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ON THE COVER
The Road to Upper Campus is just one of the stunning landscapes and seascapes painted by junior Jocelyn Gonzalez (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.

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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.

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 McGillivray, who supported us after the fire and is now our building contractor.

Aramont Foundation, the new Aramont 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.

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
President/CEO
RISING FROM THE ASHES

December 4
Thomas Fire begins. Students safely evacuated from the Upper Campus.

December 5
Fire destroys the Lucila Arango Science and Technology Center, Grace Hobson Smith House, and severely damages other areas of campus, including the Headmaster’s house and adjacent ceramics studio.

December 13
Community meeting held to reassure families of plans to reopen.

January 5-6
Volunteer Days. More than 200 alumni, parents, faculty and students arrive to help prepare campus for start of the second semester.

January 30
First “Vision Workshop” held with Fred Fisher and Partners architects with alumni, parents, faculty and students to discuss options to rebuild.

April 18
Board of Trustees approves conceptual plans to rebuild that include construction of the Student Commons on the site of the former Headmaster’s house.

July 18
The Aramont Foundation contributes $1 million to fund the new Arango Science and Technology Center. Alumnus Lucila Arango (U84) encourages others to join her in supporting the rebuild campaign.

February 25 2019
Ceremonial Groundbreaking during Alumni Weekend.

June 8 2019
Construction expected to begin. Estimated construction completion August 2020.

2017

2018

2019
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.

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.”

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.

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.

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.
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, and $32,900 at the Live Auction, $32,900 at the Live 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.

Mark your calendars for May 2, 2020!

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 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.

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.”

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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 there 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 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 anytime 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 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.

Matt Inman, science teacher and farmstand owner

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

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

Class of 2019
Upper Campus

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 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 by Early Decision/Early Action. As a group, they earned acceptances to more than 160 colleges and universities, Early Decision/Early Action. As a group, they earned their college applications. Twenty of them applied

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.

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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

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 outstanding 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
“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

“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
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 see 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, generous, 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 the Knesser River whitewater rafting trip where he rode the bull - sitting on the front end of the raft as it crashed through the rapids - with a giant smile on his face.

Todd Chunyu, Franklin & Marshall College

A quiet force on campus, Todd 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, Todd 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. Todd’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 common woman - 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 equine 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 fearless ability 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-Kindergarten. 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. She 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

As a senior, 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 at a special event hosted by the Oregon Caviar Valley Land Conservancy. He spent time with the Rotary Club to spruce up a local cemetery that had fallen into disrepair. A few years ago, he was awarded the Pres- ident’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 comedienne 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 have found many new friends to add to 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. 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 friendships, and the importance that has played in shaping her into the person 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 as 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 most notable role has been as a Bollywood dancer. Finally, he has earned 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’s State Drama Festival. 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 academic awards and served as a substitute teacher in his Computer Science class - just one of the courses in which she 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.

Leo Liang, University of Michigan

When it was time for AHS to begin the second half of the year, the students couldn’t wait. Among 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 contributions and achievements to robotics at the Awards Ceremony before graduation, and also praised for his work in physics, mathematics, and poetry, for which he earned the Dorothy Bunn 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 facts that always left us smiling. He stretched himself to become a well-rounded individual, taking to heart the school’s philosophy of “whole child.” 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 talent into the music program, performing in choruses, the spring musical, and performing 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 commended 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 Miller learned 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 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 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 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 Oeschner is one of the academic superstars, 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 fearlessly 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 embodied 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.

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 carefully developed an understanding of the concepts being taught. That hard work paid off with an excellent score on the AP exam. He 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.

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. Lucy’s excellent performance in that class is certain to lend 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 excelled in the athletic arena, emerging over the years as a standout equestrian. 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 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.

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 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 golf. While his efforts on the course were impressive, his contributions to OVS were just as significant. In the classroom, he 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 the Headmaster’s List, which is reserved for students with high effort and academic achievement. He deliv-
Nanako Tatewaki, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

A talented student and a determined person, Nanako truly demonstrated a 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 heroes she is so fond of writing about in her English classes. Joining the school’s equestrian team, eradicating invasive plants at the Channel Islands National Park, standout equestrian, Garage Band drummer, thoughtful poet, dedicated journalist and extraordinary creative writer. She raked 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: "Dignant Goodbyes 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 heart's 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 basketball court, 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 organized the Relay for Life and so many other community events led by OVS students. He is a big-hearted guy who provided 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 aquatics arena, taking on a sport in which initially she had little confidence but where she worked hard to develop her skills and make a name for herself. A leader in the freshman class, she joins the school’s equestrian team, eradicating invasive plants at the Channel Islands National Park, standout equestrian, Garage Band drummer, thoughtful poet, dedicated journalist and extraordinary creative writer. She raked 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: "Dignant Goodbyes 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 heart's default position and it is embedded in her DNA.

The University of Alabama
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 (5)
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)
Carnegie-Newman University
Chapman University (2)
University of Colorado Boulder
Colorado State University (2)
University of Connecticut (2)
Dartmouth University
Emerson College
The Evergreen State College
Franklin & Marshall College
Freed-Hardeman University
George Mason University
The George Washington University (4)
George Washington University
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
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University (3)
Malone 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
Northern Arizona University
Northeastern University
University of Oregon (5)
University of the Pacific
Pennsylvania State University (2)
Pepperdine University
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
University of Richmond
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
Honor College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Syracuse University (2)
Trinity Western 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

CLASS OF 2019 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

*Matriculations noted in bold
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 the 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.

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

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
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.”
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 host the Pacific-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 Berkeley and currently serves as the business services manager for the University of California. He lives in Ventura and volunteers time with the Ventura Police Department. He lives in Ventura and volunteers time with the Ventura Police Department.

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.”

Lin and the Class of 2019 celebrate at Senior to Alumni Dinner

Lin shares college wisdom at Senior to Alumni Dinner

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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 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
same time. And three of the five dated the person they would later marry. Such is the case with Patrick (L91) 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. “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 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. 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 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.

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

Anika DeWitt and Sam Pepper bonded in physics class. Today, their world revolves around their son, Holden. 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 we 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 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 Hagar, 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 the Var region of France, which inspired her dream home.”

Princess Saralinda, who rode off with the prince into the sunset, or at least the Var region of France, which inspired her dream home — Ojai Valley School, where she was in the process of creating her own life. “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.

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 champaigne (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

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.

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— Marina Mahler in letter to Dorothy and Wallace Burr.

Life
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 (L11, U17), and Masaki Takamatsu (L11, U15) all played as well.

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

Alumni Baseball Game

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).

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

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 wooded 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 just how lucky we all are to have this extended OVS family.”

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 Gary, Lana Lucking Freddel (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 campgrounds. OVS day students and very event the seniors 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 Tremblay in the OVS Alumni Office (805) 646-1423, x 1275.

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 1940s 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!

2019
September 21 - Telluride Mountainfilm on Tour festival
October 18 - Regional Alumni Event in Longmont, Colorado
November 15 - Regional Alumni Event in Longmont, Colorado
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

To 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 alumni, 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 are to have this extended OVS family.”

Mr. Alvarez reunites with Boston Spuds

Alumni News
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, L55, 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
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 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.

“He is so outstand-ing, it is time for him to be recog-nized,” 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 recogni-tion 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 (MPSIS) 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 unknown. 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 Atronov (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 Bachelor 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 - Karess Shifmann (L10, U14) graduated with a BS in Kinesiology from Occidental College. Karess 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, Karess has been working in the music industry, managing the rapper Quaz. Karess plans to pursue music business as his career. Karess 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 Chico. 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 - Darlin “Natalia” Hauryly (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 Loyola Marymount University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is heading to graduate school at Columbia University. Masaki will pursue a Master’s in Management Science and Engineering, which is a partnership program between the Business School and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

HAY 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

OVIS recognizes and honors its known Alumni Veterans, who are listed by class and name. Please contact Alumni Relations Associate Wendy Trembil at 805-640-2578 or e-mail wtrembiti@ovs.org to update your service information or add the name of a loved one to the list.

Jon Baake (L55)
I was in the Army 30 years, retired as a Colonel. However, most of that time was spent on the Naval Sea Systems Command. I am not 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.

Judy Hoyosson

Robert Kay

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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 ammunition — 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 backstory for my stay in Korea and a couple whoo wha in between. About the middle of my tour, 180 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 likes many stories, but many are of the “non-publishable” sort that are “great and hilarious.”

Joseph Grafe Nesbitt (L67, U70)
My father worked for the federal government as a civil engineer. I attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and was required to complete 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 different 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 tasked on tours of duty included: Regimental Material 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, Pana- na; Materiel Officer and Maintenance Battalion Executive Officer, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky; Training Officer, First Army, Fort Meade, Maryland; 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, Group-Afloat, Charleston, South Carolina; and G-4, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After my 22-year stint, I still let me go to town, but in uniform with our M14 rifle and 60 rounds of ammunition — 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 backstory for my stay in Korea and a couple whoo wha in between. About the middle of my tour, 180 North Korean soldiers invaded on the east coast of South Korea and a much smaller unit tried to infiltrate Seoul to assassinate the president.

I was a combat medic with the Minnesota National Guard for six years, and 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 Iowa, Washington and was certificated 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, and 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 Iowa, Washington and was certificated 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.

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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. I was 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 Iowa, Washington and was certificated 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.

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Joe Foulger
of time for exploring. Pottery Village in Okinawa, downtown Doha and Souq Waqif in Qatar, deep sea fishing in Doha Gorge, 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 about beautiful about the sunrise. Every now and then, Omala 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. I joined because I wanted a way to improve myself and I didn’t feel comfortable as I used to have. But, we are tough and life here is not as comfortable as I used to have. The endeavor I pay here contributes to my being released from my duty in the Israeli military. Ami is now a freshman at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

9 - Joseph Fouger (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, then to Raiders and 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 training, 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 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, 2013 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 Taiwan and continue my education in Vancouver BC and pursue a Bachelors in Visual Media.

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.

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 other’s I served with previously, thereby allowing Julian 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 all fellow classmates of Lower 1959.”

Lower 1942
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
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Lower 1959
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Lower 1955
David Whipple (L65, U68) see Upper 1968

Lower 1976
Chris Warner (L76, U80) see Upper 1980

Lower 1984
Pema “Kelsy” Bishop-Clark (L84, U88) see Upper 1988

Lower 1991
David Moreno (L91) and Chuck Burright played a round of golf on Father’s Day weekend, then joined Eleanor Burright and David’s wife, Quyona, and their son, Elon, for dinner followed by a visit with Lower Campus Head of School Gary Gattrell.

Lower 1956
Nate Cooper (L91, U95) see Cailtin (Black) Cooper (L97)

Lower 1999
Audra (Gutierrez) Escalante (L92, U96) see Upper 1996

Lower 1997
Cailtin (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
Cameron (Ridgeway) Tambakis (L09), 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.

Candice Schmidt (L00) and wife Jecca Schmidt welcomed twin beautiful baby girls on May 15. We hope Sophie Marie and Sienna Marie Hermosillo on June 19 in Orange, California. Ethan Harter (L07) and wife, Stetler, and owner of the European Center for Health. David is a master goldsmith and renowned jewelry designer. His daughter Candice Schmidt (L00) graduated this spring with a degree in SCUBA. I went to Key West with them for my open water certification. Diving this past May in Tahiti and the Society Islands was truly breathtaking. On return from there, I went to New Orleans with the Florida family and in preparation, learned to SCUBA. I went to Key West with them for my open water certification.
Emma Tillinger Koskoff (U90) worked in the film industry after graduating from UC Santa Barbara. She has been the President of Producing at Martin Scorcese’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 2000

Aidan (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 1996

Emma has been working in the film industry since she graduated from OVS in 1990. She has been the President of Production at Martin Scorcese’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

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, Iconic 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 Iconic, 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 a 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

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

Upper 2003

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 Dja. Miles credits OVS for a big part of his success!

Upper 2011

Madison Demery (U11) sees Alumni News.

Upper 2012

Brooke Crockett (L11, U15) is 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 for the company. Brooke attended OVS at the same time as Gavin’s younger sister, Sarah Silver.

Upper 2012

Gavin Silver (L08, U12) and Brooke Crockett (L11, U15) are both living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since graduating from The Evergreen State College, he has been trying to navigate “the wildness of a twenty-something.” Gavin 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.” Gavin met fellow OVS alum Albert “Sean” Ham (L00, U04) and started working at his specialty coffee shop, Iconic Coffee Roasters, which he 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 Iconic, and helping build a local produce buying program, he 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 a 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.”

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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 for the company. Brooke attended OVS at the same time as Gavin’s younger sister, Sarah Silver.

Upper 2012

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 Dja. Miles credits OVS for a big part of his success!

Upper 2013

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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 Ireylin, Jaden, and Jacob; daughter-in-law Jam; sister Marlene Joseph; brother Garland McIntosh; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Delbert “Chief” and Grace 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 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 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 Harmons 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.
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!

Join us in making this extraordinary vision a reality. Visit campaign.ovs.org to make a contribution online or contact our development team at (805) 646-1423. Email development@ovs.org for more information.
Parents of Alumni:

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