

MUSTANG MEMORIES

This fall, San Dieguito High School Academy begins an anniversary year, marking 75 years of excellence in public education. Please join us as we celebrate!

Spring 2011

<http://sdafoundation.com/alumni>

Vol. 4, Issue 1

Looking for a party?

Reunions and other alumni events...

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Notable passings

San Dieguito will never forget two beloved coaches: Grant Gaunce and Fritz Muhlethaler...

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We give up—what is it?

Grading for the Performing Arts Center uncovered two structures that have been hidden underground at San Dieguito for several decades.

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Our Bell Tower

Students and staff were horrified when a wrecking crew came gunning for our bell tower.

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Where did we put that darn time capsule?

Unfortunately, more than one time capsule has disappeared at San Dieguito. How can we prevent it from happening again?

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Facebook

The days of paying good money to find and reconnect with your classmates are long gone.



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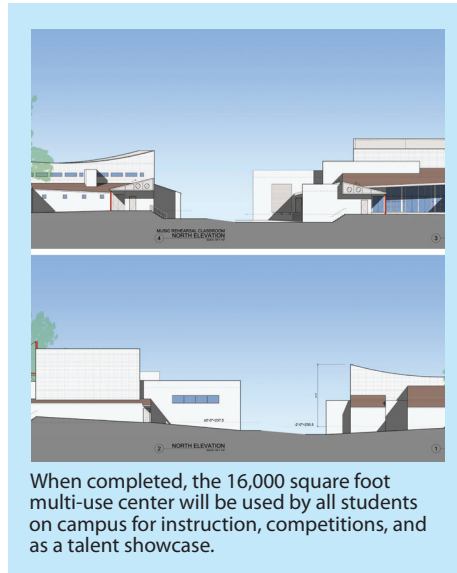
Performing Arts Center

It's almost completed—just in time for San Dieguito's 75th anniversary.

San Dieguito High School Academy constantly battles the effects of its 75 years. In the last decade, school administrators had to face the fact that our arts programs facilities no longer allowed our school to meet the new visual and performing arts prerequisites for the California State University and University of California.

For example, the Roundabout Theatre has inadequate areas for performance, dressing rooms, seating, technical support and equipment storage. Our music students must practice in the student center/cafeteria, their instruments stored in a drafty steel shipping container. Concerts must be held off-site, typically at other schools.

To resolve these issues, SDUHSD planned to build a free-standing theatre on campus. An advisory committee of students, faculty and community members recommended an expanded Performing Arts Center, a plan the



When completed, the 16,000 square foot multi-use center will be used by all students on campus for instruction, competitions, and as a talent showcase.

district approved and for which it committed half of the estimated cost of \$9 million.

Featuring advanced technology and modern design, the new Performing Arts Center will provide career-track students with a stronger base of experience and a wider range of career options. All students will pass through its doors for classes, performances and competitions. Members of the community will attend adult education classes, seminars and performances by community groups.

The center is a one-story 16,000 sq. foot facility. The state-of-the-art music wing has a 3,700 square foot rehearsal space, six sound-proof practice rooms, a music library, an instrument storage room, and a recording arts classroom.

The Clayton E. Liggett Theatre wing has a 280-seat flexible stage, a scenery classroom, green room and dressing rooms, and library/office space. Named after our late drama teacher who taught from 1966 through 1985, the theatre will feature a "black box" format similar to the lauded Potiker Theater plan at the La Jolla Playhouse.

Our parents are working hard to raise the remaining funds to furnish and equip the new center before its completion this summer. On March 20, parent and alumnus Peter Sprague ('74) gave a concert that raised several thousand dollars toward our final goal. We can hardly wait to showcase Peter Sprague's talents in the completed theatre when it opens Fall 2011!

We hope you'll consider making a gift to our Performing Arts Center. Your contribution will help design a dynamic venue in which students and the community can flourish: a performing arts structure that can meet the needs of our school for the next 75 years.

facebook

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

We often get requests from alumni asking for help in locating missing classmates, requests that provide us with wonderful opportunities to reunite old friends.*

We believe these services may soon be obsolete, however, thanks to Facebook; not only is it free and easy to use, but it is also so extremely popular that your odds of finding other alumni are greatly increased.

Reunion-planning on Facebook is less expensive, too because you can save money on printing and postage. And if a classmate moves or even changes his or her email address, their Facebook account typically will remain the same, so your contact lists shouldn't need updating as frequently.

If you haven't explored Facebook yet, give it a try. While you're there, please visit the San Dieguito High School Academy Alumni page, located at <http://tinyurl.com/45hrvox>, or by visiting the alumni website at <http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/> and clicking on the Facebook link. (Don't forget to click the "like" button when you're there!)

Until we meet online,
Go, Mustangs!

**We will never give out your contact information without your permission. If someone is looking for you, we will provide you with the seeker's contact information, but we leave it up to you to respond or not.*

Would you like to help the Alumni Association save money on printing and postage?

Send us your email address, and we will send you a link to a digital copy of Mustang Memories!

We will never sell or trade your contact information, nor will we spam you. We will, however, share it with your registered class representative for reunion-planning.

Write to sda.alumni@gmail.com and let us know your name at graduation, your current name, and your class year.

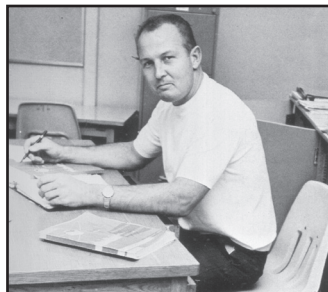
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Coach Grant Gaunce

Grant Murray Gaunce Jr., 81 of La Costa, California, died Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

Born on October 16, 1929 in Los Angeles, California, Grant is survived by his wife of 39 years Susan Chapman Gaunce and by his children Grant

"C h i p" Gaunce, April Pasko, James Tigre Gaunce, Wisti Nelson, Kevin Livingston, Meghan Ling and James Livingston. He was preceded in death by his son Michael Rocké Gaunce.



Coach Gaunce
1969 Hoofprint

Grant grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1953, where he also played football for the Gauchos. He stayed on at UCSB and obtained his teaching credential and coached football for the Gauchos.

He taught and coached athletics for over 30 years and was a Head Football Coach and Athletic Director for the San Dieguito High School Mustangs. "Coach Gaunce" was known for his tough coaching style, ever-present keys and whistle hanging around his neck, pencil behind the ear and clip board in hand as he patrolled the Mustangs' sidelines. He retired in 1990, enjoying watching football, fishing, golf, and watching his children and grandchildren in their various sports and activities.

—Submitted by family members.

Coach "Fritz" Muhlethaler ('62)

Walter Frederick "Fritz" Muhlethaler died peace-fully on Saturday, February 26, 2011, surrounded by his family and friends.

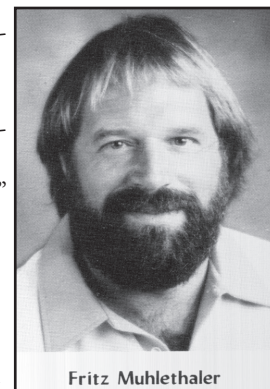
He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on June 21, 1944 and resided in North County San Diego since 1950. He graduated from San Dieguito High School in 1962, where he was a three-sport star competing in football, wrestling, and track. Subsequently, he earned his BA from Cal Poly Pomona and later his Masters Degree from Long Beach State University.

He dedicated the next 36 years of his life mentoring and molding thousands of students in English, weightlifting and on his athletic teams. He also earned several distinguished coaching awards in Southern California. Known as "The Big Man" because of his size and strength, Fritz was as kind and intelligent as he was powerful.

Concluding a teaching and coaching career that spanned four decades at Norco, San Dieguito, and La Costa Canyon High Schools, Fritz retired in 2007.

Fritz is survived by his wife of 42 years, Judy; son, Matthew (Jennifer); grandson, Vaughn; son, Nathan; brother, Marc; and his nieces, Jennifer and Nicole.

—Submitted by friends of Coach Fritz



Fritz Muhlethaler
Coach "Fritz"
1986 Hoofprint

If we could save time in a bottle—and remember where we put it

It seemed like a good idea way back when: write some letters to the future, collect a few artifacts, put them all in a time capsule, and bury it on campus for a future reunion.

Fast forward to that special reunion, and nobody remembers where the capsule was buried! Or perhaps they do remember—but what was a grassy area is now paved, or there is a new building standing where the capsule was buried. What to do?

We've lost too many time capsules here at San Dieguito— let's not lose any more! From now on, we'll "bury" our time capsules in the rebuilt bell tower. This will keep them safe from water seepage and not require expensive digging through pavement to reach them.

Perhaps we can still recover some of our old capsules—with your help. If you know where your class buried your time capsule, please drop us a line and tell us where it is. Write to sda.alumni@gmail.com or SDAF-Alumni Association, PO Box 235109, Encinitas, CA 92023-5109. If you have a newspaper clipping or photograph of the time capsule ceremony, we'd love a copy of it, too, as it will help us identify the location. (If your class dug up your capsule already, we'd like to know that, too.)





San Dieguito's faculty, staff and students were shocked when a wrecking crew showed up on campus to demolish our bell tower.



The Bell Tower Rescue Squad: l-r: Kevin Shaw ('10), Woods teacher Jeff Germano, Principal Mike Grove, and Metals teacher Jason Berend.



Part of the fresh-water cistern uncovered during recent grading on campus. An old road was also uncovered and had to be removed.

Bell Tower attacked!

When alumni asked us if the construction of the Performing Arts Center required tearing down the bell tower, we told them it didn't. All architectural designs included the bell tower, and it was always our understanding that it would be preserved.

Unbeknownst to us, a routine school district inspection found that the tower was in a state of disintegration, in violation of current building codes, and a safety hazard to students.

Rumors about this determination had reached the Alumni Association but had not been confirmed, which is why, on April 23, 2010, it was a quite a shock to receive an emergency phone call informing us that our bell tower was in the process of being torn down.

I committed several traffic violations in my hurry to get to school—where I found a small crowd of students and parents gathered around some heavy equipment. The cupola part of the bell tower—still containing our bell—was in the grip of a forklift.

Principal Michael Grove showed up minutes later (after breaking a few speed laws himself) and immediately put a stop to the demolition.

As the cupola containing the bell had been damaged during its removal from the tower, Mr. Grove asked the workers to carry it to the Wood Shop area. Our Metals teacher, Jason Berend, our Woods teacher, Jeff Germano, and student Kevin Shaw ('10) spent the rest of the day carefully removing the "Spirit of San Dieguito" bell.

After removing the bell, staff placed it in the Principal's Office for safe-keeping and display. Mr. Germano then repaired the cupola in order for it to be put back on the tower—so our seniors would not have to graduate under the specter of a decapitated landmark.

The Alumni Association soon received copies of plans for the rebuilt tower. These plans show a tower that looks much like the original, minus the louvers that were installed in the late 1980s to hide the bell from thieves. As an alternative, the new design uses plexiglass

panels to protect the bell.

Mr. Grove hopes the plexiglass panels will not be necessary after seeing firsthand how difficult it is to remove the bell once it's properly installed in the cupola. Instead, he hopes to rebuild the tower as it was originally designed so that all may see and hear the bell.

After graduation, a maintenance crew carefully dismantled the tower, saving as many of the bricks as possible for incorporation in the new tower. I watched the process and can confirm that the structure underneath the tower was crumbling and termite-ridden.

No matter what the condition of our tower, it was a bitter blow to lose it on the eve of its 50th year. Our consolation was that it would be rebuilt, using materials from the original. We planned a fall rededication ceremony, in which we'd place a commemorative plaque on the rebuilt tower.

While working on this project with Ila Decker Piel, 1961's class representative and chair of the 1986 committee that installed "The Spirit of San Dieguito," we received more bad news: the school district cut funding to rebuild our tower as a cost-saving measure.

Students are determined not to lose their tower, however, and started a "Bring Back the Bell Tower" fundraising campaign. Alumni can help this effort by donating construction expertise, materials or funds.

"The bell tower holds a special place in the hearts and memories of many of our alumni, our staff, and students," wrote Mr. Grove in an email to all San Dieguito faculty and staff. "Despite its current state of disrepair, we want to treat that history with respect as we make plans to include the bell and tower in San

Dieguito's future and build new traditions around a working bell tower."

If you'd like to help "Bring Back the Bell," send your contribution to SDAF-Bell, PO Box 235109, Encinitas, CA 235109 or visit <http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/>.

—Bonnie Wren, Alumni Coordinator

Old structures uncovered

During the grading process for the Performing Arts Center, the district's contractor, Barnhart Balfour-Beatty, uncovered two architectural artifacts from San Dieguito's past.

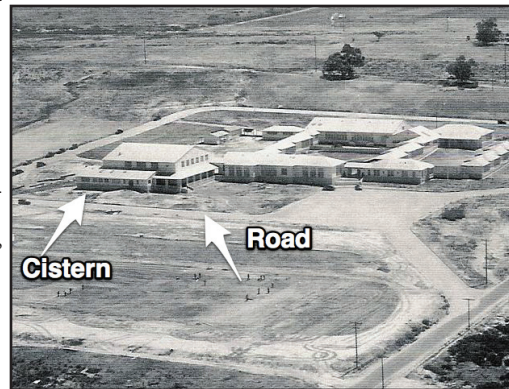
The first find was a buried road running north and south, from the entrance of the main parking lot up to the area immediately west of the locker rooms. According to J. Grace Chan, Barnhart Balfour-Beatty's Project Manager, the road was approximately 30-35 feet across.

The second find was a cistern. Chan said they initially feared it was a septic tank, which would have required an expensive cleanup process to protect the environment, but testing identified the structure as a fresh water cistern.

Chan gave the dimensions of the cistern as being approximately 25 feet east to west, and approximately 30 feet north to south. The shallowest end was 8 feet, and the deepest was much larger than that, going quite a ways under ground.

The construction crew knocked down as much of the cistern as possible and left the deepest parts buried.

You may see more photos of the road and the cistern on the alumni website located at <http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/>.



San Dieguito circa 1937. The left arrow indicates the approximate location of the recently uncovered cistern; the right arrow indicates the buried road.

Alumni Calendar

Join us this September as we kick off our year-long 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Please visit our website at <http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/> for last-minute updates and news.

The Moonlight Beach Reunion Tour

(Multi-year reunion). May 28, 6pm. Mr. Peabody's, 136 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas. Email moonlightbeachreuniontour@hotmail.com for more info.

Reunion for Classes of 1937-1941.

Reunion committee is still working on the details, please call 760-753-1121 x5085 for more info.

Class of 1952

Can it be 60 years? Pete Kneedler is working on a reunion scheduled for 2012. Please email him at petesuzi2001@netzero.com or call (916) 480-9553.

Class of 1961

Sept. 16, 17 and 18; details still in the works but reunion will include a meet-and-greet and all-day barbecue. Call Ila Decker Piel (760) 753-2095 for more info.

Class of 1966

Jul. 23 at San Dieguito Park. Email Richard Houk rlhouk@pacbell.net or visit <http://sandieguitohighreunion1966.myevent.com>

Class of 1971

Tentative date set for August. Please let your reunion committee know if you'd like to go! Email john-boymeyer@hotmail.com for more information.

Class of 1981

Jul. 29: Pre-reunion at Carlsbad Sheraton Bar & Grill. July 39: Reunion location to be announced. July 31: Beach day! Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6dakaon>.

Class of 1986 Jul. 30, 5 to 7 pm. Yogi's Beach Bar & Restaurant in Cardiff. Visit Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/3f92rlp>



The start of a musical tradition: San Dieguito High School 1937

Student orchestra as pictured in the 1937 Hoofprint

com/3f92rlp to RSVP or email kschneringer@waxie.com.

Class of 1991

Jul. 30, 7 pm. The Bristol Hotel, San Diego. Call Reunion Specialists (760) 721-0525 to RSVP.

Support your school!

Donate time: Work with your class on a reunion committee or as a class representative. Serve on a school advisory board. Provide career advice and your life experiences to students in classroom settings. Collect and track San Dieguito memorabilia and memories. Join an alumni community service group. Join the San Dieguito Alumni Committee.

Donate memorabilia: We are looking for original commencement lists and graduation programs, original film (or good quality tape) of "San Dieguito High School: Those Early Years" and the original film (or good quality tape) of the school groundbreaking filmed on January 11, 1937. We are also looking for original *Mustang* newspapers (and local newspaper clippings) about the school prior to 1997, as well as report cards, pink slips, employee manuals, etc.

Donate dollars: Make your checks out to SDAF and send to PO Box 235109, Encinitas, Ca 92023-5109. (If you'd like to indicate a specific program, group, club, or some other use for your gift, let us know in the memo.) [Or donate securely online with PayPal](#) and indicate your gift preferences in the special instructions box. Go, Mustangs!

Donate



The Alumni Association is part of the San Dieguito Academy Foundation, a 501(c) non-profit organization which supports the students and programs of San Dieguito High School Academy by fundraising and promoting active parental and community involvement.

The *Mustang Memories* alumni newsletter is published to encourage alumni interest in San Dieguito High School Academy and help alumni reconnect with each other. Your donations can help defray mailing costs and support student programs.

Contact us for more information:

SDA Foundation

800 Santa Fe Avenue
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 753-1121, ext. 5085
sda.alumni@gmail.com

Executive Director: Sheila Durkin
Mustang Memories Editor: Bonnie Wren

Donate a special gift. The Pension Protection Act allows you to make a tax-free distribution from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) to SDA Foundation if you are at least 70 1/2-years old. Call (760) 753-1121, x5152 for more information.