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ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

Newsletter Issue XLVI July 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2016

Welcome newly appointed principal Edith Jordan-McCormick to the Gauche Family.

This is a special year in El Cerrito. Our town is 100 years old and our school is 75 years old. We have a beautiful new stadium that will be opening at the beginning of the new school year and hopefully will last for the next 75 years. We hope to see many ECHS grads at the stadium dedication. The exact date will be announced soon.

I want to give a very special Thank You to the ECHS 2016 Graduating Class for donating \$2000 to the Archiving Project Scholarship Fund. That will be 2 - \$1000 scholarships for future graduating seniors. The Archiving Project always accepts donations of any amount for our Scholarship fund. It is a great way to honor family, friends and special occasions or just to be generous.

Everyone have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Jackie Fleming Fonken,
Class of 1956
Call 510-232-9149
j_fonken@hotmail.com

2016 Archiving Project Scholarships

2016
Rebecca Fox
Jonathan Pineda
Anna Tong

We are proud to announce the 2016 ECHS Archiving Scholarship recipients.

Rebecca Fox will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Jonathan Pineda will be going to Contra Costa College. Anna Tong was accepted to UCLA.

These outstanding students were recognized at Senior Awards Night on May 31, 2016. The presentations were delivered by Lu Tipping.. Each student will receive \$1,000.

For the past eleven years, dedicated committee members have found themselves with a difficult challenge to review candidates' qualifications, interview many, and then select only three students from each graduating class.

Thank you to Howard Mackey, Class of '44, Kathie Weinstein '58, parent alumnus '82, '87, Roddy Lee'67, parent alumnus '97, '00, Jackie Fonken, '56, Gregg Mayer '76, parent alumnus, Bobbi Griggs '72, Lu Tipping, parent alumnus '96, '98, '03, Joann Steck-Bayat, parent alumnus '02, '05, Donna Houser, parent alumnus '04, '08, '11 and Moses Henriquez, Career Center advisor.

Thank You to the ECHS 2016 Graduating Class for donating \$2000 to the Archiving Project Scholarship Fund.

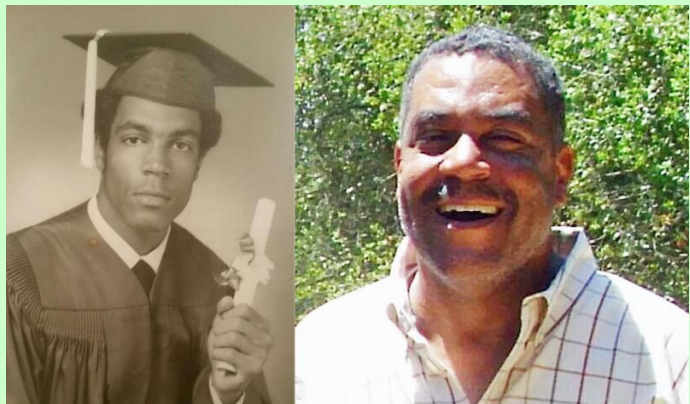
Thank you to all who support this much-needed scholarship project. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. All donations of any amount are welcome! Make checks payable to ECHS Archiving Project, note "Scholarships" on the memo line, and mail to: ECHS Archiving Project c/o Dianne Chambers 2234 Lupine Road Hercules, CA 94547.

2015	2011	2008
Lavonia Bobo	Christopher Bennett	Ethan Houser
Maggie Li	Lea Roberts	Christina Mills
Oghenefejiro Etibo	Brionna White	Liliana Rojas
2014	2010	2007

Gauche Alumni

What's happening at ECHS JMP.....

"Mindful Youth Leadership Transforming School Culture at El Cerrito High School"



Editor's Note: Some ECHS graduates are inspired and others are inspiring. I think you will agree that ECHS 1972 graduate Oscar Blackwell, Jr.'s story is both. If you have a story to share, please forward to: jsbayat1@comcast.net.

Life Lessons: Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles

By Oscar Blackwell, Jr. ECHS '72

Background

Growing up, my mother was a struggling single woman raising three children on her own. We were living in the City of Richmond. I was 8 years old when I was tested at school and diagnosed as having a learning disability. It was difficult learning how to read and write in school, and I felt uncomfortable in the classroom.

Being labeled with a learning disability affected my self-confidence, and as a result, I did not do well throughout elementary school and middle school. I needed something to balance my life that made me feel good about myself. I enjoyed playing sports, especially baseball, as I transitioned into high school.

El Cerrito High School

During my sophomore year in high school, I had problems with attendance and grades, so this meant I was ineligible to play sports. Because of this, I had a meeting with the Dean of Boys, Mr. Bowles. We talked about my attendance and grades, and he suggested that I think about transferring to a continuation high school. That definitely was not the school for me! The conversation with Mr. Bowles was a wakeup call to turn my life around and work hard toward graduation from El Cerrito High School in 1972.

As a result of the conversation with Mr. Bowles, in my junior year, I was determined to work hard at improving my attendance and on raising my grades. Making this dedicated change meant I was eligible to play sports that year. After my junior year, I attended summer school to earn credits I still needed.

I was looking forward to my senior year and I continued to stay focused on my grades. I even enrolled in one extra class to make sure I graduated on time.

I was also looking forward to being a member of the El Cerrito High School Varsity Baseball team. That year, we had a good baseball season and won the A.C.A.L. Baseball Championship. After graduation from El Cerrito High School, I was asked by Coach Quirico to play summer baseball for the El Cerrito American Legion team. We had a special team that year. We won the District, Area, State and Western Regionals and advanced to the 1972 American Legion's World Series that was held in Memphis, Tennessee. The summer of 1972 was the highlight of my baseball career!

After coming back home from the World Series, I enrolled at Contra Costa College and was a member of the 1974 Baseball Championship team. I was being recruited by the U.C. Berkeley Baseball program. After being referred to a U.C. Academic Advisor, I learned that I needed three more transfer classes before I could be accepted at Berkeley and enter the U.C. Berkeley Baseball program. So I enrolled at Alameda College, passed the required classes, and was accepted and enrolled at U.C. Berkeley in the spring quarter of 1975.

Joshua Ko	Ian Birnam	Heather Edgar
Diego Murillo	Jessica Tran	JingJing He
Nai Saeyang.	Tiara Williams	Elizabeth Sanchez
2013	2009	2006
Rebecca Dao	Eric Chen	Alba Basurto
Ajah Fredzess	Alisha Manandhar	Cassandra Chiu
Amara Hans	Marques Pitcher	Marika Johnson
2012		
Thamar Collier		
Jacqueline Reyes		
Sari Christine Rickansrud		

The ECHS Archiving Project Scholarships

WE DID IT!

After two years of effort, your ECHS Archiving Project succeeded in having the school board members endorse the naming of the football field and track and press box after deserving educators' names at the new El Cerrito Memorial Stadium.

The Football Field will be named after Coach Frank Milo. Coach Milo was the football coach at ECHS from 1982-2000. His record was 138 wins, 71 losses and four ties. Frank served as the school's Athletic Director from 1988 to 2001. Under his leadership, the school won eight league championships and three second place finishes in the North Coast Section playoffs.

Hale Roach Track will be named after a founding father El Cerrito High School teacher, coach (cross country, track & field and football), athletic director and mentor to many student athletes from 1941 to 1973. As a track coach for 29 years, Coach Hale Roach garnered five league championships and five North Coast Section titles for ECHS.

Sandy (Sanford) Berman Press Box honors Sandy Berman spanning more than 30 years as a teacher. He was first and foremost a teacher of Advanced Math Analysis, Trigonometry and Calculus. He was also involved in El Cerrito and Kennedy Forensics programs, coaching students and serving as a debate judge and even a student chauffeur when needed.

Call for ECHS Sports Videos!

ECHS's Hall of Fame in the gym lobby will be getting a technological addition.

This spring the Archiving Project will be installing a video player that will show continuous Gauchos sporting events on a computer screen.

One very special movie shown will be ECHS Gauchos' FIRST football game with players wearing leather helmets. Thank you to Mike Roach for this priceless donation.

Please let us know if you have special sports visuals to donate. We are lacking women's sport items. They can be movie films, CDs or DVDs -- whatever you have.

Contact jsbayat1@comcast.net or call 510 524 9468 to donate.

Missing - Alumni Class Reunion Leaders

We are looking for you. Your fellow classmates would like to know when your next reunion is scheduled, and they look to the Archiving Alumni Liaison to give them that information. So, PLEASE, tell us who you are and where you have been hiding.

accepted and enrolled at U.C. Berkeley in the spring quarter of 1975. Yet, the best decision I ever made was to NOT play baseball at U.C. Berkeley. Instead, I made the conscious decision to devote all my time and energy on a career where I can be in a helping role and make a positive difference in the lives of young people. As a result of my decision, upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley, I achieved my goal and was an Education Case Manager Specialist for Contra Costa County Office of Education until my retirement in June 2014.

What's the point of telling you my story? Just this: You are NOT alone! Whether you come from a lower income background, have learning disabilities or other "differences" or face challenges and obstacles, you are NOT alone. And there are some wonderful, caring people at El Cerrito High School, and out in the world, who can help encourage and guide you. But in the end, it is all about choices - yours - and your commitment to your choices to deal with your challenges and overcome your obstacles. I did it ... and so can you!

Summary of Key Points

1. I learned to work with and overcome my challenges (learning disability) and obstacles (poor attendance and grades), and how the choices I made/make impact the present and future (improved grades = able to play sports, win championships, attend college).
2. Decided to make healthier choices that affected my future.
3. Determined to stay at El Cerrito High School and succeed.

- Attended summer school for extra credit.
- Enrolled in extra class to make sure to graduate on time.

1. Self-motivated to work hard to graduate.
2. If I hadn't made the right choices (stay in school, stay at El Cerrito High School, take the three classes at Alameda College in order to attend U.C. Berkeley), I would not have graduated with my classmates nor have developed lifelong friendships, nor had experienced being a member of the ECHS Championship baseball team of '72 and the El Cerrito American Legion Baseball '72 World Series team or the Contra Costa College '74 Championship Baseball team.

Acknowledgements

I want to give special thanks to those special people who made such an important difference in my life while at El Cerrito High School:

Coach L. Quirico
 Coach J. Nules
 Dean of Boys, Mr. Bowles
 Counselor, Mr. Store
 Student Advisor, Mr. Morehouse

Quick Links

[ECHS Website](#)

[Archiving Products](#)

[Alumni Information](#)

[Athletic Hall of Fame](#)



Coach Quirico's Corner

Gaucha Nation

Missing Leaders:

Classes of 1946-47, '51-53, '77, '83, '86, '88-93, 1996-2000, '02-05, '07 -15.

We need to have the following information for your classmates:

Name, Email, Home Address, Phone #, Cell # and, of course, year you graduated.

Ladies, if you have a maiden name, we need that information also.

If you are not someone who plans your reunion, please go online and register with the Archiving Project Newsletter Editor Roddy Lee, and he will add you to our mailing list and keep you up-to-date on what your school alumni are up to. ECArchiveProject@aol.com

Contact Alumni Liaison: Kathie (Nemy) Weinstein, Class of 1958; email Bjhardy4@att.net, phone (510) 215-5570.

[Reunion Information Reviews and updates](#)

[Updated 7/12/2016](#)

[Class of 1964 Reunion Picnic](#)

- Saturday, October 8, 2016
- Padre Group Picnic Area, Tilden Park
- Contact: Jackie Olsen
- ElCerrito1964@gmail.com

[Class of 1991 - 25 Year Reunion Weekend](#)

- [Friday night mixer at The Ivy Room - Albany, CA on the corner of San Pablo and Solano start time 8:00 pm](#)
- [Saturday night Masquerade Ball at the Lake Merritt Boat House start time 8:00 pm](#)
- [Sunday Party Bus Trip to Napa Wineries 11:00 am - 5:00 pm](#)
- [For ticket information, please contact Robin Huey at \[robinhuey73@sbcglobal.net\]\(mailto:robinhuey73@sbcglobal.net\)](#)

[Class of 1976 40th Reunion](#)

- Saturday September 17, 2016
- The El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.
- For information please contact any of these reunion volunteers:

Marnie (Margie) Fricke Mufti, 510-410-5028 (talk)
 Gregg Mayer, gregglmayer@mac.com (email)
 Arnold Gray, 510-435-1984 (text only)
 Lisa de Alba Williamson, lgra@chevron.com (email)

Ken Kahn Retires
George Austin Returns

Take a Look!!

Visit our Museum!



[Old and new, updated pictures of ECHS.](#)

Interesting Alumni

Do you have a classmate who has contributed to society and you think we would like to hear about him or her?

Contact Roddy Lee at ECarchproject@aol.com

Glenda Pickens Bradley, glenda.bradley.98
(Facebook email)

Class of 1986--30 year

- Save the date, October 1, 2016
- Vanessa Drummond--vanessadrummond@me.com.
- Kurt and Stefanie Yoshii-
- kyoshii@ninyoandmoore.com,
- Amer and Sara Moorhead-
- acmoorhead@yahoo.com

Class of 2006--10 year

- Contact: Deven Sanders Trowers --
deven.trowers@gmail.com

55TH REUNION OF CLASSES OF 1959, 1960, & 1961

- Open To Everyone From All Classes
- WHERE: The Marriott Hotel San Ramon,
• 2600 Bishop Drive,
• San Ramon, CA 94583
- WHEN: July 16, 2016
- HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS are available.
- DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES TO:
- Bea Courtright Davis -- 1.925.376.1481--
beacourtrightdavis@yahoo.com
- Steve Donaldson -- 1.510.520.0277--
steve.donaldson1961@gmail.com

Class of 1996 20th reunion

- July 16, 2016; 6:30-9:30 at the Fenix in San Rafael.
- Tickets (95\$) can be purchased via paypal using the
email address ec96reunion@gmail.com.
- Contact Tina Wright
- Last day to buy tickets is 6/16.

Class of 1966 50th reunion

- Save the date, October 22, 2016
- [Class of 1966 Reunion information](#)
- Contact: Diana DeGracia
- diananbuzz@comcast.netSandy Faccini Berry
- sandy48@pacbell.net

Class of 1986--30 year

- Save the date, October 1, 2016
- Vanessa Drummond--vanessadrummond@me.com.
- Kurt and Stefanie Yoshii-
- kyoshii@ninyoandmoore.com,
- Amer and Sara Moorhead-
- acmoorhead@yahoo.com

Class of 2006--10 year

- Contact: Deven Sanders Trowers -- deven.trowers@gmail.com

Class of 1956--60 year

- Contact: Jackie Fonken-- j_fonken@hotmail.com
- Save the date: Sat. Oct. 15, 2016

Class of 1967--50 year

- Save the Date, October 14, 2017
- Mira Vista Country Club
- Contact: Roddy Lee-- echs1967@aol.com
- <http://elcerritogauchos.net/alumni/alumni/alumni-class-pages/1967-2>

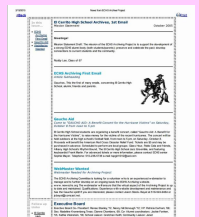


- Class of 2006-Deven Sanders Trowers -- deven.trowers@gmail.com
- Class of 2001--15 year
- Class of 1996--20 year Tina Wright--ec96reunion@gmail.com.
- Class of 1991--25 year--robinhuey73@sbcglobal.net
- Class of 1986--30 year Vanessa Drummond--vanessadrummond@me.com.
- Class of 1981--35 year
- Class of 1976--40 year--Gregg Mayer, gregglmayer@mac.com
- Class of 1971--45 year
- Class of 1966--50 year: Sandy Berry, sandyberry60@yahoo.com
- Class of 1961--55 year
- Class of 1956--60 year: Jackie Fonken, j_fonken@hotmail.com

Reunion leaders, classmates: If you are planning your reunion or need information about your reunion. Please Contact Roddy Lee: ECArchProject@aol.com

Archiving Our Newsletters

- [Special Events](#)
- [Newsletters 1-10](#)
- [Newsletters 11-20](#)
- [Newsletters 21-30](#)
- [Newsletters 31-40](#)



Website Link: items for sale

2015 Gift Ideas! Archiving Project Fundraisers!

Pencils

2/\$1.00

Pens 2/ \$1.00
Pins \$1.00
School Photos \$1.00
Book Marks \$3.00

"Green & White/The Gaucho Story" - the DVD - \$15.00

ECHS Bags \$10.00

Reunion Bags \$5.00

License Plate Frames ... \$7.00

Contact

Donna Houser	Jackie Fleming Fonken
510-234-2251	510-232-9149
houserini@sbcglobal.net	j_fonken@hotmail.com

Executive Board

President-Jackie Fonken,'56,
Vice President, Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Scholarship-Kathie Weinstein,'58,
Recording/Corresponding Secretary-Diane Sericati,
Treasurer/Financial Secretary-Dianne Chambers,'69,
Museum and Display, Scholarship-Joann Steck-Bayat,
Oral Historian/Biographer-Janet Abelson,
Museum and Display, Scholarship-Lu Tipping,
Fundraising Event, SAF Representative, Scholarship, Merchandising Manager-Donna Houser,
Communication Coordinator, Scholarship-Roddy Lee, '67,
Alumni/Reunion Outreach Coordinator, Fundraising, Merchandising Manager-David Bilyeu,'65,
Scholarship-Gregg Mayer,'76,
Museum and Displays, Archive Database Manager-Lynn Maack,'63,
Museum and Displays-Sandi Genser-Maack,'63,
School District Liaison -Lee Matteucci,
Hall of Fame Coordinator Larry Quirico,'58,
Past President,Community Outreach- Patricia Durham-Mitchell,'68,
Scholarship-Howard Mackey,'44,
Media-Jessica Lee,'00,
Member-Rosenda Thomas,'71
Member- Sam Burns, '71
Member-Kent Sanctuary, '64
Member-Marilyn O'Brian, '58
Member-Bonnie Taylor, Faculty

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: ecarchproject@aol.com