



# THE WARRIOR ECHO

A Publication of The  
FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Vol. 14

[www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com)

Fall 2014

## Frontier Day Memories

By Jack Fowler  
Class of 1952



One of my favorite memories of Fresno High School was Frontier Day (sometimes called Pioneer Day). It usually took place the week before Spring Break. In the morning we would go to our regular classes, but then the Frontier activities would begin. There were "rootin-tootin Westerners" enjoying bicycle races, greased pig contests, tug of wars over a mud pit, and an "authentic" Western assembly. The noon parade consisting of vintage cars, wagons, and a few horses was one of the highlights and was held on Echo in front of the school. Many of us came to school dressed in Western clothes, pioneer clothes, and Indian dress. Whatever we thought the frontier looked like. Everyone looked forward to Frontier Days because they could dress up in colorful outfits. The most authentically dressed boy and girl would be recognized at the afternoon assembly. And it was the only day of the year that girls were allowed to wear jeans. Back then girls were only allowed to wear dresses or skirts to school. I have seen yearbooks from the 1940's that showed that Western days was around back then. And I recall that it ended sometime in the late 1950's. It

was a fun way to end the week before we went on Spring Break.



(1952 Frontier Days)

Frontier Days was primarily run by Boys' Federation who sponsored many activities on campus. As you can see in the picture above, dressing like a real-life cowboy was very popular among the guys. We could also bring horses and mules to school for part of the day – mainly to be part of the noon parade. But most students brought older vintage cars.

The assembly was the most interesting part of the day. There were different acts like country bands that would perform. The winner of the Whiskerino Contest would also be announced at the assembly. This contest was for the boys who could grow the longest and best looking beard.



(Above Photo: Sign-ups for 1951 Whiskerino Contest. Below: 1951 PTA Barn Dance)



The Barn Dance was also part of Frontier Day and was usually held on the Friday night before break. The dance was usually held in the gym with real hay bales brought in for that barn effect. The dance was sponsored by the Fresno High Parent/Teachers Club.



(Vintage car from 1946 parade)

If you have other memories of Frontier Day, please share them with the newsletter, and we will print them in the next issue.

And, as always, please consider supporting Fresno High by becoming a member (see membership form at the back of this newsletter). We also would love to have you become a part of our Fresno High Alumni Association Board. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the new administration building. If you would like to make a donation to a specific club, activity, or sport, you can designate how your donation is to be used, and we will make sure that it gets to the organization and students. Still

Proud to be a Warrior!!

## **Principal's Message**

By Dr. John Forbes



Our school year started with a new energy on campus. We welcomed about 700 freshmen to Fresno High and had a very smooth beginning of school. Our campus facilities and buildings continue to be the talk of the town. If you haven't had a chance to stop by, I encourage you to do so. And I highly recommend that all alumni mark your calendars for the annual May Alumni Banquet (May 2, 2015).

In addition to students, we welcomed twelve new professionals to our teaching and support staff. We continue to attract excellent teachers, many of whom either live in our neighborhood or attended Fresno High as a student (or a relative). It's the reputation and history of Fresno High that attracts some great talent to our staff.

Academically, Fresno High continues to challenge students to perform at a high level and support all students to reach their potential. Of our most recent graduates, we had one of only two National Merit Scholarship Winners in the valley. Last Spring over 150 of our seniors were accepted into a 4-year university, with 94% of all seniors registering for college, trade school or the military. We had students accepted to some of the most competitive schools in the nation (Wesley, UC-Davis, Cal Poly-SLO, UC-SD, and others).

In addition to improving our college-going rates, Fresno High is now a school-wide International Baccalaureate (IB) school. This means all students are part of an

instructional program that values critical thinking, community service, and international mindedness. Our staff has worked hard at planning their curriculum and designing learning experience that prepare all students for our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Our expectation is that all FHS graduates be prepared for college and career. IB provides a clear structure for meeting this goal.

As we enter the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for Fresno High, it's a time to celebrate our great history and tradition. As principal, my responsibility is to help connect our current student body with the legacy of being a Fresno High Warrior. One way we do this is through sharing the stories of Fresno High alumni who have gone on to do great things in our community. If you have a moment to share your story, please email me at [john.forbes@fresnounified.org](mailto:john.forbes@fresnounified.org). I love sharing with current students what stories of alumni who went on to college and did significant things in our community. This year we included several alumni stories in the academic planner that all students received. Every day as students write down their assignments, they are able to read about FHS alumni and the rich history of Fresno High.

It's with great pride that I serve as principal of Fresno High School. There is no school in our great city with the Tradition, Honor and Excellence of our school. We are **THE** Fresno High School. Go Warriors!

## **2014 Bob Reyes Scholarship Winner Krista Rodriguez**

By Bob Reyes (Newsletter Editor)

Senior Krista Rodriguez is the 2014 recipient of the Bob Reyes Fresno High Alumni Scholarship. This \$1000 scholarship goes to a senior who best exemplifies the qualities of leadership and is selected by former principal Bob

Reyes. Krista has attended Fresno High School all four years.



**Krista Rodriguez** (Class of 2014)

**Has anyone else from your family attended Fresno High? If so, who were they and when did they graduate?** Yes, my older brother Dariuss Rodriguez graduated from Fresno High in 2010.

**What activities were you involved in at Fresno High? What did you learn from being involved in each activity?** The activities I was involved in at Fresno High were ASB, Leadership, Drama, Link Crew, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Lacrosse, Manager of the Varsity Football team, and Tee Pee Talent. Being involved in these activities, all different from each other, encouraged me to reach out of my comfort zone and meet new people. They also aided me in learning the unique history and traditions of Fresno High and what I can do to continue and preserve those traditions.

**Did any of these activities influence your career choice?** Being the ASB Special Events Coordinator, and being an active member of leadership heavily influenced my career choice.

**What is your career choice and what made you decide to go into that field?** The career I am currently anticipating is to be an Event Planner. I decided to pursue this career because of the satisfaction I felt after planning and producing a successful event for the Fresno High students, staff, and community.

**What do you especially like about Fresno High School?** I love every aspect of Fresno High.

I especially love The Little Big game because of the tradition and the fact that it brings the Fresno High community together. I love going to the game and seeing Fresno High Warriors from all throughout the years coming back and supporting their home school and keeping the tradition alive, even after 84 years.

**What would you say to someone who asks why they should attend Fresno High?** To convince someone to attend Fresno High, I would enlighten them on all of the wonderful things Fresno High has to offer. Traditions that are older than most of the other high schools in Fresno, the International Baccalaureate program, our up-and-coming athletics, and the small population and cultural diversity and how it brings the student body together as one.

**How would you respond to someone who has a negative image about attending Fresno High?** To respond to someone who was talking negatively about attending Fresno High, I would promote the athletic and academic programs that are offered, and let them know that they will not find a school as thriving and authentic as Fresno High.

**Who were your favorite instructors at Fresno High?** My favorite instructors at Fresno High are: Mrs. Bangerter, Mr. Klassen, Ms. Orgill, Mrs. Dossetti, Mr. T. Brown, and Mr. Krieger. Each one of them have genuinely helped me throughout my high school career, and I am very grateful.

**How did the two new buildings (administration and library) and Warrior Park affect students and staff at the campus?** The two new buildings and Warrior Park have done amazing things to the Fresno High campus. The administration building and the library/media center both give our office staff and librarian up to date technology and the space to provide the staff and students with everything they need while

standing tall and proud, mirroring the historic Royce Hall, not shielding it from the community. Warrior Park creates a new atmosphere for the students by being big enough to hold the entire student body together, instead of diving it into North and South sides of the campus. It is also a great area for Leadership to hold Noontime activities, and the Drama Department to hosts its annual dinner show among other perks. But the greatest thing that the new buildings and Warrior Park have done, is show to the city of Fresno the beauty of Fresno High.

## ***An Interview with Dave Brase about the Wall of Champions***

*By Bob Reyes  
Newsletter Editor*

**How did the idea to create a Wall of Champions come about?**

The idea began to take shape ten years ago. Jack Fowler, chair of the Alumni Association, and I started discussing how the Alumni Association could create an awards ceremony that could have lasting impact on future students at Fresno High.

We settled on an idea that we should create short videos about the careers of each of the athletes or teams that would be honored at an annual Alumni "Wall of Champions Dinner". To get maximum impact for the people who could benefit from them the most, the videos would also be made available for Fresno High students to view in a permanent video display at Fresno High.

We presented the idea to Bob Reyes, who was the principal at Fresno High at that time. He committed the school's support and we started putting it together.

**What is the purpose for creating the Fresno High Wall of Champions?**

It's one direct implementation, among many, of the Fresno High

Alumni Association's overall mission "Connecting the past, present and future of Fresno High".

The specific purpose of the "Wall of Champions" is to allow present and future students at Fresno High the opportunity to realize that they are part of something bigger. We want them to be aware of past contributions of Fresno High athletes, teams and coaches, including their community involvement beyond sports.

It's our hope that the videos will provide an added inspiration to present and future students at Fresno High to strive for the same kind of excellence as that portrayed in the videos.

**What are some of the general guidelines that the committee uses to select inductees?**

The inductees, teams or coaches selected should have excelled athletically at the local, regional, national or international level, during their time at Fresno High or beyond.

**What was the first year of the Wall of Champions Dinner?**

Our first dinner was in October of 2007. This year, we will host our 8th dinner.

**Who make up the membership of the Wall of Champions committee?**

The dinner committee is composed of people from our Alumni Association board along with others who've had specific experience as athletes, coaches or principals at Fresno High. The actual inductee selection committee consists primarily of that group.

**In a typical year, how long does it take to create the Wall of Champions video?**

We usually decide on the inductees in February or March and depending on how fast we can get all the information that we need to produce the videos, the process can take us out to just

prior to the dinner to wrap everything up.

**What types of information do you like to get in order to develop the video and script for a selected athlete?**

We get information and pictures from old *Fresno Bee* articles, Owls, Owllets, the internet and anything we can get from the inductees themselves.

**How many people typically attend the Wall of Champions Dinner?**

Usually around 300. That includes dinners for 40 Fresno High athletes from each varsity team (2 each from all varsity boys and girls sports) who are guests of the Alumni Association.

**You have a lot of knowledge about past teams and athletes at Fresno High. How are you able to remember all of those details about so many athletes and teams?**

Both my parents were members of the class of '37 at Fresno High. I think some of first things I ever read were Owls from that era. I saw my first Fresno High football game around 1950 and I played in the late 50's, but nearly anyone who played sports in high school has pretty strong recollections of when they played.

We are very fortunate to have former FHS athletes on our selection committee that have unique first hand knowledge, sometimes over many decades, of Fresno high's athletic past.

Ironically, much of their expanded awareness came from coaching against Fresno High as their careers evolved. When you add to that the insight of a couple of ex-principals into the mix, we have a combination that seems to work.

**How did the Wall of Champions interactive video display entertainment center that houses it come to be?**

We had 5 dinners before the actual interactive video display in Royce Hall came into existence. It

was funded by the profits from those first 5 dinners. We needed to purchase an interactive touch activated video screen and a cabinet was built to match the interior woodwork already inside the entrance at Royce Hall. This year's senior class of 2014 is the first to have access to the stories of our great athletes and teams from the past during all of their 4 years as students at Fresno High.



*(Warrior Athletes scroll through the video history of FHS athletes and teams in the interactive display in Royce Hall)*

**Warrior Wampum**

*By Bernice Dyck  
Class of 1936*

All Fresno High School grads are members of the FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR NATION. Perhaps you didn't know that. Each tribe of natives is connected to a "nation" of their chief group. As an alumni member you are a part of a great nation of academic participants.

Why is this important? Whether you participated in the football, basketball, track, or baseball area as an athlete or as a sideline booster, you have been a part of some great athletic history. Think about it.....

At a recent alumni meeting we learned that an old interest is being revived - TENNIS. Ernest Garcia, a 1982 FHS graduate, joined the alumni group as a

participating member, but his administrative efforts brought him into our "nation" because he has been hired to be the tennis COACH. This sport has been sadly neglected. The courts have deteriorated and weeds are growing in the asphalt cracks. Ernest is starting at the bottom and going to administration to see if the courts can be destroyed and rebuilt. He sees where there is room for an additional court to be added. He wants a small shack where he can hang out for the interested students to discuss this important venue with him. In this shack he will also be restringing racquets and instruct interested participants the art of this effort.

He wants the classes to be for male and female students. This means uniforms and clothing accessories. Some interested students have athletic shoes with toes out and in a less than desirable situation for good tennis play.

Ernest conducted a tennis camp on the Warrior campus this summer, and he hoped that there would be enough interested participants in this camp to make it worthwhile to "re-build" an interest in the sport at Fresno High.

Currently he isn't asking the alumni for wampum to get his program started, but he did want us to know that his budget for decent uniforms and accessories is \$800 for the fall semester. UGH! Not enough wampum! He warned the committee that he will be back with a proper grant request and he is in hopes that there will be financial help for the program.

Ernest is well qualified to coach tennis. He has played on many teams and was assistant head coach for men's tennis at San Jose State University.

He has served as a head professional at several country clubs and his resume reads well.

This writer has an idea – there is an alumnus who has remained a

good friend since graduation several years ago. That Warrior has always had an interest in tennis and had seen his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday by a few years when age and health forced him to head for his wigwam to rest, sit and watch others win, lose and slam the balls around. He has a birthday coming up, his 96<sup>th</sup>, and this writer will make a donation to the alumni association for the upcoming tennis program on the Warrior campus.

See what a little imagination can do to help the FHS students of today?

How about you? There is football, baseball, basketball and all sports areas on campus that are always submitting grants asking for wampum help. Even the JROTC, music department, Senate and every academic situation where uniforms and paraphernalia are needed can always use your thoughtfulness.

KEEP IT IN MIND, JOIN ALUMNI FOR SURE – BUT THINK OF THE SPECIAL AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN OF GREAT INTEREST TO YOU and remember some great friend that participated in the “olden” days and make a special specific wampum donation in that name as a gift.

**September 16, 1889 to  
September 16, 2014**

*By JoAnn Woodward  
Class of 1958*

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, Fresno High School welcomed its first students into class. The student body had only 50 students and held classes on the second story of the K Street School which later became Emerson Elementary. The grades included ninth, junior and middle and those who passed the middle classes became the first seniors in the school and graduated in 1890.

Eventually, after many moves, including to a combination bathhouse and store building, it became apparent that a

permanent site was needed for the school. The first permanent building was on O Street between Stanislaus and Tuolumne Streets and opened with 400 students in 1896. By 1915, this campus again was declared overcrowded and by 1919 three classical buildings were erected on the present Echo Avenue campus. Those buildings, Josiah Royce Hall, Joseph LaConte Hall and Alice Freedman Palmer Hall were the first buildings on the site. Eventually a larger campus evolved.

In the early 1970's, again due to increased enrollment, Palmer and LaConte halls were demolished and another transformation took place with the 1973 seniors graduating from still another version of the school. The final improvements began in 2012 and the school again opened up in August of 2013 to once more another edification of the campus on Echo.

Fresno High is the second oldest high school in the San Joaquin Valley, the other being Modesto High, and plans a celebration on September 16, 2014, to kick off a year of activities for a school most deserving. The Fresno High Alumni Association has chosen to have a bronze plaque made to be sit between the 2014 and 2015 senior class plaques. Please watch for updated information regarding this celebration on the alumni website at FresnoHighAlumni.com. All the students will be part of this major celebration as well as community and education leaders.



Many thanks to Kristi Carlson a 1968 graduate for the plaque design and to W-N Art Bronze for constructing it.

**2014 Scheduled  
Reunions**

*By JoAnn Woodward  
Class of 1958*

Additional information can be found at [FresnoHighAlumni.com/classes/reunions/future](http://FresnoHighAlumni.com/classes/reunions/future).

**1949**

Celebrates 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion on Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, 2014  
Mary Ann Waterman Hendrickson,  
559-227-2766

**1974**

Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion on Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28, 2014  
At Pardini's  
Jan Ross Scott,  
Janis.scott@comcast.net

**1979**

Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion on Saturday, October 4, 2014  
Sharilyn Gustine Weber, 559-355-6832  
Fresnohs1979@gmail.com  
Follow on Facebook, Fresno High School Class of 1979

**Yearbooks, Yearbooks,  
Yearbooks**

*By Jackie Garo Boyajian  
Class of 1960*

Here I am again----your Year Book advertiser. I receive emails and phone calls from so many looking for their books from their year of graduation or even all three years of high school. I always feel so bad when I cannot fulfill their wishes or dreams of having those memories back in their hands. The older we get – the more those memories of our youth means to us. Let me know if I've hit the sweet spot for you. Personally, I love to go through those books from the 20's and 30's. They are a great source of history. The cost of each yearbook sold is a donation that

goes directly back to the school for the current students. For the most part the cost is around \$50, depending on the condition of the book. Here's my current list of books on hand:

**1920's:** 1926 (1)

**1930's:** 1931 (2); 1933 (3); 1934 (1); 1935 (1); 1936 (1); 1938 (1)

**1950's:** 1955 (2); 1956 (4); 1959 (2)

**1960's:** 1960 (2); 1963 (1); 1968 (2)

**1970's:** 1972 (Reprint); 1974 (2); 1975 (2); 1976 (1); 1979 (2)

**1980's:** 1980 (2); 1984 (1); 1989 (2) (1 is vintage)

**1990's:** 1990 (1); 1993 (1)

I also have a 1954 Washington Jr. High – Clarion.

Reprint: The 1972 reprint is one that was purchased through a company that reprints yearbooks – maybe Classmates.com

Please let me know if you have yearbooks on hand that you wish to donate to us. We are happy to be able to offer them to former students. As always – PROUD TO BE A WARRIOR!!!

Jackie Garo Boyajian – Class of 1960

[jfb15@live.com](mailto:jfb15@live.com)

(559) 224-6643

**The Warrior Echo** (Fresno High Alumni Association Newsletter) is published twice a year (fall and spring).

**If you wish to have an article placed in the newsletter, please contact:**

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## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Alumni May 3, 2014

By JoAnn Woodward  
Class of 1958

What started out as a very warm day ended up a beautiful evening for dinner on the street in front of Fresno High. There were nearly 300 people attending this very special annual dinner as it was a celebration of 125 years for Fresno High and with all construction and barricades out of the way, the "new" Warrior Park along with Royce Hall were visible to all. What a wonderful view from the street! To see Royce Hall lit up in its glory made for wonderful photo ops.

The Alumni Association placed purple and gold reusable grocery bags on the backs of the chairs as a souvenir, along with purple and gold napkins and fresh purple and gold flowers on the tables; the decorations gave quite a festive touch to the street. The class coordinator for class of 1965, Doris Lewis Bosch, did a wonderful job of contacting her classmates who filled four tables for dinner.

Evening entertainment started with the Fresno High jazz band and choir. The event gave them an opportunity to show off their new performance wear paid in part by the Alumni Association. Ed Burke finished the entertainment with dinner music and dancing for those who wanted to participate. Gary Lanfranco, class of 1964, catered a wonderful steak dinner which was served to the tables by current Senate students. There were several decorated 125<sup>th</sup> birthday cakes for dessert. Both live and silent auctions continued during and after dinner. The FHS band benefited from a \$658 50/50 raffle which was won by Lois Harrah Wilson, class of 1943, who took \$329 back to Oregon with her.

Several classes displayed their memorabilia in the Senate

chamber which included a rag doll with the tag name of "Annette the Warriorette" displayed by 1957; a huge 8x4 foot reproduction of the 1953 class photo; and a nice video presentation of past photos from old yearbooks. A special thank you to the baseball and basketball teams who helped with the physical work to set up and take down our event. Keep the date of May 2, 2015 open for the event next year.



Bob Boro visiting with FB Coach Ray Reyes and alumni



The Fresno High Choir performs in Warrior Park



Alumni greet classmates and friends



Members of the Class of 2011 were in attendance



# FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

"THE SCHOOL OF CHAMPIONS"



## 8TH ANNUAL WALL OF CHAMPIONS DINNER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT PARDINI'S BANQUET HALL

### FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC 2014 WALL OF CHAMPIONS INDUCTEES



**Frank Eller (1956)**  
Football & Track  
School records Discus & shot



**1957 Baseball Team**  
Valley Champions  
19-1 Record



**1956 Swim Team**  
Undefeated Valley Champs  
Many Individual Records



**Jim Santos (1957)**  
US Olympic Team Coach  
Director of Special Olympics International



**Gary Van Galder (1954)**  
Football and Basketball  
Stanford All American



**Bobby Fries (Coach)**  
Track & Field/Cross Country  
From 1955-1964



**Robin Greiner (1950)**  
4 x National Champion Ice Skating  
1956 Winter Olympics



**Julius Trombetta (Coach)**  
Football & Track  
From 1932-1937



**Richard Gunner (1957)**  
4 Sport All Around Athlete  
National Champion Volleyball Team

**Order Tickets Online at  
FresnoHighAlumni.com**

CUT HERE

#### TICKET ORDER FORM

**8th Annual  
Fresno High School  
Athletic  
Wall of Champions  
Induction Dinner  
October 8, 2014  
at Pardini's**

Tickets purchased with  
this form will be  
available at will call on  
the night of the dinner

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**No Host Cocktails 5:30pm      Dinner 7:00pm**

# \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Ticket(s) @ \$50 each  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

**Payable To:** Fresno High Alumni Association  
**Send To:** P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA 93729-7516

*More Info: Call (559) 905-6527 or [www.FresnoHighAlumni.com](http://www.FresnoHighAlumni.com)*

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**CONTINUING THIS NEWSLETTER:** Membership is the primary support we get which allows us to give back to the students and teachers at Fresno High. There is a membership application included in this newsletter. If you are not interested in becoming a member, maybe a donation would be something you would like to do. Your tax-deductible check made payable to Fresno High Alumni Association and mailed to P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA 93729 would be greatly appreciated.     \_\_\$5\_\_ \$10\_\_ \$25\_\_ \$50\_\_ Other



**Your Alumni Membership helps Fresno High with**

- Scholarships to deserving students
- Much needed classroom supplies
- Supplemental facilities and grounds maintenance
- Special projects as needed in different departments

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## Fresno High School Alumni Association Membership Application

Please sign me up as a member of the Fresno High Alumni Association as a:

Chief \$100/yr      Warrior \$50/yr      Brave \$25/yr  
(Includes Annual Alumni Dinner)

Your FHS graduating class year \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name/Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and check to: **FHS Alumni Association**  
PO Box 27516  
Fresno, CA 93729