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El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

Newsletter Issue XI

September 2007

Green and White: The Gaucho Story

Great Holiday Gift !!!

Green and White---The Gaucho Story (1941-2005). The DVD chronicles the life and times of the original ECHS. To obtain a DVD, email Dianne Chambers, dianneminard@yahoo.com or Jackie Fonken, j_fonken@hotmail.com. Sponsored by ECHS Archiving Project. All proceeds support the work of archiving and student scholarships. Price: \$25.00.



President's Message

We bring you greetings from ECHS Archiving Committee! As we welcome another new school year, we also welcome the building progress of our new school. In August, the ECHS Archiving Project Committee was honored to be given a private site tour of the new El Cerrito High School construction

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site. What a wonderful experience! The excitement of walking the grounds of our new alma mater before it is completed brings memories of the past and excitement for the future students. We encourage you to drive or stop by the school and visually see and mentally celebrate with us the new future of our alma mater, El Cerrito High School. Share this new sletter and tell other Alumni about the exciting things that the ECHS Archiving Project Committee is doing! Thank you, Patricia (Jones) Durham '68

What's New at El Cerrito High School

El Cerrito High School began the 2007-2008 academic year with a brand new administration. The new principal, Jason Reimann, is a 1993 graduate of ECHS. There are also two new assistant principals, Patricia Crespo and Brenda King-Randle. The school was able to add a third school counselor this year. This new administration is bringing exciting new ideas to the vision of El Cerrito High School embodied in the expression One Culture, One Pride that the administration introduced to the community in a meeting in the temporary campus multi-purpose room on August 13. This theme emphasizes the importance of finding the shared values and celebrating the many different contributions of everyone who contributes to our school community: teachers, parents, staff and students. One Culture, One Pride also means celebrating El Cerrito's legacy of academic excellence, blazing new curricular paths, providing innovative courses and methods of instruction for all students and instilling a sense of pride in our Gaucho past while keeping enthusiastically focused on the future of our students. So ECHS will be strongly focused on finding ways to improve the performance and academic experience of our lowest scoring students as one very important way our school community can improve the cultural environment enjoyed by all students, including our highest performers. Registration was a well organized event this year with lots of help from student and parent volunteers. El Cerrito is one of the few schools in WCCUCD to hold steady in enrollment with 1215 students beginning the year including 292 incoming freshman, 313 sophomores, 288 juniors and 322 students in the class of 2008. The school year itself got off to a great start on August 28 with the greatly appreciated help of the Safety Committee volunteers. The football home opener against Oak Ridge found a big crowd on September 7. The first general meeting of the PTSA took place on September 10 led by new PTSA President, Valerie Bryant. The first Back-to-School Night on September 12 was also very well attended. Homecoming is planned for October 5!

New School Construction [WCCUSD Bond Program](#)



Homecoming *October 5, 2007*

Fall is here and with it comes the traditional Homecoming Day Parade with its procession of student-made floats and marching band flair, all culminating in an exciting football game and a flourish of half time festivities. As with each preceding year, every class will crown their queen and king who will be riding in style ahead of their classes floats. This year's theme is video games and students are hard at work planning and building everything from Super Mario to Sonic the Hedgehog. The parade will be at 1:00 pm starting from El Cerrito High and the football game will be at 7:00pm at ECHS. So please join us on Friday, October 5th and relive those exciting high school years.

Band Uniforms

We Wear the Green Pants! Many thanks to the alumni and ECHS community members who donated over \$5700 to the Gaucho Marching Band uniform fund this year. The University of Oregon turned Gaucho uniforms made their debut at the football season opener on Friday, September 7. The band looked sharp and the students felt great! With the generous donations, volunteers were not only able to replace Oregon patches with El Cerrito ones, but the stained white pants were replaced with new green ones. Notes, calls, and emails that accompanied the donations revealed that the former uniforms were purchased for the 1975-1976 season. That fundraising campaign took about two years and numerous fundraisers that included plant sales, newspaper recycling, a band playing marathon, and a raffle that had a Chevy Nova as the grand prize. Each member of the band at that time was measured and fitted for their uniform, and had their names written inside the jacket. One donor, the '76-'77 drum major and seller of the grand prize winning raffle ticket, hoped to be reunited with his original uniform. A few student volunteers needed only minutes to find his name on the inside of a jacket and have the whole uniform in the mail, back to its original wearer.

Interview with Kent Sanctuary

Class of 1964

Kent Sanctuary directed and edited the film *Green and White: The Gaucho Story* which was shown for the first time in the spring of 2007. The film tells the story of El Cerrito High School from its beginning in 1941 to 2005 when the original building was demolished and a portable transitional campus was built. As a member of the El Cerrito High Class of 1964, Kent is himself a part of that story. Kent was born in Oakland in 1946, the year the baby boomer generation began. He grew up as an only child in Richmond Annex. He attended Fairmont School and Portola Junior High School. After high school, Kent attended Contra Costa College and the former College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of Arts) where he received a BFA in graphic design. After graduation, Kent joined the Army Reserves, serving on active duty for six months. He worked in a variety of jobs before moving in 1977 to Orangevale, near Sacramento, to try something new. For the last twelve years, Kent has worked as a Multimedia Specialist at HealthNet doing video, print media, booth design, and photography. He plans to retire in about four years and move to a house he inherited in El Cerrito. Kent and Diane have two sons, Mark and Jason. Mark and his wife, Amy, have young two sons. Jason and his wife, Jenny, have daughter and son. In thinking about his days at ECHS, Kent remembered feeling special in 9th grade with only half of the 9th graders still at ECHS. The other half had remained at Portola. During that period ECHS was considered to be one of the most prestigious high schools in the Bay Area. The football and basketball teams excelled in the region. In those days, all students took physical education. The freshmen and sophomores wore gray workout shorts. The juniors wore blue and the seniors wore red. Although Kent said he was a book worm and spent a lot of time reading, he was involved in a number of activities. Some of these include the following: Yearbook. In his junior and senior years, Kent worked on the yearbook staff. As a senior, he was the assistant editor. UNESCO. Each year the group represented a country at the model UN at UC Berkeley. Each year there were international dinners which held at various homes. ECHS BOOSTERS. This group planned rallies for football and basketball games. One of Kent's favorite teachers was Mr. McClellan, the yearbook advisor. Another was Miss True, the UNESCO advisor. He took choir one year and played the piano and organ outside of school. Upon arriving at ECHS, Kent felt the excitement of school, which seemed more grown up. He liked the variety of classes, rallies, and different schedules such as classes some days and special events other days. Sometimes singers came to the school programs in the gym. In those days, John Fogert, Class of '63, ran for the commissioner of entertainment and won, saying he would bring more contemporary bands to the school. John's band was called "The Blue Velvets" during those days, although they later became "Creedence Clearwater Revival". Those were the days!

Archiving Scholarships

Our 2007 scholarship recipients are well on their way with their higher education journey! Heather Edgar is attending Contra Costa College, Elizabeth Sanchez at San Francisco State University and JingJing He at UC Berkeley. We are hoping to continue to make these scholarships available to ECHS students. Please watch for special fundraising socials or send a donation of any amount payable to ECHS Archiving Project - Scholarship, 2234 Lupine Rd. Hercules, CA 94547. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee email

lu.tipping@gmail.com

Bricks !!!!

Want to buy a brick? Limited Quantities!

Want to buy a brick? Limited quantities! Support Grad Night 2008 and be part of ECHS Gaucho History!! You are invited to support our school and commemorate the rebuilding of El Cerrito High School by purchasing an inscribed brick. These bricks will be placed on two low walls between the cafeteria and administration buildings in the new campus. We have a limited quantity we can order and a short order timeline (2 months). Orders will be accepted on a first come, first served basis- do not let this opportunity pass you by! We are asking for a \$50.00 donation for each brick. Each brick can be inscribed with up to three lines of text. Each line is limited to 20 characters including spaces and punctuation. Text is subject to reasonable approval. For an order form or more information, contact us at vjcb_1956@yahoo.com or call Valerie Bryant 510- 235-4818. Your donation may be tax deductible.



[Bricks for Sale](#)

Reunion Leaders

Are you a reunion leader for one of our ECHS years? We would like to ask for your help to notify us as to whom the reunion leaders are from each missing year. If you know of a missing alumni chair, please notify David Bilyeu at davidmbilyeu@netzero.com.

1944-Howard Mackey --Howard2201@aol.com

1945- --

1946- --

1947- --

1948-Lee Brown Alice--Tidblgr62@aol.com

1949-Charlie Loyd --CDL1311@juno.com

1950-Harry Hanson --

1950-Nordahl Bonomi Lucy--

1950-Gorrell Carter Patricia--

1951-Lorraine Angel --

1952-Pryde Tezzi Toni--

1953-Weller Miller Barbara-- Eandbweller@aol.com

1953-Don Pryde --

1953-Ray Morris --

1953-Jerry Deuker --

1954-Nancy Teese --

1955-Bill Lawton --whlawton@frontiernet.net

1956-Jackie Fonken --j_fonken@hotmail.com

1957-Hein Fredrick Marlene-- marlene2u6@aol.com,

- Richard Barker--hbrbarker@sbcglobal.net, Bybee Smith Carlyn, Eileen Brooks Gregovich--
ebrooks1@socal.rr.com, Duncan Smith, Richard Krabers

1959-Darrel Kelly --drkelly@uclink.berkeley.edu

1959- Taylor Jim--

1960- Davis Smith Pennie--

1960-Phil Playle --

1960-Arkin Arthur Barbara--

1961-Richard Pryde --richpryde@aol.com

1961-Davis Courtright Bea--

1962-Creech Balas Juanita--rbalas@earthlink.net

1962-Sherry Humphrey --

1963-Mark Bautista --marcusec63@aol.com

1964-Leslie Gadwood --

1964-Jackie Olson --

1965-Dennis Kalis --dkalis@sbcglobal.net

1966-Berry Faccini Sandy-- berrypatch48@hotmail.com

1966-Breazeale Biagi Linda--

1966-Murphy Bradfield Denise--

1967-Roddy Lee --lcp1967@aol.com

1968-Don Wilson --
 1969-Malcolm Sproul --
 1970-Cathy Nielsen --
 1971- --
 1972-Jerry Dagna --jerrydinslo@yahoo.com
 1972-Al Gambetti --
 1973-Dale Myer --ech573@aol.com
 1973-Darrell Clark --
 1974-Belinda Jeffries --
 1975-Robinson Tate Agnes--aggi657@yahoo.com
 1976-Reiss Grunau Nancy-- turtlereiss@hotmail.com
 1977- --
 1978-Bill Reichle --bill@twistsf.com1978
 1978-Anna Smithey --
 1978-Donna Nordahl --
 1979-Adriene Stinson --
 1979-Gina Gallop --
 1980-Karl Pierce --elosito2@aol.com
 1980-hampton Lewis Marilyn-- hampton@acclanes.k12.ca.us
 1981-Denise Hamma --
 1982-Roger Grubb --rogergrubb@comcast.net
 1982-Lisa Larkin --
 1982-Smith McCarthy Charlotte--
 1983-Donald Chew --dnsenterp@home.com
 1983-Lisa Boblitt --
 1984-Eric Hardy --
 1985-Roschelle Jones --
 1985-Jennifer Mitchell --
 1986-Kurt Yoshi --
 1987-Michelle Barrocca -- barroccamm@cooley.com
 1987-Sherman Tucker Trina--ech587@aol.com
 1987-Griffiths Smith Sheldon-- SHELDENG@FASH.NET
 1988-Nicole Jones --bignik@comcast.net
 1989-Amber Smith --
 1990-Larry Fox --larrydafox@hotmail.com
 1990-Christina1990 Lee Hunt--Margie
 1991-McDonald Barton Chakay-- OAKLAND@yahoo.com
 1992-Ranetta Ledet --
 1993-Laivian Coleman -- mrlgcoleman@hotmail.com
 1994-Nancy Quick --nequick@yahoo.com
 1995-Caulkins Rivera Karyn-- karyn_calkins@hotmail.com
 1995- Vivian Lau --VivDog8@aol.com
 1996-Ebony Lewis -- echsclassof1996reunion@yahoo.com
 1997- --
 1998- --
 1999- --
 2000- --
 2001-Brian Anderson --BDOGSS83@aol.com
 2002- --
 2003- --
 2004- --
 2005- --
 Reunion Leaders, To change or add your contact information please email, Roddy Lee--
 ECArchives@aol.com.

[ECHS Alumni Website](#)

How to donate to the ECHS Archiving Project

The ECHS Archiving is need of continuous monetary support! In addition to restoring, preserving and displaying the many artifacts that were saved from the wrecking ball, this year we were also able to give three ECHS seniors \$1000.00 scholarships for college expenses. We would like to continue our work in the future and here is how you can help.

Contact Diane Chambers dianneminard@yahoo.com or just mail your check to; ECHS Archiving Project

2234 Lupine Rd, Hercules, CA 94547. All donations are tax deductible.

Newsletter Subscribers

New sletter Subscribers Increasing! Hey, w hy not pass our new sletter on to other ECHS supporters and ask if they w ant to subscribe. Email ECarchives@aol.com to get on the distribution list!

Museum Help

Museum Excel Help Needed

It is a time consuming and tedious job but it needs to get done in preparation for the labeling of the times to be displayed in the new high school's museum. A curious, detailed person w ill love this job!

If you have any leads, please contact Joann Steck- Bayat at 510 524-9464 or jsbayat@comcast.net.



Follow up Links

- [El Cerrito High School Online](#)
- [The El Cerrito High School Archiving Project](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#)

Executive Board

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El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement:

Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School - Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.

email: ecarchives@aol.com
phone: 510-525-0234

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