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ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

Newsletter Issue XL

April 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to spring! The Archiving Project Board members are busy getting ready to accept and interview applicants for the three \$1,000 scholarships we have been able to give each year since our inception in 2005 following the three-day, weekend farewell to the original ECHS.

Our ongoing goal is to preserve and showcase the history of the school and give scholarships to seniors. Our newsletter editor, Roddy Lee, has put all the newsletters since 2005 on line. I hope you'll take time to check them out.

We will have a booth at the City of El Cerrito's July 4th celebration. Drop by and say hello. Our group hopes to be very involved in the celebration for the opening of the new football field and stadium in early 2015-2016 school year. You all will be invited!

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

2015 Scholarships

The ECHS Archiving Project Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving graduates with plans to attend two- or four-year colleges. Selection of the awardees is a two-step process performed by the Archiving Scholarship Committee. First, the committee reviews the students' written submissions, including the completed application form, a one-page essay, two letters of recommendation, and a transcript. These submittals are scored by each member of the committee according to a point system. Next, the highest-scoring applicants are invited for an interview with the committee. The interview result is also scored by each member using a separate interview point system. Upon completion of the interview, the results of the written submission and interview scores are combined, and the total scores for each candidate by each judge are reviewed together. The highest-ranked candidates are selected to receive the awards. In case of very close results, the committees discusses each candidate and his or her particular circumstances and awards the scholarship(s) to the candidate(s) that the committee feels will best represent and carry forward important elements of the GaUCHO spirit, especially overcoming adversity and appreciating diversity.

<http://elcerritogauchos.net/archiving/archiving-project-scholarships>

Updated ECHS Field facilities



Upcoming Events

- 4th of July Celebration at the EC Community Center
- Grand Opening for the Athletic Stadium -TBD



Quick Links

[ECHS Website](#)

[Archiving Products](#)

[Alumni Information](#)

[Athletic Hall of Fame](#)

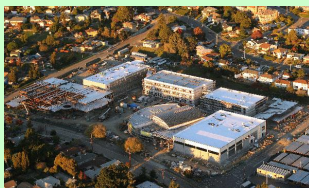


Coach Quirico's Corner

[Hall of Fame
2014 Inductions Sunday,
November 9, 2014](#)

What about Mario
Holland?

Take a Look!!

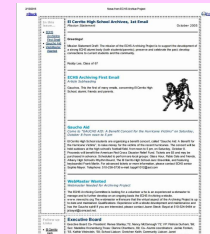


[Old and new, updated pictures](#)

For more information about the Grand Opening of the Athletic Fields, please contact Roddy Lee at ECArchProject@aol.com

Archiving Our Newsletters

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



The Archiving Project's Newest Board Member

Sam Burns, ECHS Class of 1971



Sam Burns was born in 1953 and grew up in Richmond, California. His father came from Texas; his mother from Louisiana. Both parents are now deceased. His father served in the military during World War II, and while his father was away at war, his mother became a "Rosie" and helped to build ships in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards. One of three kids, Sam had a sister who was a year older and a brother who was a year younger.

As a youth, Sam babysat for the sons of former Richmond Mayors Booker and Irma Anderson. Reverend Booker T. Anderson served at Easter Hill United Methodist Church, which Sam's family attended. Sam thinks that his later ability to handle his own students was a result of those years of

Gaucha 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

babysitting. Sam was also active in the El Cerrito Boys Club in the building now occupied by the Contra Costa Civic Theater and was a member of Boy Scout Troup 179 which met on 43rd St. in Richmond at the Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.

A local school product all the way, Sam attended Stege Elementary School, went to Granada Junior High School for one year and then finished junior high at Portola. After Portola, Sam enrolled at El Cerrito High School. There he competed on the track team coached by the famous Hale Roach. Playing football and track created an important social network for Sam. At ECHS, he also became politically active in the Black Student Union.

After graduating from ECHS, Sam attended UC Berkeley between 1971 and 1976, with a dual sports scholarship in track and football. After college, Sam worked for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy and then as a county court bailiff, primarily in the courtroom of Judge Steve Easton. He retired from the Sheriff's Office six years ago after serving for 25 years.

In addition to his work at the Sheriff's office, Sam has served as an after-school, high-school coach for many years. Beginning in 1979, he coached at several local high schools: ECHS, Kennedy and Pinole Valley. He was at ECHS for nine years and was head coach of the boys' and girls' track teams for eight of those years. He coached six years at Pinole Valley High School, 2008 to 2013, and at Kennedy High in Richmond from about 1999 to 2001. Besides Coach Roach, other coaches who influenced Sam were John Nules, football coach, and Phil Clifton, his first track coach. He is currently assistant sprint coach for the track team at Pinole Valley High School.

Sam now lives in Hercules and has two grown sons, Sam III and Kajari, who is a coach at Riordan High School in San Francisco. And, importantly, Sam is now a board member of the El Cerrito High School Archiving Project. Welcome, Sam!

by Janet Abelson

Josh Ko

2014 Archiving Project Scholarship Recipient.

As a first year at UC Berkeley, I'm asked a lot where I come from. "El Cerrito," I say, before adding, "...it's only two BART stops away." When I first got into Cal, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to get as many new experiences as if I had gone somewhere further. However, my time at Cal so far has given me so many great opportunities to continue my Gaucha heritage and legacy while meeting new people and learning new things. While I do miss El Cerrito's incredible music program and overall community, I've met people from all over the world! I've learned to become more independent, while still doing my fair share of messing up.

Last night, I walked out of an entertainment panel to go back down the elevator, only to have two men,

one with a baseball cap and a big smile, the other with dreads, join me. The older man smiled at me and asked what year I was and where I come from. "El Cerrito," I said. "El Cerrito?" the younger man exclaimed in surprise. "I went to El Cerrito!" "Go Gauchos," we agreed, and then the doors slammed shut, taking me towards my final destination.

Josh Ko, Class of 2014

[Reunion Information](#)
[Reviews and updates](#)

Class of 2005--10 year

Class of 1995--20 year

Class of 1985--30 year

Class of 1985: 30th High School Reunion

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2015

Location: T-Rex Restaurant and Bar, Berkeley CA

Please contact Andrea Lum

at andrealum@yahoo.com for more information.

Class of 1975--40 year

Class of 1965--50 year

Contacts: please send me your information.

Roddy Lee: ECArchProject@aol.com

[ECHS Website Link to All Reunions](#)

[Website Link: items for sale](#)

2015 Gift Idea!

Pencils 2/\$1.00

Pens 2/\$1.00

Pins \$1.00

School Photos \$1.00

Book Marks \$3.00

DVD's -

"Green & White/The Gaucho Story" \$15.00

ECHS Bags \$10.00

Reunion Bags \$5.00

License Plate Frames . . . \$10.00 ea or 2 for \$15.00

Contact Donna Houser
510-234-2251
houserini@sbcglobal.net

Jackie Fleming Fonken,
510-232-9149
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,
Scholarship -Bobbi Griggs,
Media-Jessica Lee,'00,
Member-Rosenda Thomas,'71
Member- Sam Burns, '71
Member-Kent Sanctuary, '64

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