



THE WARRIOR ECHO

A Publication of The
FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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Spring 2016

The Chairman's Corner

*By Jack Fowler
Class of 1952*



I want to thank all of the alumni and friends of Fresno High School who have faithfully supported the Fresno High Alumni Association. Without your support, our current students would not have had many of the opportunities that we have been able to provide.

This year we are honoring former principal Bob Reyes who retired in 2010 but has been very active in the Fresno High Alumni Association as newsletter editor. We are also honoring former Assistant Principal Kim Mecum and former counselor PJ Machado.

We have had a very busy 16 years honoring so many great alumni such as General Fred Weyland (class of 1934) during the 2003 May Dinner. In 2005 we honored Principal Bob Reyes and five other former principals (Jack Mulkey, Ray Baker, Art Miller, Jeanne Contel, and John Marinovich) plus honoring Joe Levy (class of 1950) whose company Gottschalks supported the Fresno High Marketing Academy. In 2006 we honored the Fresno High School Choraleers under the direction of the late Michael Thayer and the International Baccalaureate

Programme under the direction of Principal Bob Reyes. In 2007 we honored the Fresno High Senate which had its beginnings in 1890. In October of 2007, the Alumni Association held the first Wall of Champions Dinner. In 2009 we lost our dedicated editor Linda West (class of 1957). In 2010 Bob Reyes retired after 13 years as the Fresno High principal, but agreed to become our newsletter editor. On May 4, 2012, there was a groundbreaking for the new buildings. In 2012 Dr. John Forbes became the new principal and has been very supportive of the Fresno High Alumni Association.

We have lost so many alumni such as Pete Mehas (1957), Bruce Farris (1945), Ray Baker (1951), and so many other supporters who have made the Alumni Association what it is today. As some of the board members retired or moved, it is now up to the younger classes to step up to keep the Alumni Association alive and going. So please attend our meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. And we again thank you for your continued support.

Principal's Message

By Dr. John Forbes



Greetings Alumni! It is a joy to share with you several of the latest significant events at our great school.

First, I recently had the privilege to welcome dignitaries from Châteauroux, France to Fresno High. Châteauroux is the new sister-city to Fresno. When the envoy of the mayor and vice-mayor arrived, we greeted them in our handsome Senate Chamber. Châteauroux's mayor loved hearing about how the Fresno High Senate builds essential skills in our youth: cordial discourse, advocacy, public speaking, and current events. We also took our guests to Royce Hall to show off the Wall of Champions. They were impressed with the great history of our school and want to share their history with us. Our partnership with Châteauroux will involve opportunities for our current students to participate in short-term exchange programs with students from our sister-city. We look forward to connecting with the people from Châteauroux and sharing more stories of Fresno High.

Second, this past weekend I spent time with our Competition Cheer Squad at the United Spirit Association (USA) National competition. Our Fresno High team qualified for the Co-Ed Cheer Show Varsity category early this year and competed with the top 12 other teams in the nation. With generous support from the Fresno High Alumni Association, our team of young men and women performed in front of a packed arena at the Anaheim Convention Center. I wish all alumni could have seen their performance live. You would be so proud! As a next-best option, I will show a video of our cheer squad at our next alumni meeting in April.

Finally, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) will visit in April to complete the 6-year accreditation cycle for Fresno High. We included a description of the generous support provided by the Alumni Association in our report. Few schools enjoy the support of alumni to the degree that we have at Fresno High. Thank you for being a part of our history, our present and our future. I look forward to seeing you at the May Alumni banquet.

Regards,

John Forbes, Ed.D.
Principal

17th Annual All-Alumni May Dinner

*By JoAnn Woodward
Class of 1958*

The All-Alumni Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 7 between 5:30 and 9:30 on the street in front of Fresno High School. A fantastic catered dinner by Gary Lanfranco will be scheduled as well as a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle to benefit the students at FHS. Instead of a crazy dessert auction or cake being served, you will have the choice of dessert from two food trucks. Jay's Specialty Ice Cream and Summertime Pies will set up on the street. The price of \$45 includes dinner and your choice at the food trucks. Reservations can be made by contacting Marie Slater at mcsfresno@gmail.com or 559-224-5241. Reservations can also be made on this website.

The Early Years of IB at Fresno High

*By Bob Reyes
(Newsletter Editor)*

Fall of 1999 – Assistant Superintendent Dolphas Trotter comes back from a Florida conference and tells then principal Bob Reyes about the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) which consists of college-level courses accepted at universities all over the world.

Spring 2000 – Meeting with parents and community to discuss becoming an IB school draws over 200 parents and community members to the Fresno High library.

Fall of 2000 – Principal Reyes, Head Counselor Jean Calabrese, AP History teacher Clyde Auston, AP Physics teacher Robert Hanna, AP English teacher Bill McKenzie, and AP Calculus teacher John Vidinoff attend an IB training conference in Seattle. All come back agreeing that the IB program is superior to Advanced Placement.

Fall of 2000 – Superintendent Santiago Wood and Assistant Superintendent Carole Sarkisian-Bonard make a commitment to support Fresno High in its efforts to become an IB Diploma Programme.

Spring of 2001 – Principal Reyes, Tribal Council President Mike Quinn, and AP English Lit teacher Bill MacKenzie present to the Fresno Unified School Board on Fresno High's intent to apply to become an IB Diploma Programme and receives the district's commitment to support the Fresno High IB program.

January 2002 – Fresno High names drama instructor Bill Weatherford as its first IB Coordinator.

Fall of 2002 – First Pre-IB class – "The Great 8", would eventually become 25 students by June of 2006.

Spring of 2003 – Official visit from IB; 3 college admissions officers interview staff, district, parents, and students in order to verify the application process and then make a recommendation to the IB North America office which then makes a recommendation to the IB office in Geneva, Switzerland.

July of 2003 – Principal Bob Reyes attends the IB North America Conference in Niagara Falls as Fresno High becomes an official IB Diploma Programme.

Fall of 2003 – 68 students are enrolled in IB at Fresno High.

Fall of 2004 – Laura Spongberg is hired as Fresno High's 2nd IB Coordinator; 125 students are enrolled in IB.

Fall of 2005 – 259 students are enrolled in IB.

June of 2006 – First IB graduating class; 9 full diploma candidates; 16 certificates; David Hollingsworth becomes Fresno High's first full diploma recipient.

Fall of 2006 – 400 students enrolled in IB.

May of 2007 – Jeannine DerManouel is hired as Fresno High's 3rd IB Coordinator.

June of 2007 – 2nd IB graduating class; 8 diploma candidates (Andrew Bethke and Tamara West receive IB diplomas); 47 certificates

Fall of 2007 – 410 students enrolled in IB.

June of 2008 – 3rd IB graduating class; 11 full diploma candidates (Armando Martinez, Charles Curry, and Joseph Dias achieve the full diploma); 52 certificates

Fall of 2008 – 408 students enrolled in IB.

June of 2009 – 4th IB graduating class; 16 candidates for full diploma (8 students earn the full diploma); 51 certificates

Fall of 2009 – 551 students in IB

June of 2010 – 5th IB graduating class; 7 candidates for full diploma (3 eventually earn the full diploma)

Currently – Cate Dossetti serves as Fresno High's 4th IB Coordinator and Kyra Orgill is the school's 1st IB Middle Years Coordinator. According to Head Counselor Jimi Rodgers, approximately 95% of Fresno High students are enrolled in at least one IB course (there are about 2300 students enrolled). There are about 35 candidates for the full diploma.

(The fall edition of the newsletter will cover the growth of IB from 2010 to 2016.)

3rd Annual Little/Big Car Show

By Jason Whipple
Class of 1981



Brian Volhart, Richard Baskin, Jason Whipple



Greg Cox, Terry Cato



Bowling Pins Awards from the old Cedar Lanes and the Pig Piston Trophy

As we know, football season at Fresno High brings fun times to all, and so does the oldest rivalry in Fresno's history with the **Little/Big Game**.

Last year the game was on Friday the 7th of November and Fresno High School was able to keep the infamous pig in our display case.

The added bonus is the "Pig Piston", a new trophy in the case at FHS.

It was received for the best of show in the **Little/Big Car Show**. The boys and girls from Roosevelt have taken the trophy two years running, but on November 14th, 2015, we got it back thanks to Richard Baskin and his 1932 Ford Victoria.

The show was held in the Fresno High parking lot and was quite the success and actually doubled in size from the first year. There were approximately 150 cars and quite a few old timers from Roosevelt and Fresno High Schools showing their nostalgic rides. The show is a small fundraiser that is held for both schools' alumni associations. This last year we raised a little over \$1,600 to give back for grants at both schools.

The event will be back at Roosevelt this year, and we hope that the weather and the community will once again be kind to us and our many beautiful entries. So..... if you know someone interested in showing a car for this year's event, please go to the FHS Alumni Association web page and use the flyer listed on the site to sign up! Or if you have any questions, feel free to get a hold of me.

Questions or concerns please feel free to e-mail me at: jason@americansheetmetal.us or call @ 559-351-9961 or reach my partner, Brian Volhart at 559-307-8193.

2015-2016 Grants

By JoAnn Woodward
Class of 1958

The following grants have been given to Fresno High so far this current school year for a total amount of \$11,075.

Mock Trial	\$1,100
Library Maker's Faire	\$1,125
Christmas Poinsettias	\$125
Band Winterguard	\$2,000
Wrestling	\$2,000
DC/NY Trip	\$400
Pep and Cheer Nationals	\$2,725
French Club	\$600
Easter Baseball Classic	\$1,000

This is the first year ever the Pep and Cheer program qualified for United Spirit Association National Cheer competition on March 17-

20. They have already placed first in their division at regionals.

From Sue Navarro, Librarian.

Thanks to the help of a grant from the Fresno High Alumni Association, the first annual Fresno High Mini Maker Faire during grade distribution in October 2015 was a huge success! This event incorporated students, staff and community to show-off their hobbies, talents, skills and ideas.

Maker Faire participants included: glass blowers, robotics, upcycled buttons, fabric dolls and electronics from Fresno Ideaworks. From Fresno High clubs and staff: inked tiles, cake decorating, 3-D printing, sculpting, bead necklaces, book trees, magnets, toothpick challenges, marshmallow catapults, air brushing and spider crafts. There were also paracord bracelets being made.

The Art Department showed off a wall of student work and a cart of free books to recycle home for enjoyment was available. Hundreds of students and their families went through the library to try their hand at something new.

From Gina Vertson, Mock Trial Instructor.

The grant from Fresno High Alumni Association allowed the students to buy proper clothing and shoes for Mock Trial. The Fresno High Mock Trial Team was very successful. Four of our students earned Honorable Mention Certificates, and 12 of our students earned Achievement Medals which is the highest award in Mock Trial. One of our juniors, **Alex Vargas**, received **Rookie of the Year**, a freshman, **Darian Marshall**, (Defense) received **Outstanding Team Member**, and one of our seniors, **Viridiana Razo**, (Prosecution) received **Outstanding Team Member**.

In the beginning of the year, many students were shy, quiet, and not confident about presenting in front of people. By the 2nd Semester, the students' confidence increased and they began to

believe in themselves. It was truly amazing to see them grow. I am so proud of our student's success in Mock Trial. Thank you so much for your support this year in our young people of today.

Class Updates

*By Bob Reyes
(Newsletter Editor)*

On September 9, 2015, the **Class of 1946** decided that it would no longer host reunions and donated their remaining monies, \$1794.08, to the Fresno High Alumni Association.

Fresno High Today As Seen by a Non-Graduate

By Kathy Gunn

I recently had dinner with a friend and her daughter. The friend is a generation behind me (she's in her 40's) and her daughter is in her early 20's. We had dinner at SABORmx. It was the first time there for all of us. We loved it. We decided to have ice cream for dessert, and I suggested Ampersand – at Weldon and Echo – across from Fresno High. Although born and raised in Fresno, neither of them had ever seen Fresno High. Thank goodness their first time seeing Fresno High was in its beautiful restored glory. They were both very impressed with the school and the neighborhood.

As usual Ampersand was bulging at the seams – people eating outside at tables, standing up and sitting on the curb. The line to buy ice cream was out the door and all the tables inside were taken. None of us were put off by the long line because we all enjoy that kind of experience. But when we got our ice cream, we couldn't find anywhere to sit so we walked back down to the front of the school, where it was totally lit up, and we sat on a bench (I presume it was a memorial bench) and ate our delicious ice cream and talked and watched the giant moon rise in the east. They kept talking

about how beautiful the school is and how much they loved the atmosphere in the neighborhood. Fresno High truly is a beautiful school. Thank goodness all those hideous box-like buildings have been removed – the ones that obstructed the view of the school. As I think of it now, we were three generations enjoying the experience – each of us in awe of the beauty of restored Fresno High. I think the lighting really enhances the beauty of the building at night.

I'm so impressed with the new construction at Hoover, Roosevelt and, OF COURSE, Fresno High. Finally someone got smart and the new construction architecture matches the original architecture of the schools.

Scholarship Updates

*By Bob Reyes
(Newsletter Editor)*

(The following students received the Bob Reyes Leadership Scholarship from the Alumni Association after their graduation):

Angela Romero (Class of 2015): Angela is in her freshman year at Fresno City College.



"Dear Alumni Association,

I'm currently in my second semester at Fresno City College, and although I had the opportunity to, I've decided to not pursue collegiate soccer, so I may focus on school. I wanted to give myself the best opportunity at succeeding in the classroom. I've also been successful in obtaining employment. I'm currently working part-time at Starbucks.

My first semester at Fresno City College was an adjustment period for me, and although I didn't do as well as I would've hoped, it was a

major reality check. This semester is going much better and I feel confident that I will obtain my goals. Right now, my favorite class is Political Science. I like that I'm being taught how government works. I feel like I can now make more educated decisions when it comes time to vote.

I look forward to my involvement at Fresno High and hope that in the future Fresno High will invite me back with open arms and an open heart!

Sincerely, Angela Romero"

Krista Rodriguez (Class of 2014): Krista is in her sophomore year at Fresno City College.



"I am attending Fresno City College. I am almost finished with my general education classes, and I hope to transfer to Fresno State and become a part of their amazing business program. I am still aspiring to be an event planner. At Fresno City I am involved in the student tutorial center. Although I am not a tutor, it is a very peer-oriented activity, so I spend time working with other students. I am a part-time sale associate at Forever 21.

Attending Fresno High has influenced me in various ways in my life now. I mostly am influenced by the amazing teachers that I had and being in the IB program. It definitely influences me to work harder and at a more complex level."

Makayla Quinn (Class of 2013) Finishing her junior year at University of Pacific in Stockton:

Makayla Quinn says that the International Baccalaureate Program at Fresno High allowed her to open her mind to different concepts of how people in the world see things. It also taught

her how to critically evaluate relationships – all things that she utilized in her current studies at University of Pacific.

Makayla recently returned from her fall semester studying abroad at the University of Sterling, Scotland (through University of Pacific). University of Scotland is considered an international school because its students come from all over Europe and the United States. While there, Makayla lived in a flat with 8 other students representing France, Germany, Switzerland, and many other countries of Europe. Makayla is majoring in International Relations which was not an emphasis at the University of Sterling so she took courses like **Politics of Justice Equality and Rights, Global Political Economy, and Film Studies.**

Makayla did a lot of research before traveling to Scotland. In many of her classes, she was the “token” American and was expected to speak on behalf of America which she said was challenging because she really didn’t feel like she could speak for all of America, just that part of America that she had experienced. She was also cognizant that she did not want to appear to be like the “Ugly American”. She was constantly asked why America supported Trump and why more people didn’t support Bernie Sanders.

Makayla and a friend took a 2-week backpacking trip through Italy (they spent a lot of time in Rome) and Croatia before beginning their semester at University of Scotland. She said that she is fascinated by other people’s cultures. And the trip taught her to navigate in other countries while teaching her about the necessity of having patience.



(Makayla and her dad Bob Quinn, class of '76 at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland)



(Makayla and her best friend Lindsay Brook backpacking in Dubrovnik, Croatia)

Back home in Stockton for her spring semester at UOP, she works at Pete’s Coffee while taking a full load of classes. She also works on campus for the School of International Studies. At this point, she is not sure that she will do graduate school as soon as she graduates. She would like to get her hands dirty and try a few things like traveling to different countries or working perhaps for a nonprofit. She’d like to see what fulfills her life’s goals.

She also has a couple of internships lined up. She was recently hired to help manage a Global History Conference (one of only 2 students hired) that will take place in San Francisco, Stockton, and Nevada.

No matter what Makayla decides to do, she will be a success at it.

Sydney Vinuela (Class of 2012): Senior year at CSU Fresno, Smittcamp Family Honors College. Studying Humanities:



“Dear Fresno High School Alumni,

Just this past summer I returned from a two-month whirlwind trip to both Italy and Greece with the Paideia Institute. I took an intensive Latin-speaking course. This year has been one of adventure; I have learned how to

both snowboard and to rock climb.

This year is my fourth and final year at Fresno State's Smittcamp Family Honors College and I will be graduating on May 21st with a Special Major in Humanities & Classics. I have been nominated for Dean’s Medalist in the College of Arts and Humanities and I have completed a Linguistics research honors thesis that will be presented before my peers this May.

Following graduation I plan to pursue my Master of Arts in Teaching, Latin & Greek. I have been offered two full-ride packages which include a teaching stipend, health benefits, and free tuition to Indiana University, Bloomington and University of Arizona, Tucson. I will be visiting Indiana over spring break to help me make this tough decision. As for this upcoming summer, my boyfriend and I have planned a month long trip through Germany and Croatia, and plan to end in England (to visit his family)!

Thank you for your support,

Sydney Vinuela"



Devinne Vaughn (Class of 2011): Devinne is a 5th-year senior at U.C. Santa Cruz.

Because she changed her major to Cultural Anthropology, Devinne is spending a 5th year completing her degree and will be graduating this June.

Her plans after graduation will be to apply to City Year, a group that works with kids in after-school programs helping to develop skills in those students so that they can be more successful in school and in their communities. (Devinne’s mother also is involved in after-school programs and is currently working at Columbia Elementary

School in southeast Fresno). Devinne would like to work in the Bay Area (San Jose or Oakland) in an after-school program. But her ultimate goal is to join the Peace Corps and to work abroad focusing on youth and their development by helping them to look beyond their community to further their education. In that way, they can come back and help their own community. She would like to be placed in the Pacific Islands like Fiji, Samoa, or Tonga.

One of the jobs she has had on campus has been working with an organization that helped to keep Afro/Black students on campus from dropping out, creating events and helping them find their community on campus. She has also worked with the African Black Student Alliance and the Asian Pacific Islander Student Association which has been one of her favorite things to do on campus.

This year Devinne has served as the Director of Student Life for the Student Union Assembly at U.C. Santa Cruz. She likes this role since she gets to work with the student body as a whole. She says that this role allows her to influence more interaction between the different cultural groups on campus. She does event planning which can center on anything that would benefit the student body and their interaction with each other. Devinne says that working with Howard Zinn and then Melissa Bangarter (past and current Activities Directors at Fresno High), taught her the value of interacting with more students on campus, especially with students that they did not know. Fresno High Leadership Class emphasized drawing new students into activities on campus and that Leadership students were there for everyone on campus. Devinne says that Mrs. Bangarter continues to be a big influence on her life.

Devinne would like to one day come back to Fresno and have

the same kind of influence on kids that she found with the adults at Fresno High – perhaps even going into teaching and giving back to the people that gave to her.

Reunion Notices

*By JoAnn Woodward
Class of 1958*

The Alumni Association is aware of the following class reunions:

1951, September 23, 2016 at Tornino's

1956, October 7-8, 2016 at San Joaquin Country Club

1961, September 24, 2016 at Pardini's

More information with class contacts can be found on our website at **FresnoHighAlumni.com/classes/reunions/future**.

Yearbooks, Yearbooks, Yearbooks

*By Jackie Garo Boyajian
Class of 1960*

It's time for a spring update on yearbooks. As most of you already know, I collect and re-sell yearbooks in order to enhance the bank account for the Fresno High Alumni Association. That makes for two groups of happy people. First, the people no longer needing the yearbooks, for one reason or another, but feel throwing them away would be sad or bad. Then there's the group that have, in some unfortunate way, lost their yearbooks, and have now reached a time in their life they would like to have them back. That's where I come into the picture. This has really been a good thing for both groups.

Let me tell you about a recent encounter I had with a Roosevelt grad of 1964. I met him at a recent estate sale, and he was purchasing a Fresno High yearbook from a friend of mine. I mentioned to him that I had lots of Owls at my house, and related to him what I do with these yearbooks. Well, he called me –

came over and purchased several of the books, and I'm sure would like several more. I sold mostly older ones to him and the newest one was a 1950's era that I had duplicates of. He explained that to him this was a big part of the history of our town. He buys books from Fresno Tech, Roosevelt and Fresno High, Edison, and not so sure about the newer schools. He told me he would take those books home and sit up and read all of them that evening. He just loves them. I'm sure we'll probably do business again sometime down the road.

So, if you're looking for your yearbook, or one from the year a parent graduated, send me an email, give me a call and we'll see what we can do. Do keep in mind that at this time, I'm still not able to take books before the 1950's. Maybe soon though. I love being able to put money into our treasury to give back to those most deserving students at Fresno High. The Alumni Association has done a lot this year to help out so many groups of kids that have done things that bring tears to your eyes. They are so deserving and I'm proud to be a part of this group.

Jackie Garo Boyajian (class of 1960) 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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Jackie Garo Boyajian ('60) Alumni Vice Chair, jfb15@live.com; 235 W. Holland Ave., Fresno 93705

JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward ('58) Alumni Secretary, Ja_woodward@hotmail.com; 351 Baron Ave., Clovis 93612

The Fresno High Alumni Association
Presents The 17th Annual
All Classes Annual May Dinner
Celebrating The Origins Of The
Fresno High Alumni Association
Saturday - May 7, 2016

In front of Royce Hall • Fresno High School • 1839 N. Echo Ave.



Present



1923



The 50s

Tickets: \$45 **No Tickets Sold at Door**

Order Tickets Online at www.FresnoHighAlumni.com

5:00 PM - No Host Beer Wine & Soda / 7:00 PM Dinner

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**Tickets can also be ordered online at
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



Fresno High School Alumni Association Membership Application

Your Alumni Membership helps Fresno High with

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N

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

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