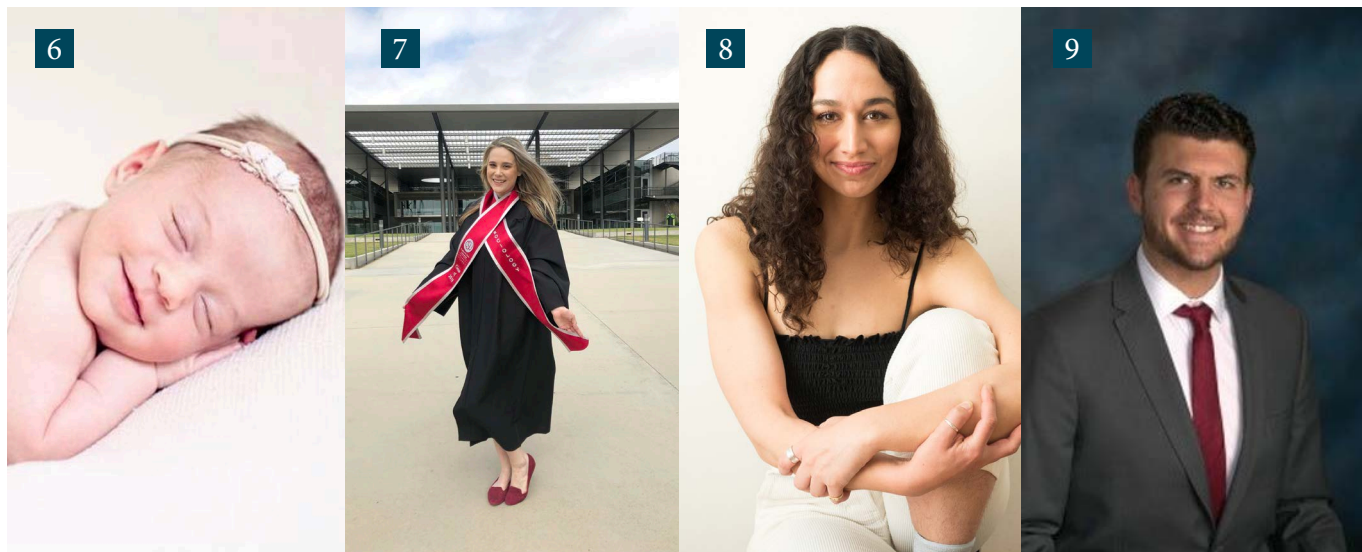
Nate Cooper (L91, U95) see **Caitlin (Black) Cooper (L97)**

Lower 1992

Audra (Gutierrez) Escalante (L92, U96) see Upper 1996

Lower 1997

3 Caitlin (Black) Cooper (L97) and husband **Nate Cooper (L91, U95)** welcomed daughter Stella Elizabeth into the world on June 12. Stella was immediately embraced by her brother, Finley. "We are completely smitten" Caitlin wrote, "and Finley is the



sweetest big brother.”

Lower 1999

4 Cameron (Ridgeway) Tambakis (L99) and her husband, Ted, are expecting their second child in September. While raising their nearly 3-year-old daughter, Summer, Cameron has been working at Patagonia’s corporate headquarters in Ventura and Ted joined the OVS faculty and staff in November 2018 as Associate Director of Admissions.

Lower 2000

5 Candice Schmidt (L00) and wife Jecca Schmidt welcomed two beautiful baby girls on May 15. We hope Sophie Marie and Lily Jennifer will be future Spuds!

Lower 2004

6 Gracie (Gartrell) Bihari (L04) and husband Brent Bihari welcomed daughter Goldie Linn Bihari on May 7. Goldie is the youngest of the five Gartrell grandchildren now living in Ojai, and two currently attend OVS Lower Campus.

7 Alana Spencer (L05) graduated this spring with a degree in Sociology from California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI). She is taking a year off from school to work before entering a graduate program in fall 2020.

Lower 2006

8 Gianna Burright (L06) is thrilled to announce her new international movement collective, GBworks! Gianna and her dance partner, Gwynne, presented their first show, “I’m Still Here,” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer. GBworks is Gianna Burright and Gwynne Bilski in collaboration with a series of artists invited to work with them. Gwynne and Gianna are both choreographers with their own respective practices, each

making movement-based work deeply rooted in autobiographical experience. Together they create and curate work through a feminist lens, engaged in conversations that prioritize collaboration, equality, and openness. The formation of GBworks was instigated by Gianna and Gwynne’s desire to create ongoing platforms to showcase their own work while also supporting and presenting the work of other female, female identifying, and non-binary emerging artists. Learn more about their work at www.gbworkscollective.com.

Lower 2007

9 Ethan Harter (L07) sent us the following update: “After graduating from West Montgomery High School (NC) in 2011, I went to Guilford College to pursue playing collegiate baseball. After two years, I transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I graduated with a B.A. in history in 2015. I then moved to Denver, Colorado, to get my Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) degree from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law in 2018. I am currently in the process of being licensed in Oregon to practice law.”

Sidney Straussner (L07, U11) see Upper 2011

Lower 2009

Jillian Montgomery (L09) and Ivan Hermosillo welcomed daughter Sienna Marie Hermosillo on June 19 in Orange, California.

Lower 2013

Gavin Floyd (L13, U17) see Upper 2017



Lower 2014

Celeste Addison (L14, U18) see Upper 2014

Emma Gustafson (L14, U18) see Upper 2018

Joy Campbell (L14, U18) see Upper 2018

Lower 2015

10 Mattie White (L15) graduated from La Reina High School in Thousand Oaks in May. She will continue her education at Colorado State University in the fall, pursuing a degree in Equine Science on the pre-veterinary track. “I will be carrying on my passion in riding as I continue my journey,” she said. “I thank OVS for all the experiences I was blessed with, but most importantly giving me my love for new adventures.”

UPPER CAMPUS

Upper 1968

11 David Whipple (L65, U68) married Ashley Becker on December 7, 2018, in Oregon and the couple are now building a quiet life together in Trinity Alps, California. They work manufacturing gold and platinum custom-designed wedding rings and jewelry. Ashley is mother to alumnus Miles Munding-Becker (L09, U13), and attended summer school at OVS in 1982. She is a German-trained Natural Doctor, German translator, and owner of the European Center for Health. David is a master goldsmith and renowned jewelry designer. His daughter, Emerald, is an artist in NYC. Ashley writes that she “swept David off his feet and together they moved to the Trinity Alps of Northern California from Ojai, consciously creating a healthy love, mutual respect and support for one another.” They are excited to announce their new online store, <http://www.trinityalpspaxdesigns.com> and the Ashley Becker Whipple YouTube

channel, which shows their beloved elderly dogs, Queen Ebony and King Jefe. Ashley says she misses OVS and has many fond memories.

Upper 1970

12 John Enders (U70) and Bruce Milton (U70) emerged victorious at the first Annual Corn Hole Tournament held during Alumni Weekend 2019. John and Bruce agreed to return next year to defend their title and join their classmates for their 50-year reunion. John, who’s been living in Mexico, sailed into town on his 34-foot boat, Victoria, with his former roommate, **Bruce Gribbin (U70)**.

Upper 1972

Abigail Pall Weinshank (U72) sent us the following update from Manhattan: “I’m blissfully happy living in NYC, three blocks from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and smack dab in the middle of the Upper East Side. My kids are grown and launched, ages 32 and 35. I’ve been on a whirlwind of vacations lately. Four years ago, on a nine-person trip to Tanzania hiking with two indigenous tribes and on safari, (NatGeo run,) I met a family of five from Miami. Two years later, we went to China together. But between, I visited Israel and Jordan, and Cuba (2 days after Fidel died.) I then planned on visiting French Polynesia with the Florida family and in preparation, learned to SCUBA. I went to Key West with them for my open water certification, and then to the Caymans and Belize for more experience. Diving this past May in Tahiti and the Society Islands was truly breathtaking. On return from there, I went to New Orleans for my first time with my new ‘beau’ and then just returned from London, Alicante and Barcelona, and Amsterdam with him. As I said, a whirlwind.” Abigail also volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization that works with children and families navigating the foster care system. It’s work she described as “extremely humbling and extremely reward-



ing.” Before moving to New York, she was involved in her local school district and served as the first female Board Chair of the independent school where her children attended.

Upper 1980

13 Chris Warner (L76, U80) connected with OVS recently, writing: “I wasn’t the most stellar student (ask Doc Smith), but I certainly learned how not to behave!” Chris raised six children, four of whom graduated from major universities, and has spent 40 years in precision manufacturing. “I am now five years from retirement and live aboard a classic Colombia Yacht named Drakkar in the space coast of Florida. I have a life-long best friend that I met at Lower Campus, Jon Dron, whom I get together with at least once a year to camp, boat, or plain out chill! How’s that for an update? And, yes, quite the adventure, sailing a 30-ft boat solo around the Keys and back! This is my longest solo sail, 600 NM! Woo hoo!”

Upper 1988

Pema “Kelly” Bishop-Clark (L84, U88) reports: “I have been living in England for the past 21 years, raising my three children and continuing my work in education as well as completing my own further education. I completed my BA degree in theatre at the age of 41, going on to complete a masters and then a PhD, during which I have been teaching in the drama department at the University of East Anglia. During this time I have also begun teaching yoga which brings me the greatest joy to help others feel more at home in their own skin. I got married last year after many years as a single mother and as I move into middle age I continue to treasure my time as a student at OVS.”

Upper 1990

14 Emma Tillinger Koskoff (U90) became a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Class of 2019!

Emma has been working in the film industry since she graduated from OVS in 1990. She has been the President of Production at Martin Scorsese’s Sikelia Productions since 2006. The many films she has produced include: The Wolf of Wall Street, Silence, Hugo, music documentaries Shine a Light, and Long Strange Trip (alongside her husband Nick Koskoff, whom she met at OVS), and the upcoming The Irishman and Joker.

Upper 1996

15 Audra (Gutierrez) Escalante (L92, U96) welcomed new son Akiva Claye Escalante on June 17, and writes: “We are over the moon for our little guy, including his older brother, Aidan, the best big brother ever. Our family is very happy in this special time.”

Upper 2003

Meghan Harter (U03) completed her PhD in Education in December 2018 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Meghan is currently taking a brief hiatus from her research and teaching as her husband, Samuel Alter, and her are expecting a new addition to their family next year. She plans to continue working in the field of education and administration.

Upper 2005

16 Lauren (Tochner) Gartrell (U05) passed the California Bar examination. On June 3 she was sworn in and is currently working in the Santa Barbara Public Defender’s Office.

Upper 2007

Angela Lee (U05) has been admitted to the Guanghua-Kellogg Executive MBA program at Peking University’s school of management, beginning this fall.



Upper 2010

17 Molly Baker (U10) is living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since graduating from The Evergreen State College, she has been trying to navigate “the wildness of a twenty-something.” Molly writes, “It is truly wild. I moved to Santa Fe three years ago to understand the deep agrarian history of Northern New Mexico. I studied ecological agriculture at Evergreen and had my own farm business growing for a restaurant and making floral bouquets. Eventually, after our lease ended, I decided it was time to move and I chose Santa Fe. In my three years of living here thus far, my path has taken many twists and turns. I have been a bartender, twice, worked on organic farms, worked at a farmer’s market, managed a middle school farm program, nannied, and on and on.” Molly met fellow OVS alum Albert “Sean” Ham (L00, U04) and started working at his specialty coffee shop, Iconik Coffee Roasters, which she said “introduced me to my Santa Fe community, all thanks to the OVS connection. The world is small and Sean and my friendship is living proof that OVS is family.” After working at Iconik, and helping build a local produce buying program, she took a job as a preschool teacher, and writes: “I finally have found something that doesn’t feel like ‘work.’ I love being a teacher. In my spare time I am an avid gardener, hiker, plant identifier, writer, seed saver, snowboarder and more emerging always. What I do best though, is hanging out with my dog and friends soaking in the beautiful landscapes of the American Southwest.”

Upper 2011

Madison Demery (U11) see Alumni News.

Brooke Crockett (L11, U15) see Upper 2012.

18 Sidney Straussner (L07, U11) and Sam Specht welcomed a sweet baby boy, Weston James Specht, on July 3. Mom, baby, and dad are all doing well.

Upper 2012

19 Gavin Silver (L08) (U12) and **Brooke Crockett (L11, U15)** are happily living together in Scottsdale, Arizona. Brooke is studying to be a registered nurse and Gavin is working at a startup called Offerpad, which is a real estate investing business dealing with tech-real estate buying and selling online. He loves working as a Growth and Strategist Ventura Analyst. Brooke attended OVS at the same time as Gavin’s younger sister, Sarah Silver.

Upper 2013

Miles Munding-Becker (L09, U13) is off to AmeriCorps to work on the Lakota Indian Reservation specializing in environmental sustainability. Miles, who was actively involved in outdoor education at OVS, became a trip leader for the University of Redland’s outdoor programs. He went on to study dendroclimatology in the Amazon, worked with farmers in Iceland, hiked the Black Forest in Germany, and hitchhiked through the southern tip of Chile. Miles most recently worked as a field biologist for Pax Environmental, a veteran-owned environmental consulting firm in Ojai. Miles credits OVS for a big part of his success!

20 Sierra Stingl (L09) (U13) graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BS in Pharmacology in 2017, then entered medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Medicine. During her first year she won lots of awards and was ranked top 10% of her class. The curriculum she wrote with another student, and some faculty mentors, for a four-year longitudinal global health program called Acute Care and Systems Strengthening (ACCESS) recently was passed by the curriculum council. She has done lots of research and was just accepted to be a speaker at this year’s American College of Surgeons 2019 Congress in San Francisco, which she said was a significant honor. Sierra is also



helping her mentor create an international safety standard for mobile surgery to present to the World Health Organization. This summer, Sierra is working for a foundation in rural Ecuador on a mobile surgery unit, where she and her team sometimes operate from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. But, she said, it never feels like work. "If you're going to spend the resources to be there, you want to make the most of it for those communities." Sierra writes that OVS has a really special place in her heart and when people ask where she's from, she always says Ojai. "It was such a support structure for me and I miss it a lot."

Upper 2014

Ellen Liu (U14), Sam Du (U14), Grant Spencer (U14) and Bruce Quinn (U14) see Alumni News.

Upper 2016

21 Ally Feiss (U16) has been keeping busy working on her degree in Psychology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Honors program. While she is living full time in Massachusetts, she has returned home to Ojai for the summer. Ally is spending her summer working in the OVS Alumni Office, writing, editing, and reconnecting with fellow alums. Amidst her work in the Alumni Association, Ally is planning a trip to visit fellow alum and friend, Emmy Addison (L10, U14) in London, United Kingdom. Ally will return to Massachusetts in the fall to finish her last year of school.

Upper 2017

22 Gavin Floyd (L13, U17) is starting his junior year this fall at the University of Alabama. He is a Spanish major and made the Dean's List with a 3.55 GPA.

Upper 2018

23 Joy Campbell (L14, U18) is loving her studies at UCLA. "I have taken classes ranging from Molecular Biology to Japanese Action Film and enjoyed all of them, perhaps to the detriment of my task of choosing a major, but my studies have been fun, and I'm thankful I get to take as many as I do (quarter system perk)," she writes. "I love my classes and my roommates, and that I can wander into L.A. with friends for the day, and I got to witness UCLA beat USC for the first time in four years. Above all though, the best part of being at UCLA has been the newness of the experience and the feeling that I'm where I'm supposed to be."

24 Celeste Addison (L14, U18) pictured with her mom, took the fall 2018 semester off before starting college at the University of San Francisco in January 2019. Celeste also noted: "It's surreal to no longer be a student at OVS and bittersweet to be considered an alumni now."

25 Emma Gustafson (L14, U18) is loving life in the Big Apple as a student at New York University. A former student journalist at the Upper Campus, Emma is plans to focus her studies on communications.

26 Ellen Hou (U18) is enjoying her freshman year at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Georgia. She is a member of the top-ranked SCAD equestrian team, and shared this photo, taken by classmate Marilyn Korb. Ellen writes: "This is my favorite horse, Mac, at the SCAD barn. I love to spoil him with treats. He is also my care horse, and I meet him twice a week. Each time I spend at least 30 minutes for grooming purposes, and also for reporting anything abnormal to the barn manager, including signs of thrush, soreness, and fungus, etc. I have not attended competitions yet, but I'm looking forward to it!" Ellen is majoring at SCAD in Equestrian Studies with a Scientific Illustration minor.



**Sandra Kay
"Sandy" Bowers**

Sandy passed away peacefully at home on May 21 after a two-year battle with cancer. She was 71. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Steve; sons Jason and Cody; grandchildren Irelyn, Jaden, and Jacob; daughter-in-law Jami; sister Marlene Joseph; brother Garland McIntosh; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Delbert "Chief" and Grace McIntosh; sisters Karen Kee and Carla Gilmour; and brother Gary McIntosh. Sandy was the eldest of six children born to Chief and Grace McIntosh of Camarillo. She graduated from Camarillo High School in 1965 and began working in the banking industry. She worked for banks in Ventura and Camarillo before transferring to Security Pacific National Bank in Ojai. In 1976, she began working in the business office at Ojai Valley School where she worked up until 2019. Sandy loved being active and outdoors,

especially at the beach or in the mountains. She enjoyed taking walks, hiking, 4x4ing, and all things nature had to offer. What she loved most though was her family, and spending time with them. Sandy and Steve raised their sons in Ojai, never missing an opportunity to support them in any activity. They also enjoyed many vacations together. Sandy's door was always open to anyone, and many neighbor children thought of her as a mother figure as well. She had a special way of making others feel comfortable, welcomed, and loved. She was the rock of her family, always keeping things organized, and putting others wants and needs before her own up until the day she passed. She will be remembered as a loving, caring, and patient woman who truly was beautiful inside and out. A Celebration of Life will be held in Ojai sometime over the summer.



**Bruce Gordon
Gribbin (U70)**

Bruce Gordon Gribbin died on Friday, July 19 in Fremont, California, from injuries sustained in a fall. He was 70. Bruce is survived by his wife, Mae Wade Gribbin of Fremont, and his sister, Katharine Gribbin Dobbe of Laguna Niguel. Bruce, a third generation Californian, was born in Bakersfield in 1949 to the late Hugh Gordon Gribbin and Patricia Hammons Gribbin. He was raised in Palos Verdes Estates and graduated from Ojai Valley School in 1970. Following

graduation, Bruce served in the United States Coast Guard in the Shetland Islands, Scotland, and on a rescue boat in the San Francisco Bay. Bruce enjoyed many sporting activities, including skiing, motorcycling, bicycling, sailing, and jeep journeys, and he traveled extensively throughout the United States. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family and all who knew him. A celebration of Bruce's life will be planned for a future date.



Ryan Lake (U86)

Ryan Lake (U86) passed away on August 4 after battling an aggressive form of cancer for over a year. He was 51. Ryan is survived by his wife, Joanna, and their two children, Riley and Makena. Ryan's cancer diagnosis was sudden and devastating to the family. His last wishes were for Joanna and the children to be taken care of. Donations can be made through a Go-Fund-Me page that was

set up prior to Ryan's passing to help the family through this very difficult time. "Ryan and I are in awe of the love that has flooded our way," Joanna said. "Ryan underestimated the impact he had on others. You have given him joy knowing the magnitude of his impact. I thank you so profoundly for giving Ryan this priceless gift. We thank you for the love you have sent our way."

READY. SET ...

... GO!

We will make Ojai Valley School history this year — building a reimagined and renewed Upper Campus! The Thomas Fire destroyed our Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center and Grace Hobson Smith House dorm on December 5, 2017. We vowed to reopen for the second semester and, with heartwarming financial and volunteer help, we did.

Soon, we will begin construction on a new and expanded science and technology center, modern girls' dormitory, and impressive two-

story Student Commons dining and library complex to meet the needs of our growing high school community.

We still need to close the funding gap on these significant building projects, and are asking all members of the OVS family to make a contribution or multi-year pledge to our essential Restore Renew Rebuild campaign.

In the spirit of #OVSstrong, we truly hope you will join us in this historic effort!



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