

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS MUSTANG MEMORIES

Winter 2016-17

<http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/>

Vol. 10, Issue 1

Take a look at some of the reunions held this year!



See pages 5, 6 and 8

Butch ('59) and Carolyn Stillman pose at the 1959 gathering at Tony's Jacal

John Fairchild ('61) returns to San Dieguito



See page 3

Principal Bjorn Paige, John Fairchild, and Athletic Director Scott Jordan

Get your tickets to see THE MIDDLE OF IT by Paul Coates ('76)

See page 4



Tom Dempsey Day proclaimed by City of Encinitas at San Dieguito's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

San Dieguito celebrated Tom Dempsey ('64) on Friday, October 14th in a Hall of Fame Induction ceremony that also recognized Tom's wife, Carlene, their children and grandchildren, Tom's sister Jan, and other family members.

After Principal Paige welcomed the large audience, Encinitas Councilman Tony Kranz ('77) spoke of how Tom was a childhood hero to him and his friends. Tony then presented Encinitas Mayor Kristin Gaspar's proclamation to the Dempsey family, declaring Oct 14th to be "Tom Dempsey Day".

Tom's classmate and friend, Bill Sullivan ('64) then spoke to the crowd on behalf of Tom's family, remembering Tom's "never give up" personality, his many friendships, and his athletic career.

Midway through his remarks Bill called on friend Charlie Higgins ('64) to bring up a boom box and

play a recording of the radio broadcast of the game in which Tom made his record-setting 63-yard kick.

Charlie's boom box became a time machine, bringing everyone back

to Tulane Stadium on November 8, 1970. With mere seconds left in the game, the Detroit Lions were leading the New Orleans Saints 17-16. As the Saints' coach sent Tom to kick the field goal, the radio announcer dismissed the possibility that anyone could kick the ball far enough because no one had ever kicked the ball that far.

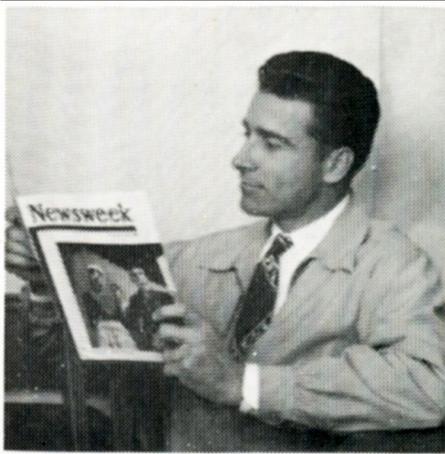
"Two seconds left, here's the snap," said the announcer. "Dempsey kicks, it's on the way, it is... good! It is good! The Saints have won! The Saints have won! The stadium is wild, Dempsey is being mobbed!"

As the 1970 crowd in the recording shouted and cheered, so did the 2016 audience sitting behind Tom's family. It was a fun moment, celebrating the best-known achievement in a life that was filled with greatness.

You may view more photos here: <http://wp.me/pMFRS-1Kp>.



The Dempsey Family: Dylan, Ashley, Toby, Meghan and wife Carlene. The Alumni Association presented them with miniature versions of Tom's Hall of Fame brick.



Lawrence Knechtel
U. S. History -
Counseling Coordinator

Thank you, Uncle Larry

Rosalie Zurcher Marr ('54) got a huge social boost when her extremely handsome uncle, Lawrence Knechtel ('40) started teaching at San Dieguito. "I never had as many girlfriends as I did when Uncle Larry taught at my school," she told us.

While he was a student at San Dieguito, Lawrence Knechtel kept many copies of the *Observer*, the San Dieguito student newspaper he helped produce.

This fall Rosalie presented that collection, which ranges between 1937 and 1940, to the Alumni Association. This donation significantly boosts our collection of student newspapers, which has very few newspapers dated prior to 1996.

According to his obituary, Dr. Knechtel earned a bachelor's degree from San Diego State, a master's degree from Columbia University and a doctorate in 1973 from United States International University. He served as a photo reconnaissance pilot in the Army Air Forces during World War II and had an acting career in addition to his teaching career. He passed away in 1995.

We are very grateful to Uncle Larry and his niece Rosalie for this wonderful legacy of Mustang history! We plan to digitize the newspapers and put them online sometime this year.

Time capsule opened; contents determined to be from Class of 2000

In our last issue we wrote about the enormous time capsule that was discovered when construction workers tore down the 90s and the 100s buildings. At that time, we did not know the origin of the capsule but assumed it was from the mid-1960s.



Faculty and students examined the contents of the capsule but found nothing that could be salvaged. More photos may be found online.

On May 26 students and faculty gathered in the Media Center to open the capsule. Unfortunately, everything inside was kind of mushy and stunk to high heaven.

A book containing messages from the Class of 2000 was washed out and unreadable. There was a cassette tape, a disposable camera, a rotting t-shirt, a yearbook, one of George Stimson's yearbooks, Mustang newspapers, lots of magazines, and more, but none of it was salvagable.

Luckily, Catherine Bickel Harrison, ('00) had photos of her classmates filling the time capsule and sent copies to the Alumni Association. We posted them online, which you may see here: <http://wp.me/pMFRS-1zg>.

If every alum gave just \$10...

...We could do so much more to protect and preserve the history and traditions of San Dieguito AND help alumni reconnect with their school and with each other.

Thanks to your donations to the Alumni Association via the SDA Foundation, we have been able to:

- Give scholarships to students in the names of the fallen alumni on our campus memorial
- Print and mail *Mustang Memories*
- Hold alumni events (the Founders Reception, the Faculty & Staff Reunion, Hall of Fame Ceremony, etc.)
- Save beloved landmarks like our Metal Mustang, the Bell Tower, and more!

Please consider [donating to the Alumni Association](#) and these other funds:

[SDHS Veterans Scholarship and Fallen Alumni Memorial Fund.](#)

Scholarships are given in May.

[The Metal Mustang Fund.](#) Help us get the Metal Mustang back on the road!

Our [Academics](#), [Athletics](#), [Grad Nite](#), [Music](#), [Theatre Arts](#), or [Visual Arts](#) boosters groups support programs no longer paid for by the state.

[The Mustang Fund](#) addresses the highest priority needs on campus.



Our Metal Mustang

Welcome back, John Fairchild, Class of 1961!

John Fairchild ('61) and his wife Barbara paid a special visit to San Dieguito to meet with our boys basketball team, their coaches, Athletic Director Scott Jordon, and Principal Bjorn Paige!

John gave a great talk about his journey in basketball: from being cut from the ninth grade basketball team to becoming a star at San Dieguito, then his career at Palomar College through his college career at Brigham Young

University.

In 1965 he was the #16 draft pick in the 1965 NBA Draft, taken by the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round. Ultimately he went on to play for the Anaheim Amigos, the Denver Rockets, the Indiana Pacers, and the Kentucky Colonels. He now runs his own business out of Albuquerque, N.M. and still participates in volleyball.

View more photos here: <http://wp.me/pMFRS-1GD>.



Leslie Kulchin Saldana ('84), John Fairchild ('61), Scott Jordon, Athletic Director, and Jason Stewart Boys Basketball Coach



John Fairchild ('61) and SDA Boys Basketball Team. John spoke to the members of the team about his experiences in pro basketball.

"Buns", by Principal Bjorn Paige

Last year San Dieguito alum Mike Koslowski ('74) returned to campus to present the school with a "Golden Football," an honor he earned by playing on the 1982 Miami Dolphins Super Bowl team.

Koz and I met ahead of the ceremony and his stories of San Dieguito in the 1970s were funny, heartfelt, and delivered with a smile. He'd grown up along the coast, played volleyball as well as football while a Mustang, and had a knack for spinning yarns of North County as it was when it still felt very much like a small town.

We filled the library with students on the day he came to officially present the ball, and alumni joined us to welcome Koz home.

As expected, he talked about his athletic pursuits while wearing a Mustang uniform, and the student athletes in the crowd enjoyed hearing about his passion for competition and listening to him describe his winding road to professional success.

Then, about halfway through his talk, Koz paused and asked: "Do they still have those cinnamon buns?" The kids looked at each other, puzzled. Someone offered: "I don't think so..." Koz closed his eyes, bringing back a memory. "You could smell them baking in the cafeteria from all over campus." He smiled. "All through fourth period you

could smell them, and mmmm."

The kids laughed.

Koz went on to describe life on campus during the Nixon administration, a world filled with dress up days, school spirit, and even donkey basketball. Then he paused again and asked: "How about streakers?"

The now very curious crowd shook their collective head.

"I remember guys would run buck nake-"

"Koz," I interjected from the wings. "Let's go back to the other buns. I'd rather have cinnamon rolls on campus than streakers."

Koz beamed.

His memories of San Dieguito in the 1970s are comprehensive and deep, and today, a year after his visit, I remember so clearly his laugh, his love for our school, and the little details of his youth that he was so generous to share.

Much has changed at San Dieguito since Koz walked these breezeways, and much hasn't. Students still play sports, make memories, and "horse around" in ways that would make Koz proud.

We're a school that values our heritage and our alumni and celebrates the traditions that are part of our collective history. I love the school we are today and the energy and enthusiasm our students and staff bring to all they do, though I'd be fibbing if now, after spending some time with Koz, I didn't admit that sometimes as I cross campus I wish that I could smell the scent of cinnamon.

Read more articles and alumni interviews from *Principal Paige's 80th Anniversary Series at bjornpaige.wordpress.com*

Lots for Mustangs to do in the 2nd half of our 80th Anniversary Year!

We can't help it! Dates and times are ALWAYS subject to change. We also expect to add more events. If you are only receiving this print newsletter, you won't have the most timely information. Be sure to check the website for updates or sign up for our [monthly email newsletter](http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/alumni-calendar/) for last-minute changes and additions. <http://sdafoundation.com/alumni/alumni-calendar/>

CLASS REP PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017 @ 5:30 to 7pm on campus

PLEASE RSVP.

Email sda.alumni@gmail.com or visit the website at www.sdafoundation.com/alumni/

THE MIDDLE OF IT by Paul Coates ('76)

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 @ 3pm and 7pm in the Clayton E. Liggett Theatre on campus

First was his award-winning, critically acclaimed world premiere production of THE END OF IT, which premiered on campus.

Then there was PAIN, another Paul Coates world premiere at San Dieguito!



And now there IS THE MIDDLE OF IT, which will be a benefit and fundraiser for the Theatre program at the school.

There will be a general admission ticket of \$35 for the Matinee (3:00 pm) and Evening Performance (7:00 pm), and an extremely limited VIP Experience Ticket for the Evening performance only, for \$135.

The VIP Experience includes priority advance seating, souvenir program, special surprise gifts and passes to the Luxe VIP AFTER PARTY, to celebrate with cast, creatives and others.

Tickets may be purchased at <http://bit.ly/2hLhPAw>.

(To select the VIP option, pick the front row seating when you select your tickets.)

FACULTY & STAFF REUNION

Thursday, Mar. 16, 2017, 3 to 5:00 pm at the library

Every March we hold a reunion for faculty and staff of San Dieguito. This is a great opportunity to catch up with former co-workers--and alumni are invited to attend, too!

This year's reunion is not only the 80th anniversary of the high school, but also the 20th anniversary of the founding of San Dieguito High School Academy. Those alumni from the early days of SDA will definitely want to come to this event and meet up with their favorite teachers, counselors and staff! RSVP to (760) 753-1121, ext. 5085 or email sda.alumni@gmail.com. We will post a list of RSVPs on the website at <http://bit.ly/2h1DaiX>.

EXHIBITION DAY, Friday, May 26, 2017

Students show off everything they do all year long: art, skateboarding, martial arts, music, robotics, crafts, food... this is possibly the best day to visit the campus!

(We will be publishing the time of this event on our alumni calendar and in our [monthly eblast](#).)

SAN DIEGUITO DAY, Friday, June 9, in the Gym

Celebrate the 80th anniversary of the first San Dieguito graduation during the Senior Farewell Assembly in our gym. Email sda.alumni@gmail.com to RSVP.

MUSTANG OPEN REUNION

June 24, 2017 @ 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Charlie's Old Gas Station, downtown Encinitas

Spouses and significant others are welcome. Check-in at 4 pm on SW corner of F Street and South Coast Hwy 101.

CLASS OF 1957 60TH REUNION, weekend of September 8-10

Mary Lou West Baird is planning dinner at Tony's Jacal on Friday the 8th, dinner at a private home Saturday the 9th, and breakfast at a private home Sunday the 10th. Contact Mary Lou at (760) 631-0774. YOU MUST RSVP.



Alumni Chair Ken Harrison ('73) stands with Manuelita Brown and Henry Herms at the 2016 Faculty & Staff Reunion.

Ken wrote, "My favorite teachers, Mr. Herms (Science) and Mrs. Brown (even though it did take me three years to pass her Algebra 1 class.)"

Photos from class reunions and alumni events held in 2016

Not every group who held a reunion or other event in 2016 stopped partying long enough to take a group photo. Thank goodness for those who did, so we can share!



1959 alumni gather at Tony's Jacal Saturday, 9/3/16. Above: Elvira Guerrero, Mr & Mrs John Redikop, Sarah Redikop Take, and Bill Bowman Below: Robert & Lois Swain, John & Muffy Peugh



Left to right in the image above: Beth Van Boxtel ('02), Leslie Kulchin Saldana ('84), Xochitl Cruz ('99), Kurt Bryson ('78), Stacey Sieber ('89), Kevin Taylor ('84), Rick Hall ('81), Nanette Salud Clippinger ('84), Lydell Fleming ('86), Berni Mejia Amador ('76), Gabbi Curtis Wren ('08), Dana Scritchfield Jennings ('75), Yesenia Arvizu ('07), Cindy Korwin Thorpe ('65), Diane Darrough Burton ('62), and Ken Harrison ('73). Not shown: Sandra Thomas ('62) We intend to do this every year from now on!

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

Which teachers inspired you?

We asked alumni to tell us about those teachers who had a significant impact on their lives. Here's what Larry Palmer ('60) had to say. If you'd like to contribute to this column, send us your submission in the enclosed envelope or write sda.alumni@gmail.com

As adults, it sometimes took decades for us to understand the significance of our teachers' lessons. The wisdom of old age, if it exists, comes from finally putting together a few pieces of the puzzle.

Mr. Jay Williams ('42), always the scholar-teacher, emphasized that our pioneer ancestors who crossed the Appalachian Mountains were not ignorant just because some of them were illiterate. More than a half century later, through my genealogy research on Ancestry.com, I discovered the truth in those words. I met Jay Wil-



Jay Harold Williams
Social Science 8 -
Counselor 8

liams several years ago at the Encinitas Senior Center. He was "fit, friendly, and focused" – the highest compliment one senior can give another.

While some may have considered **Coach Ernie Zeno** (1928-2004) to be a jock-teacher, serious students who talked with him in the classroom found that he was also a scholar. I think he enjoyed watching the expressions on the faces of students when they first realized that he knew a lot more than the textbook. He explained how a country or a cause could lose battle after battle, cam-

paigned after campaign, and yet, with the proper strategy and use of resources, eventually win a war.

Mr. Gerald Jordan (1905-1988) was a one-of-a-kind English language expert who took us from the mechanics of our modern language all the way back to the Old English of *Beowulf* and the Middle English of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. He taught college-level rules of syntax, punctuation, and grammar that I have followed from memory for 56 years. I can only laugh out loud when I wonder what he would say about the fractured English of 21st Century social media messages.

Mrs. Ruth Shattuck Young had the cool accent and competence of an upper class New England prep school teacher. "New" is pronounced "nyew," not "nuu." Before I took her classes, I thought people only talked that way in the movies. It was nuu to me. I can still pick out a word or two when I hear Russian. Here's to you, Mrs. Young, *mwee pomneem vass*: "we remember you."

Celebrating our senior alumni at the 2016 Founders Reception

We held our 6th Annual Founder's Reception Friday, October 14th. We had a great turnout of senior alumni from as far back as 1940 as well as younger alumni who joined the party! View more photos here: <http://wp.me/pMFRS-1KG>.



Don Briggs ('46), Al Southworth ('48), Don Balsley ('48) and Joe Balsley ('50)



Bob Bourgeois ('62), Mikio Hamada ('61), Terry Stark ('62)



Jay Williams ('42) points to his picture in the fall 1936 photo of Junior High



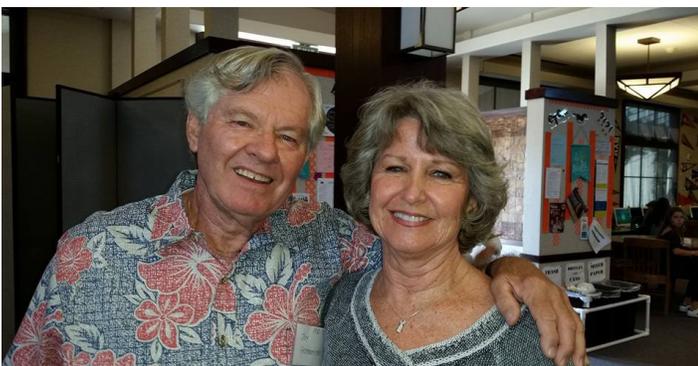
Kieran Zimmer ('18), Austin Dilley ('17), Diane Hall Dunbar ('73), Josephine Navarro White ('50), Debbie Montes ('75)



Principal Bjorn Paige and Mary Magana ('40)



Mike Shoulders ('63), Doug Shoulders ('66)



Jay Helmantoler ('60), Sandy Cook Hawks ('66)



Sue Sieber Cooper ('66), Dan Field ('73)



SAN DIEGUITO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ALUMNI HALL OF FAME /
NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT
NOMINATION FORM

Please provide the following information about the person you wish to recommend for the Alumni Hall of Fame and return to the Alumni Association at the address listed on the back.

Name of Nominee: _____
Year of Nominee's graduation (if they graduated*): _____
Name of Nominee while enrolled at school (if now different): _____
Address of Nominee: _____
City, State, Zip of Nominee: _____
Phone number of Nominee: _____
Email of Nominee: _____

Describe those achievements, accomplishments, or contributions that cause you to nominate the individual named above for Hall of Fame recognition. Use additional paper if needed and attach additional information or supporting materials if necessary (newspaper articles, links to web pages, etc.).

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Name of Nominator: _____
Relationship to Nominee (if any): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone number: _____
Email: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM
BY MARCH 1, 2017 TO:

By Mail:
San Dieguito Academy Foundation
Alumni Association
PO Box 235109
Encinitas, CA 92023

By Email:
sda.alumni@gmail.com

**Many of our alumni did not receive a diploma but still consider themselves alumni. The Alumni Association accepts all former students as alumni.*

The Hall of Fame Committee is sponsored by the San Dieguito Academy Foundation,
a 501(c)3 nonprofit supporting the students and programs of San Dieguito High School Academy

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*This is your high school alumni newsletter!
It contains articles and photos of your
classmates. Please open!*

Photos from San Dieguito class reunions held in 2016



Left: members of the Class of 1966 pose in front of the Victory Bell Tower Friday, 9/25/16, before taking a student-led tour of the campus.

Below, left: the Class of 1976 held their reunion at the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course Saturday, 10/8/16.



Members of the Class of 1986 at the Cape Rey Hotel Saturday, 7/30/16



Members of the Class of 2006 at the Elks Lodge, Encinitas Saturday, 11/26/16

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES [5](#) AND [6](#)