



# THE WARRIOR ECHO

A Publication of The  
FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Vol. 11

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

September 2011

## **The Chairman's Corner**

*By Jack Fowler  
Class of 1952*

REMINISCE: To talk or think about past experiences or events. As I watched the Fresno High School football team practice this year, I thought back not only to my years at FHS, 1948 to 1952, but back to the 1940's when our "gang" as we called them, would stop on the way home from John Muir Elementary and later from Hamilton Junior High to watch the BIG GUYS practice football and other sports. Little did I know then that 65 plus years later we would be celebrating our past sports legends at the FHS Athletic Wall of Champions dinner on October 12, 2011 at Pardini's. Tickets are available at [www.FresnoHighAlumni.com](http://www.FresnoHighAlumni.com).

Well, it's time to reminisce a little more about things that happened at Fresno High. If you have stories that you would love to write about, send them to our web site at [www.FresnoHighAlumni.com](http://www.FresnoHighAlumni.com) to the attention of Bob Reyes, newsletter editor or JoAnn Woodward, website news. Please support your Alumni Association with membership, the annual All-Alumni Dinner in May in front of Royce Hall, and your Wall of Champions Dinner in October. Remember all donations are tax deductible. If you would like to help with our functions or serve on the board, please let us know. Our Alumni meetings are the second Wednesday of each month in the Fresno High Library at 5:30 PM. Thank you again for all your support.

## **Principal's Message**

*By Dr. Adrian Palazuelos*

Greetings from the School of Champions! Our campus is alive with energy this year with much of it emanating from the 2,400 students that consider this campus their home...our future alumni. I am pleased to report that Fresno High School has posted its second consecutive year of marked academic improvement with the campus meeting its school wide academic target. The staff and students played an integral part in this work and have demonstrated an even greater focus this year. I am confident that Fresno High School will exceed the academic targets and achieve growth for a third year.

This past June we celebrated the careers and contributions of fifteen (15) Warrior staff who have now joined the ranks of the "retired". Each of these individuals provided dedicated service to the Warrior community and made a positive impact on numerous students. Recruiting, selecting, and hiring new staff is something that I take very serious and I am pleased to inform you about two individuals who like the people they replaced will see to it that the Warrior spirit burns bright....

### **Athletic Director, David Barton:**

David joined us this past summer and has made an immediate positive impact on our campus. As Athletic Director he has fostered a new era in accountability for our athletes. Coach Barton has enlisted the help of well respected coach and

retired teacher, Ray Reyes, to address the academic barrier that keeps many of our athletes from the sports they love. Together they have created an Athletic Academic Support program to ensure that more of our students remain on target for graduation and eligible to participate in athletics. Our athletic program is in very capable hands with Coach Barton at the helm. He has a long list of to-do's with the top priority being to rally the Warrior faithful for an epic "Little Big Game" on November 9<sup>th</sup> and bring the pig home.

### **Band Director, Jose Vargas:**

Jose completed his graduate work at Fresno State University where he worked directly as a graduate assistant with the Bulldog Marching Band. The increased level of intensity and energy that he has infused into this campus is evident in the increasing student interest in marching band, percussion, and music on this campus. He is working hard to develop our band of over 40 musicians with the goal of creating a 100+ member marching band to represent Fresno High School throughout the Central Valley. A goal that is both achievable and much needed. We hope to enlist your help in the fundraising efforts both on the campus and through the Alumni Association to "build" the Warrior band.

The energy, enthusiasm, and motivation is present everyday on this campus. We are anxiously looking forward to the new construction that upon completion will pay homage to the past and elevate our beloved Royce Hall...the icon of the community and symbol of Fresno! All of this

work cannot be possible without the support of the Fresno High School Alumni Association and the thousands of hours and dollars that you give to this campus. Thank you for aiding us in our work to elevate the School of Champions. I look forward to working with you. We have a number of high schools in Fresno but there is only one....Fresno High School. Go Warriors!

**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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JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward ('58) Alumni Secretary, [Ja\\_woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:Ja_woodward@hotmail.com) ; 351 Baron Ave., Clovis 93612

## **"Big Joe" Schey New Warrior Football Coach**

*By Dave Brase  
Class of 19*



Joe Schey has been hired by Principal Adrian Palazuelos to be the new Fresno High head football coach. Schey was an outstanding All-WAC player who anchored the

offensive line 4 seasons for Pat Hill's Fresno State Bulldogs from 1999-2002 and recently was the offensive line coach at Fresno City College. He replaces Hector Verduco who resigned to accept a position as an assistant at Edison High.

Schey intends to run a balanced offense featuring a power running game. He says, "It will consist of simple and effective blocking schemes in order to maximize our players ability on the football field, and we'll combine it with a play action passing game to take advantage of what the defenses will give us".

He said "the team is working hard and doing a great job of rising to the levels of what we expect from them on campus in school, as well as on the football field".

He intends to get the football team living up to the great tradition of the "School of Champions" and do it with players that have a focus on their education.

"We've taken what would have been 40 athletically ineligible students at the end of the last school year and reduced that number down to only 4 as we begin this new season." That was accomplished with an athletic tutorial program and summer school so students could be eligible to participate this fall on the football team.

Paris Gaines, another familiar name to Bulldog football fans, who ran through many holes opened up by Schey while they both were in college, will be assisting his old teammate by teaching Warrior running backs this season many of the things he learned during his football career at Fresno State.

Schey knows of the historic success of Fresno High football in what now seems like a very distant past, and is determined to do what he can to return the football program to a competitive position of respect in The Valley.

With the exception of the Ray Reyes coached 2004 football team, it has been a long wait for Warrior football faithful to have something special to get excited about. "Big Joe" Schey begins taking on the formidable challenge of turning it around this season.

Bulldog coach Pat Hill said "Joe Schey is a fine young man. He'll not only teach his players at Fresno High how to compete on the football field, he'll also give them lessons in life"

Good luck, coach, and GO WARRIORS!

## **Fresno High School Yearbooks**

*By Jackie Garo Boyajian  
Class of 1960*

In our last newsletter, I put out a call for yearbooks that may not be needed any longer by family or alumni for one reason or another. I am so happy to report that the Alumni Association was made a gift of yearbooks from a favorite teacher – Ruth Dahmer. Mrs. Dahmer's daughter, Ruth Ragsdale, from the class of 1968 has shared several of her mother's collection of yearbooks. So, be watching the website to see if maybe one from your class may be there – for sale.

As time goes by after graduation, yearbooks are lost due to many different reasons and now upon returning for a reunion, people are looking to replace them. We want to help with that search.

So – PLEASE – if you find you have one or more that you feel could be passed on, give us a call or send an email. We're happy to have them to give back to those who would love to replace them.

You can call or email me: Jackie Garo Boyajian – (559) 224-6643, [jfb15@live.com](mailto:jfb15@live.com).

## **Class Updates**

Each newsletter we will use this column to let alumni know what is going on with classes which have

let us in on some of their plans. Details and contact information are posted on the Fresno High Alumni website at [www.FresnoHighAlumni.com](http://www.FresnoHighAlumni.com) at Classes>Reunions>Future.



Class of 1951 -

Celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> reunion on September 17, 2011

Class of 1956 – Celebrating 55<sup>th</sup> reunion on October 22, 2011

Class of 1961 – Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on October 1, 2011

Class of 1971 – Celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on August 13, 2011

Class of 1981 – Celebrating 30<sup>th</sup> reunion on August 20, 2011

Class of 1991 – Celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> reunion on September 24, 2011

Class of 2001 – Celebrating 10<sup>th</sup> reunion on August 20, 2011

Class of 1952 – Celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> reunion on May 8, 2012

Class of 1962 – Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on October 13, 2012

Class of 1957 -



Celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> reunion with a seven night Alaskan cruise planned for July 22, 2012. They have invited classes 1955 through 1959 who attended the same time they were at Fresno High to join them. Prices and confirmation dates change often so check on the web site for most current.

## Fresno High Holiday Home Tour

By Bob Reyes  
Newsletter Editor

Interested in seeing some of the original homes that are part of the historic Fresno High neighborhood? Then attending the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Fresno High Holiday Home Tour is a must. Visit these charming homes that continue to preserve the rich heritage of the Fresno High

community. Proceeds from the ticket sales benefit the students of Fresno High School by providing annual scholarships to graduating seniors, campus beautification projects, and support of athletics, academic, and extra-curricular activities.

The 16th Annual Fresno High Holiday Home Tour will take place on December 5, 2011, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale on Oct. 1, 2011. For further information or to purchase tickets go to [www.fresnohighhometour.com](http://www.fresnohighhometour.com).

## Wall of Champions Dinner Set for October 12th

By Dave Brase  
Class of 1959

On Wednesday, October 12, the fifth annual FHS Wall of Champions dinner will be held at Pardini's restaurant on Shaw Avenue starting with a no-host bar at 5:30 PM and dinner scheduled at 7:00 PM. Inducted into the Wall of Champions will be an additional nine Fresno High Athletes and the 1987 Valley Championship baseball team.

The 2011 individual inductees are:

**Julian Bailey** 1988 All-American water polo player at Cal  
**Kristin Clague** 1988 Set many Fresno High swim records, Yale varsity

**Phillip Conley** 1952 Member of 1956 US Olympic Team (javelin)

**Allen Cropsey** 1946 Overcame losing arm, Selma baseball coach 34 years

**Monte Doris** 1970 3 Sports FHS. USC '72 National Champ football team

**Bruce Farris** 1945 52 years Fresno Bee Sportswriter

**Vance Stanley** 1964 to 1973 FHS football coach 2 Valley Championships

**Scott Steele** 1976 Multi Sports at FHS. B'nai B'rith award winner

**Tom Thaxter** 1953 UCLA 1954 National Champ football team



The Athletic Wall of Champions video display in Royce Hall is complete and will be available starting this fall to give present and future students a chance to see the athletic video history of the athletes and teams that helped make Fresno High "The School of Champions."

Dinner tickets are \$40 each and are available at The Store at: [www.FresnoHighAlumni.com](http://www.FresnoHighAlumni.com)

## Scheduled Reunions

By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward  
Class of 1958

**Class of 1951:** Reunion on September 16, 2011, Elk's Lodge, 5:30 p.m. Contact Karen Adams Shepard, 448-0155, [racquetmom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:racquetmom@sbcglobal.net)

**Class of 1952:** Reunion on May 8, 2012

**Class of 1956:** Reunion on October 22, 2011, San Joaquin Country Club. Contact Donna Avakian Robinson, 438-5372, [maedonna@comcast.net](mailto:maedonna@comcast.net)

**Class of 1961:** Reunion on September 30 through October 2, 2011, Fort Washington Country Club on Oct. 1 and Fresno High on Oct. 2. Contact Tim Moore, 277-1838, [tim\\_01@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_01@hotmail.com)

**Class of 1962:** Reunion on October 13, 2012

**Class of 1991:** Reunion on September 24, 2011, Dante Club, 6:00 p.m. Contact Amy Martin Lore, 325-0947, [amylorepus4@gmail.com](mailto:amylorepus4@gmail.com)

**Class of 2001:** Reunion on October 8, 2011 (this is a date change), Vene Vidi Vici, 6:00 p.m. Contact Jennifer Jones Collier, 352-3207, [Jennifercollier1982@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifercollier1982@gmail.com)

If a committee wants to have a tour of the school and it's on a day the custodian is there, there is no cost. If guides are needed: ROTC, Leadership, etc. the committee will donate a nominal fee to the group.

## **Fresno High Building Plans "Back to the Future"**

*By Bob Reyes  
Newsletter Editor*

As Fresno High looks forward to its next 20 years, Fresno Unified worked closely with a Fresno High committee and Principal Adrian Palazuelos last year to get input on possible campus changes which would become part of the district's Master Plan for Fresno High in the future. The committee was comprised of parents, alumni, staff, students, community members, and current and past principals. Meetings with all Fresno High stakeholders were held throughout the 2010-2011 school year to fine-tune the recommendations which then went to the district architectural firm for conceptual drawings of how future changes might look on the campus.

In the spring of 2011 those conceptual drawings were presented to all stakeholders at a well-publicized meeting held on the Fresno High campus. After getting additional comments from this audience, the district proceeded to apply for special state funding that would accomplish the vision and goals for what the Fresno High campus would look like in the future.

Currently, these architectural plans, after receiving approval from the Board of Trustees and

the District, are now at the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for state approval. Additionally, the district has applied to the state for funding through the Overcrowded Relief Grant or ORG which is meant to relieve overcrowded campuses that are impacted by high numbers of portable classrooms on a campus.

One of the most talked about goals was to take the campus "look" closer to the original 1922 style of the campus with its emphasis on classical architecture with its many columns and symmetrical design. Modernized in 1971, Fresno High lost both LeConte and Palmer Halls which matched exactly the architecture of Royce Hall. LeConte and Palmer Halls were then replaced with North Academic Hall and South Academic Hall. In addition a new administration building and library were built where the original circular driveway with its trees and expansive lawn framed the front of the campus. Our alumni who attended Fresno High before 1971 have continued to refer to the 1971 "modernized" buildings as the "bunkers". Architecturally, the 1971 buildings did nothing to complement Royce Hall but did much more to continue to endear this last vestige of the original campus to all those who were fortunate to attend Fresno High prior to 1971.

But the district's architectural firm of TAM+CA Architects managed to capture the essence of the original Echo campus in their vision of the future buildings to replace the "bunkers." It is no coincidence that principal partner Martin Temple, a graduate of Fresno High, and principal partner Jacky Chan, who is married to Fresno High alumnus, Pauline Dunn, are major partners in the firm that designed the "new" look for Fresno High.

Imagine both the administration building and library building removed from the front of the

campus, opening up a more expansive view of Royce Hall. Further imagine a large grass area now in front of Royce Hall, replicating part of the old circular driveway look. The new master plan would also call for a new two-story administrative building to be built in front of the North Academic Hall, including 10 classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and a large first-floor classroom on the south side of the building that would become the new Senate meeting area. This would allow Senators to park in the adjacent parking lot and walk directly to the "Senate" room.

A new two-story library would be built in front of South Academic Hall, and would include counseling offices, meeting areas, and 10 additional classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Most of the current relocatable classrooms on the south side of the campus and next to the varsity baseball diamond would be removed because of new classrooms that would be part of the new administrative and library buildings.

Both the new administrative building and library building would also retain elements that would allow both to complement the focal point of the campus, Royce Hall. White trim on both buildings and windows similar to the front of Royce Hall would carry out some of the best features of Royce Hall to the new buildings on campus.

Future Master Plan goals for the campus would include the replacement of North and South Academic Halls with two-story buildings designed to again complement the architectural features on Royce Hall. By using two-story buildings, the "footprint" of each building would be much smaller, creating more green-space on campus. At 34 acres, Fresno High has the smallest acreage of the 7 comprehensive high schools. Funding for this future project would depend on

the district's future bond measures.

All in all, the District and the Fresno High community have worked together to come up with a master plan that will not only complement but also enhance the original architectural design of the campus. Simply said, Royce Hall will continue to be the focal point of Fresno High, and all future buildings will be designed to complement and enhance the original design of the campus.

### **Alumni Association Has Donated over**

## **\$100,000 to Fresno High**

*By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward  
Class of 1958*

Over the years your Fresno High Alumni Association has maintained its mission to continue to support the school that has been so important to the lives of every student who has graduated from this campus. Through its fundraising efforts and your generous donations, the Fresno High Alumni Association has contributed over \$58,400 over the last 4 years to support athletics,

academic, and extra-curricular activities at Fresno High.

2010-2011 - \$13,025.00  
2009-2010 - \$12,985.59  
2008-2009 - \$14,502.00  
2007-2008 - \$17,892.90

The Alumni Association is currently reviewing its donations from 2001 through 2006 to get accurate figures of its donations for the first 6 years. Those donations could very well push the total donations to Fresno High over \$100,000 since the Fresno High Alumni Association was formed.

**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

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

N

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**

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