



From the Top Dog Principal Staci Morrison

Bulldog Community, as the year is winding down, we are gearing up to show off our wonderful institution during our WASC visit which will take place May 3 - 6th. WASC stands for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This organization is responsible for the accreditation of high schools and colleges. Six members of the WASC team will

spend three days on campus visiting classrooms, speaking to students, teachers and parents. This is a great opportunity for parents to get involved and to show the WACS team what makes Tech a great place for youth to learn. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the WASC team on Sunday, May

3rd. If you would like to speak to the WASC team, please look for information that will be made available on the website. I will also send out a robocall.

In May we will also be administering required standardized tests. This year students in the 11th grade will take the 1st official Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test (SBAC). This test will be our first opportunity to receive a grade which factors to our federal AYP score. 10th grade students will take the CST and all students in Advanced Placement tests will take the AP test. The administrative team has worked hard to make a schedule that is the least disruptive to students schedules. We believe we have come up with a schedule that allows us to test all 11th graders while not interrupting their preparation for AP or other exams. That schedule will be shared with the community soon. It is being approved by the High School Network Office.

Oakland Tech is engaging in conversations with members

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OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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BULLDOG BYTES

April 2015

Celebrating 100 Years of Great Tech Teachers

Over the last century, OTHS has changed a lot, but one thing that has been a constant is the strength of its faculty. There have always been truly GREAT teachers at Tech, teachers who care deeply about their students and lift them to great heights. To acknowledge Teacher Appreciation Week coming up May 4-8, Bulldog Bytes would like to honor Tech's current teachers by highlighting a great teacher from each of Tech's ten decades.

The 1910s

Herman Trutner built a nationally recognized music program at Tech. When OTHS hosted its official dedication ceremony on Feb. 27, 1915 (the school had actually opened its doors the month before), Mr. Trutner, the head of the Music Department, marched the entire student body of 1,450 students from the old school at 12th and Market to the new building. Under Mr. Trutner Tech's thriving music program included: a military band, first and second orchestras, a large choral club, two music history classes, two harmony classes, a double quartette, a senior male quartette, forty piano students, and an orchestration class. Trutner nurtured the talent of many students who went on to illustrious careers in music. Wilhelmina Wolthius (who changed her name to Antonia Brico) became one of the first female symphonic conductors in the nation. Joyce Barthelson was a noted pianist and co-founded the still existent Hoff-Barthelson Music School in NY. Margaret Avery was described in her New York Times obituary as one the foremost cello teachers in the country (the "Avery method" is still used today!). Trutner set quite a high bar for music instruction and performance at Tech!



The 1920s

Goddard Gale, who taught art at Tech from 1907 (at Tech's precursor school Oakland Polytechnic High School) to 1932, lived a life as colorful as his landscape paintings! Gale spent his youth in the wild frontier of Western Canada, his student years studying still life painting in Canada and drafting and mechanical drawing in England, and his early adulthood as a civil engineer on the construction



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Oakland Tech/ Upper Campus Students Make Major Commitment To Community Service by Marsha Rhynes, UC English teacher

All Upper Campus/ FADA Students have made an amazing commitment to community service and civic engagement. They have individually and collectively made a commitment to serve 100 hours prior to graduation. On the Upper Campus (UC), Jefferson Students in Action Program Leadership students meet once a week at lunch to plan to coordinate new service projects. SIA students also are the record keepers for service time for all UC/ FADA students. Student Service Leaders have served the homeless and senior citizens, executed school site beautification projects, organized "Mix it Up Day," and many other projects. SIA Service Leaders attend special leadership training through the SIA program throughout the year. The students' next project: **Earth Day**.

April 22 is Earth Day, a time for inspiring awareness and appreciation for our environment. Earth Day is not a public holiday. It is instead a time for both reflection and action to protect and beautify our environment. All UC students will focus on school beautification during second period on April 22nd. Every class, every student, will play a role in helping to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment. Encouraged and supported by Administrator Teresa Williams, UC Tech students will pull weeds, recycle, pick up paper, water plants, and tend to the gardens and plants on their site.

Ms. Rhynes, UC English teacher, will encourage students to write OP Ed pieces to share their suggestions for reversing environmental destruction, tackling the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution, and increasing respect for life on our planet. Science teacher Laughlin Cruickshanks will plant a tree between the fence and portable 16 on Earth Day. Ms. Melious' class will mount a display, "The Importance of Water," a project done in collaboration with Mr. Chacana, UC Biology teacher.

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of the transcontinental railroad through the rugged Canadian Rockies. He homesteaded prairie land south of Winnipeg and established the first art school in Western Canada before moving to California and taking up his position at Oakland Polytechnic. Gale was renowned in both the US and Canada for his landscape paintings, winning prizes in many competitions and exhibiting work in England and Paris. Under Gale, the art program at OTHS was huge. It boasted 7 drawing teachers in 1924! In 1926, students wanted even more art and formed an after school "art club" under Mr. Gale to study "portrait painting, etching, block printing, costume design, interior decorating, clay modeling and oil painting" (1926 Scribe Annual). In addition to reproductions of several of Goddard Gale's paintings in OTHS yearbooks from the 1920s, his creative legacy can also be seen in the bronze World War I plaque in Tech's front lobby. Gale designed it in 1921 to honor the Tech "boys" who perished in "the Great War."



The 1930s

Talcott Williamson was the Head of the English Department at Tech from 1915 to 1950 and taught at least 6 years at Tech's precursor, Oakland Polytechnic High School downtown. Imagine how many papers he graded! Many alumni mentioned him in the memories they submitted to the centennial book. One said, "Tully taught a class called senior problems, which he refused to have limited to college prep kids. He taught all of us how to think! Imagine that!" Another said, "One of Mr. Williamson's goals was to keep 'at risk boys' in school to graduate. Years later when I would read in the paper about an award given to someone in Oakland, many recipients, when asked, 'What inspired you?' responded with, 'Well, I was one of Mr. Williamson's boys...'" Besides being, in the words of a 1937 graduate, "a real character," he is remembered for caring about all the students in the school and for talking about real life. What a legacy!



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The 1940s



One of the most popular and memorable teachers from the 1940s was U.S. History teacher **Anga Bjornson**. Like her contemporary Mr. Williamson, Miss Bjornson stood out for talking about real life and for voicing her very liberal opinions. A 1948 graduate recalled in an interview, "Honestly, history wasn't taught the way it should have been. We learned it from books, except with Mrs. Bjornson, who taught us things not in the books. She told us about what was happening in the world. We had to read the newspaper!" Another graduate remembered how passionate Mrs. Bjornson was about President Roosevelt. "She was very interested in politics and was a strong advocate for FDR. She talked a lot about him and his policies. It wasn't traditional then in classes to talk about the real world." Another 1948 graduate recalled, "The last I saw of Miss Bjornson was in the centerfold of TIME Magazine, with others at a Democratic Convention in Florida, wearing a big smile and a straw skimmer with a band that said HUMPHREY!" It seems from these memories that she certainly won the prize for most outspoken teacher!

The 1950s

Peter Cuttitta taught biology and physiology and was a counselor at Tech for 39 years, from 1949 to 1988. A 1962 graduate recalled, "Mr. Cuttitta was a fantastic biology instructor, who really had us all participating and doing independent research. He lead me to major in biology and minor in chemistry." A Tech student who had Mr. Cuttitta 27



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DALAMTECHREP PRESENTS "TWELFTH NIGHT" WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTED BY JESSA DRE WHEEN STARRING BELLA CARLSON BRUNO TRINIL JORDAN KING VERONICA LARSEN & JESSICA DAP MARRIEST COORDINATED BY EMILY HALLAS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CRYSTY FERN ART DESIGN BY SIOBHAN FENLTON & LORAN BUCKE

April 23rd, 24th, 25th at 7pm April 25th and 26th at 2 pm
Oakland Tech Auditorium: 42nd and Broadway
\$5 Pre-Sale Tickets \$8 at door with OUSD ID
\$8 Pre-sale \$10 at door General Admission

Take Me Out to the Ball Game by Paul Mankin

Major League Baseball is just starting, but Tech baseball is mid-way into another winning season, in which they hope to win their 6th consecutive OAL Championship, a first for the Bulldogs in their 100-year history.

Baseball has been a part of the school since its inception. Many Tech baseball players have gone on to play professionally in the MLB starting with Bernie DeViveiros and Taylor Douthit from the class of 1919. Bulldogs have played with at least 25 different Major League teams including our own Athletics and Giants. Bulldogs have gone on to become All Stars, coaches, managers, World Champions, MVPs and Hall of Famers, perhaps the most famous of whom is Rickey Henderson.



Here is a glimpse into the Bulldog Baseball Program culled from conversations with coaches and players:

How long have you been playing baseball?
Head Coach Bryan Bassette said, "I started around 7 or 8 in Babe Ruth and went on to play for Skyline, Sonoma State and Cal State EB. I love the sport and it has always been a part of my life." Turns out that all the players I talked to started around 5-7 years of age by tossing the ball around, batting and finding their way to Babe Ruth or Little League.

What do you like most about being a Bulldog Baseball player?
Will Larkin, a JV player said, "The team is special. I like playing with team-mates that love the game, players who want to compete in a game that is really hard to play well." Coaches and players alike feel a bond, a sense of community, much like having a second family that will lift you up on and off the field.

The baseball program appears to be bigger than the team. Can you tell us something about the baseball community?
Parents, alumni, community volunteers who love baseball, former players and organizations like Little League, Babe Ruth, Good Tidings and Oakland Field of Dreams are constantly working to improve baseball programs for Oakland's urban youth and high schools. Besides volunteering to work on fields and supporting skills development, our baseball program fundraises each year through a Christmas tree sale to cover the thousands of dollars needed for equipment to train and play the game.

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Oakland Tech to Wrap up Its Yearlong Centennial Celebration Memorial Day Weekend

If you missed Oakland Tech's centennial year kick-off, book launch, and Technites Past and Present Talent Showcase, you still have a chance to experience the yearlong centennial celebration at Oakland Technical High School! Save some time over Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25) to participate in one of the events described below. All are invited! For additional details and to register for any of the events, check the centennial page of the Oakland Tech website: <http://oaklandtech.com/staff/centennial/event-calendar/>

1. History of Oakland Tech @ Oakland Technical High School, Friday, May 22, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Learn about and re-live the legacy of Oakland Tech at this fun event featuring fascinating artifacts, guided tours of the school, displays of Oakland Tech memorabilia and photos, and sales of the Oakland Tech Centennial Book. There will also be a screening of a movie about the history of Tech narrated by noted actor (Love Boat!) and Tech alumnus Ted Lange! This event is free and open to all.

2. Mixer @ Pro Arts Friday, May 22, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Mix it up with fellow Bulldogs at the no-host Centennial Mixer, taking place at the Pro Arts Studio in Frank Ogawa Plaza. Admission to this no-host event is free, and participation is limited to the first 200 registrants.

3. Picnic @ Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, Saturday, May 23, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Visit with Bulldogs from all generations at this scenic Oakland venue on the estuary. The admission price for this event is \$30 per person and includes food and drinks.

4. Wine Tasting @ Jack London Square, Oakland, Saturday, May 23, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Enjoy an afternoon sampling local wines. The location event is to be determined, but will most likely be in Oakland. Participation will be limited to the first 125 registrants for this event. The price for this event is \$50.

5. Brunch @ Pican Restaurant, Sunday, May 24, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Come enjoy a delicious brunch at Pican Restaurant on Broadway in Oakland's Uptown neighborhood. The price for this event is \$35.

6. Centennial Gala @ the Fox Theater, Sunday, May 24, 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm. The Gala is the culmination of the centennial weekend. The evening will be filled with entertainment, food and drink, the announcement of the inaugural Oakland Tech Hall of Honor, the sharing of fond memories and reflections, a keynote speaker, and an overall sense of profound appreciation for the influence that Oakland Technical High School has had on the lives of its graduates and their families. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available online. SPECIAL RATE: 100 Gala tickets will be available for \$50 instead of \$100, to: young alums (class of 2010 or later), current OT staff, and current OT PTSA members.

7. Golf Tournament @ Lake Chabot Golf Course, Monday, May 25, 9:00 am. Join us for a round at Lake Chabot Golf Course in Oakland. Get your foursomes together or come as a single or twosome and we will pair you up for this best-ball scramble. Entry fee includes green fees and carts. \$75 is the price for this event.

What a year and what a century! Oakland Tech has been part of our community for 100 years and there is so much to celebrate and be proud of. Come join us! Questions: centennial@oaklandtech.com

Opening Your Heart and Home to an Exchange Student by Bruce Haines, Community Coordinator, PAX

Baseball. Basketball. Barbeques. Birthday celebrations! Wouldn't you love to share your little corner of America with a high school exchange student from one of 70 countries? Each year, PAX (Program of Academic Exchange) brings nearly 1,100 teenagers, ages 15-18, to America for one semester or a full academic year. These impressive young people attend high schools and live with volunteer host families across the continental U.S. Whether they hail from Europe, Asia, or Africa, these young people share a common goal: they have a sincere desire to experience and better understand America by participating in real-life activities as a student and family member, while sharing insights into their own culture and customs. You have much to offer them. The things you take for granted will suddenly seem fresh and new when shared with a PAX student.

PAX students are selected based on their motivation to learn about American society and educate Americans about their own countries and cultures. PAX students study English for at least three years prior to their arrival. Like their American peers, they enjoy the full range of academic and extracurricular activities. Spending time with friends at sports events, dances, or other high school events ensures they are immersed in the local youth culture.

PAX students bring their own spending money, and have comprehensive medical insurance should they become ill or injured. And PAX staff and community coordinators are available to provide support 24 hours a day. As a host family, you provide them with a bed, a place to study, and a seat at your dining table. Above all, you encourage them to engage in American life while also learning about their culture. By sharing holidays, celebrations, and daily activities and by working through the challenges that arise along the way, everyone learns to recognize that no matter where they call home, people have more in common than differences.

Families are in the process of selecting their students now for the 2015-2016 school year. PAX has a separate program for kids from former Soviet block countries, and another for kids from Muslim countries. This year over 70 countries are represented. Please go to pax.org to begin your application or to obtain more information. Once you have completed your application you may see the candidate's profiles and photos. You can decide what kind of student you want – from what country, what interests, girl or boy, what age, or by a language you'd like to know more about. Same-sex students can share a bedroom but must have their own bed and space in a closet to hang clothes. Single parent hosting is allowed but only with a same-sex student.

I have been hosting and supervising kids in other people's homes for over five years and I have found this work to be most rewarding. I've also found the friendships I've made with my kids continue to last beyond their residencies after they've returned home. I'm still in touch with most of them and one of them is now back and attending Cal-Davis. He still calls me "Dad."

Oh, What a Night!

The Uptown Body and Fender was hopping on March 14 as a room full of people celebrated Oakland Tech at the PTSA annual auction. This year we raised \$85,000 to support the students, teachers, and staff at Tech.



The bidding started early as the online auction took off and raised \$17k in advance of the big night. Then 350 tickets were sold to support Tech at the Uptown event. The bidding frenzy

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Ball Game *continued from page 2*

What do the coaches bring to the baseball program? Simply put, the coaches bring a wide range of experience and a deep understanding of the skills, both physical and mental, needed to play the game well. They can break down a very complex game and teach how to improve through learning skills, making adjustments, and practicing.

Speaking of coaches, Coach Eric Edwards passed away recently. What can you tell me about him?

Varsity player Coby Muchin shared that Coach Eric was a great guy, always smiling, who cared about everyone and was always ready to "lift the guy who needed it." Talking with players and coaches, I understood that Coach Eric reflected the core values of the program: to be there for one another, to encourage members of the team to do their best, and to recognize everyone's potential.

What advice would you give a younger player thinking of playing in HS?

Justin believes that, "it is important to build good habits early and to work on keeping grades up, because it is hard to turn those things around later." Will suggests, "Young players need to take every opportunity to learn how to play the game physically and mentally because this is a hard game to play well." Coby added, "Stay healthy and learn how to play as a team."

What is the hardest thing about baseball?

There were two schools of thought on this. One is focused on how hard it is to hit well and make difficult plays. The other focused on the mental side of the game - maintaining focus, playing situationally and learning to deal with failure, especially in hitting, where having a 30% success rate is outstanding in truly competitive play.

What has baseball taught you that helps you off the field?

The answers mostly revolved around the mental side of the game and how to deal with adversity and failure: the importance of focusing on the situation, making small adjustments, being patient, building confidence in your abilities, becoming resilient and being a part of team that can do more than any single individual can. Coach Bryan pointed out that many young people in Oakland deal with adversity daily and that learning to be resilient is critical.

What do you love most about baseball?

The answer seems to be best summed up in Coby's response, "There isn't anything about baseball I don't love!"

Do you think having more fans in the stands would be a good thing?

Everyone said it is a different game when there are fans in the stands. The team loves it and believes it brings a whole new energy to the game.

Visit the OT website for the team schedule and check out a game at Rickey!

Oh What a Night *continued from page 3*

continued and we raised another \$53k through the silent and live auctions. And our "Raise the Paddle" efforts brought in \$11k for the performing arts program.

It does take a village to put on this huge event and thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy. A special Bulldog shout out to Vainilla Catering for the delicious food and of course to our fantastic bartenders under the direction of parent Carroll Moore. Another big THANK YOU to Mike and Sarah Mages for making the online process seem so effortless and of course our deepest gratitude to Susan Keefe, our amazing auction chair, who spent countless hours making this night so memorable.

If you're interested in being part of the auction team next year, please email Susan Keefe susankeefe65@yahoo.com. You'll be glad you did!

PTSA Announcements and Updates**PTSA Membership Meetings**

There are only 2 more PTSA meetings remaining for this school year. We hope that you can join us on either Monday May 11 or Monday June 8. We meet at 7pm in the library.

Tech Flea Market

There will be a flea market at Tech on April 25th. \$10 for a sales spot at the market; shoppers entrance is free. Spot reservation sheets will be available after spring break. This is the time to get rid of all that stuff from spring cleaning, with greater exposure than your yard sale. If you have saleable items to donate, please contact Rosemary (Room 119). Proceeds will reduce prom and graduation costs.

Raise money for Tech while you grocery shop!

It's so easy to raise money for Oakland Tech, just by doing your regular weekly grocery shopping at Safeway. (We raise about \$12,000 a year this way!)* Register your Safeway Club Card at eScrip to support Tech. (Register your debit card too, and help earn funds at your favorite restaurants and Piedmont Grocery).

Use your Club Card number when you shop at Safeway, and Tech gets back up to 4% of your purchase.

Just a note: to earn at Safeway, you must use a debit card, check, or cash. We no longer earn funds on credit card purchases.

So please register your Safeway Club Card and debit cards today at eScrip, and get out there and earn money for Tech!

Email Lauren at freemoney@oaklandtech.com if you have any questions.

ASB Update

Hello Oakland Tech Community,

As always Tech has been very busy!

We had our Spirit Week which was somewhat successful and definitely a learning experience. This Spirit Week was especially different in the sense that each class was paired up with another one and worked as a team throughout the week to gain spirit points. This was great for the school because it encouraged students to interact with people from different grades and evoked a sense of community. The seniors were paired with the freshmen and the sophomores paired with the juniors, naturally (as a senior I feel it necessary to have this word) the seniors and freshmen won.

This next month will be equally busy! April will contain Multicultural Week, a time when we can celebrate and embrace all the different cultures that embody Oakland Tech. This will take place from the 20th of April to the 24th. Please encourage your students to participate in the festivities by buying food and dressing up! If your child is part of a club, we encourage them to sell food-all the money they raise they will get to keep for their club.

Congratulations to our Oratorical winners! They made Oakland Tech students very proud!

And another shout out to all the seniors! No matter where you end up, as Ms. Joe says, "You all will have beautiful children."

Thanks for all your support,
Oakland Tech ASB and Leadership

Working Together

by Kristen Caven, PTSA President

The end of the year always comes up so quickly! But for me, this year, it is different. My only child will be graduating in just a few short weeks. As my son has grown from a baby into a young man, I, too, have grown up as a person, as a parent, as an activist, and—here's an unsavory word—a politician.

Politics happen any time you have two or more people who want to make change. They have to figure out how to do it, and how to work together with the available system and situation. It's really not a dirty word, any more than housekeeping is, and anyone can do a good or a bad job of it. If I could give some advice to parents who are working with schools, it might start like this:

Be Positive. Acknowledge that things fall apart, tragedies happen, people drop balls, and things are unstable. I know that doesn't sound positive, but if you start with an acceptance that things are rarely perfect for more than a moment, and that change doesn't always come easily, you get less discouraged. People are essentially good, especially those who are called to work with children. And if you stay focused on the good intentions, you are given the power to achieve great things.

Do the Work. There are a lot of great things that could happen, but great ideas don't just happen; they take small or large groups of people. If you volunteer to do something, do your best to make it happen. If you can't, ask for help. Part of the work is doing the research to find out how things were done by parents and teachers the past who have left information behind—like bylaws, minutes, and contact information.

Keep Things Simple. Working together can be confusing, but in this age of e-z communication we forget how powerful a phone call or a face-to-face conversation can be. I have talked a lot about the three C's this year that make the PTSA (or any organization) work well together: Cash, Communications, and Calendar... and if you address each of these things whenever you meet, you will move forward smoothly.

Be Kind. Remember that, as frustrating as other humans can be, young or old, they all need to be listened to, cared for, and made to feel important. You can accomplish a lot when people feel valued and respected.

Enjoy the Ride. It will all be over sooner than you know. I cherish the moments of community I've enjoyed this spring, from the piano concert and my "Invocation" of the next century, to the Auction, where glasses, paddles, and funds for next year's school support were raised, and even the terribly sad but powerful rally at the school for a lost student.

I could go on and on with advice—leave things better than you found them, appreciate talent, save water and recycle at all events—but, as I mentioned, the end of the year is coming up quickly and you've got a lot to do!

Butterflies for Davon

Principal Morrison ordered five dozen native butterflies to be released in honor of ninth-grader Davon Elis. The PTSA, which means all of you, helped to make this gift. As you enjoy the spring, watch for these delicate creatures and appreciate the rare moments we have with our kids. Send love, and hope to all the families who have lost children. And think about what you, personally, can do to make Oakland streets safer for our children. Join with Davon's family in envisioning and creating #vonnworld, the fun and peaceful and loving world where he and all kids his age would want to grow and thrive.

—Kristen Caven

Great Tech Teachers *continued from page 2*

years later commented, "Mr. Cuttitta ran the class in a unique way: he didn't give homework. He just gave the material and expected you to learn it!" In 1968, a turbulent year at Tech, during a rampage a student struck Cuttitta, fracturing his face. After a 6-week hospitalization and facial surgery, Cuttitta was offered a transfer to another school, but chose to return to Tech. Several years later, he was held up at gunpoint in his classroom and handcuffed to his filing cabinet. Again, he turned down a transfer and chose to stay at Tech. He died in 2010 and is survived by his wife, who, said of her husband's long tenure at Tech, "He was committed to teaching, to Tech, and to his students." His obituary called him "an educator of uncommon skill and devotion, who touched many lives and endeavored to teach his students that the key to opportunity lay within them through the power of education."

The 1960s

Tom Wayne, Tech's beloved drama teacher, taught Advanced Drama, Beginning Drama, Stagecraft, and an English class at Tech from 1959 to 1975. He believes that he did the first play in the "new" auditorium and recalls, "Teaching at Tech in the 60s was a privilege! The student body was live, game, integrated and energetic both physically and mentally!" A number of his pupils went on to fame and fortune including Pat and Anita Pointer (of The Pointer Sisters), Ted Lange (The Love Boat), Wolfe Perry (The White Shadow), and Paul Bates (Coming to America, 8 Mile, and Bad Teacher). Many of Mr. Wayne's students remember him for being a "great human being," encouraging and helpful. One former student, the children's book author Patricia Polacco, recently wrote a book in his honor entitled Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece. Another sent a tribute to Mr. Wayne for the centennial book which ended with the words "Thanks for believing in me. Thanks for showing me what a teacher can be."



The 1970s

Mary Perry Smith, a beloved math teacher at Tech from 1961 to 1977, was also the co-founder of MESA. At the Centennial Kick-off last fall, when her picture flashed on the screen during a slideshow about Tech's history, the room erupted into applause! Ms. Smith believes that one of the reasons she was so successful was that she was able to connect with the students and make the material relevant to their lives. Students have said that Smith was always willing "to go the extra mile." While at Tech, Smith co-founded the Mathematic Engineering Science Achievement Program (MESA) to encourage students of color to go into the math and science. Smith recognized that tremendous potential was lost because capable students of color were not majoring in math and science. Working with professors at Cal, Smith piloted and ran MESA at Tech to bridge that gap. It became enormously successful and is now a nation-wide program open to all students regardless of race, ethnicity or background. Smith's efforts to interest and encourage students in the math and sciences impacted thousands of students over the years.



The 1980s

Tay MacArthur, who taught social studies at Tech from the 1960s through the 1980s, left a huge legacy, not only at Tech, but in our state and nation as well. At well over 6 feet tall, MacArthur was a towering figure in and out of the classroom! Many of the thousands of students he taught remember that he took an extra interest in them, encouraging them to believe in their own success. A 1985 graduate said, "I have had much adversity in life starting from the day I was born. If not for Mr. Tay



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Sustainability on a Roll at Oakland Tech by Peter Hopkinson

The Oakland Tech community is working together to create a more sustainable future. We've started several new programs and formed partnerships with district and community organizations that are helping Oakland Tech become greener.

This spring, Tech began its food waste separation program so that all the biodegradable waste from lunch in the cafeteria is placed in separate containers, collected by Waste Management, and turned into compost. Students from Mr. Senn's AP Environmental Science class serve as food waste monitors, educating their fellow students about what waste goes where. Custodial staff support the food waste separation program, and students and staff receive small stipends (and course credit for the APES students) in appreciation for their work. Funding for the program is provided by an Altamont Landfill facility grant acquired by Tech parent grant-writer extraordinaire Karen Cohn, with containers, signs, and assistance from OUSD's Custodial and Nutrition Services Department. Come by the cafeteria at lunchtime and see the student monitors in action, as they help divert food waste from the landfill to the compost pile!

Last year, we began collecting recyclable beverage cans and bottles. Another grant from the Altamont Landfill facility supported the purchase of those orange buckets seen in Tech classrooms, into which all the cans and bottles go for collection and recycling by the custodial staff. Students from the Tech Green Club created slogans and illustrated the bucket labels to promote the recycling campaign. Less into the landfill, more into the recycling plant!

Reducing energy consumption is another important goal to make Tech a greener school. With Ms. Snyder's mentorship, the student Green Club is collaborating with the District's energy conservation program emPower and with Strategic Energy Innovations, a non-profit that assists schools in increasing energy savings. The Green Club has conducted a survey of students on their energy use and is planning a Tech energy audit too. With the results in hand, the Green Club and its partners will start brainstorming on ways to reduce energy use on campus.

Some of the other Bulldog sustainability actions include:

- Plant debris from the Gardening Club is also composted rather than sent to the landfill.
- Tech is now generating energy with the roof solar panels installed last summer.
- Staff and community members have worked to reduce campus landscaping water use.
- APES students have conducted a baseline food waste audit to quantify how much food waste Tech diverts from the landfill. Tech's Waste Management bills should decline as landfill collection is reduced.
- The Green Club has held several events to promote green actions, like recycling, and to educate students and the Tech community as a whole about the importance of sustainability.

These programs require lots of planning, hard work, buy-in, and enthusiasm from many people at Tech, from OUSD, and from outside organizations. One major challenge is institutionalizing these programs so that they can continue into the future.

Come join the Bulldog Green School Movement and help make Tech more sustainable!

The student **Green Club** meets every Wednesday at lunch in Ms. Snyder's room, 146.

The **PTSA Green School Committee** supports the student Green Club, staff, faculty, and administration on sustainability issues and serves as a hub for sustainability communication, organization, and funding. Last month, we submitted two new grant applications to expand the food waste separation program and to

reduce plastic water bottle use on campus. We have an OT Green Google Group: subscribe at otgreen+subscribe@googlegroups.com and visit the group at <http://groups.google.com/group/otgreen>. We have monthly meetings, announced on the Google Group and in the Bullhorn.

Upper Campus continued from page 1

JSIA wants everyone to wear the color green that day. Their goal is to get each class to adopt a portion of the campus to continue the beautification work even after Earth Day, although in some ways, the already peaceful and serene Upper Campus encourages students and staff to focus on campus beautification even without the existence of a special day.

OAKLAND TECH JEFFERSON AWARD RECIPIENT VINCENT HAL, OTHS JUNIOR, HONORED AT WARRIORS GAME!

As a Jefferson Students in Action Service Leader at Oakland Tech's Upper Campus, Vincent Hal has made us all proud of his dedication and continued service to others. Vincent Hal has been a dedicated volunteer at Montclair Library, performing a variety of duties including data entry for the library's Summer Reading Program. He was instrumental in completing the data entry for a Healthy Kids Survey at Lakeview Elementary School. This past spring, Vincent represented OTHS in the regional Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Fest. His original spoken word poetry took 2nd place. He will read his poetry at a fundraiser in April at Barnes and Noble Bookstore for the Maya Angelou Literacy Center. An active leader and volunteer in REAL HARD, JSIA, and the Students Against Human Trafficking Club at Oakland Tech, Vincent embodies the spirit of volunteerism we deeply respect. Vincent received a Jefferson Award in 2015 after representing Oakland Tech's Students in Action service leadership team and making a Student in Action presentation to students at Contra Costa College. Vincent is an inspiration to young people at his school and in our community.

What is JSIA? Launched in 2006 by the Jefferson Awards Foundation and Deloitte, Students In Action develops high school students into community leaders. Currently active in 300 high schools in communities across the U.S., the program encourages students to positively impact their schools, communities and world. This is Oakland Tech Upper Campus' second year of leadership in JSIA.

Great Tech Teachers continued from page 5

MacArthur, I would not be alive today. His example inspired me to believe in myself, and that belief gave me the power to push past my history, grab hold of my future, and apply to college which opened doors. Thank you, Mr. Tay MacArthur for standing tall and fighting for us." Many may not know that we, in part, owe our nation's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to a small group of Tech students from the class of 1981 who called themselves the Apollos. Under the guidance of MacArthur, they lobbied Sacramento lawmakers and as a result, California declared MLK's birthday a holiday before the federal government did. In 1983, after the federal government followed suit, Tech's MLK Committee continued to lobby states that hadn't yet declared it a holiday! Quite a civics lesson! In 1983, 12 seniors in McArthur's Honors/AP American Government Class decided to seek landmark status for Oakland Tech. It was eventually designated a historic landmark in 1985 by the Oakland City council. Without the combined efforts of Tay MacArthur and his students our school, state, and country might be very different!

The 1990s

Susan Drexler taught social studies at Tech from 1970 to 1996. Of her years at Tech, she wrote, "My goal was to impress upon students that as independent, critical thinkers, they could be agents of change in their school and communities, making a

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Ride for a Reason: Show your support for Oakland Public Schools! By Mike Napolitano



Now in its Seventh year, Ride for a Reason is a bike ride from Oakland to the State Capitol to draw attention to the budget crisis

for public schools in California, and to raise essential funds for school enrichment programs in Oakland. California now funds its schools at \$2,000 below the national average, and has the largest average class sizes in the nation. We can and must do better.

We need your help to: a) register 250 riders; b) gather 1000 signatures to reform commercial property tax in California; and c) raise \$100,000 for Oakland public schools. The funds we raise will be split evenly between Edna Brewer Middle, Emerson Elementary, Claremont Middle, Oakland Technical High, Oakland International High, and Westlake Middle. **Please help us by:**

- 1. Donating:** It's easy, you'll feel great, and it only takes a minute. Donate today at: <http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com/ng/index.cfm/b121b06/regPages/participantSearch/?p=ad1d26ce>
All donations are tax deductible and every dollar we raise goes to a PTA or community non-profit working to support student creativity and a nurturing environment in six outstanding Oakland public schools. Ride for a Reason is the single largest fundraiser at Oakland International and Westlake, and the second largest fundraiser at Brewer, Emerson, Claremont, and Tech.
- 2. Volunteering:** On May 16th, we have lots of interesting jobs to choose from that involve anywhere from a few hours to the whole day. Volunteers have fun and feel great. For more information, please contact Becki Couch-Alvarado at iambecki@gmail.com.
- 3. Riding:** On Saturday, May 16th, we have two fully supported rides to choose from: a 45-mile ride and 109-mile ride to the State Capitol. Transportation home is available. The 45-mile ride is ideal for families and children. Give us two of your Sunday morning's between now and May 16th and we will get you ready to have a great day riding the 45-mile route. For more information or to register, please go to: <http://rideforareason.dojiggy.com>.
- 4. Signing the petition:** This year, Ride for a Reason is partnering with Evolve, a non-profit working to reform Proposition 13, so that commercial property would be regularly reassessed to reflect its fair market value. This simple and fair-minded reform would generate an additional \$10 billion per year in tax revenue from large corporations (small mom-and-pop businesses would be protected). **Our goal is to gather 1000 signatures to bring to Sacramento on May 16th.** Please help us reach this goal! Show your support by going to http://www.evolve-ca.org/petition_13. Evolve is working hard to get an initiative on the ballot for the fall of 2016. Let's help to make this reform a reality! We are Oakland. We are scrappy. We can get this done. Thank you so much! We are Oakland. **We are scrappy. We can get this done. Thank you so much!**

Tech's Amazing Hockey Team By James Austin, Tech Parent and Assistant Hockey Coach

Oakland Tech has a storied sporting history, counting as alumnae baseball's Ricky Henderson and football's Marshawn Lynch, among many other greats. But ice hockey? The Oakland Tech Bulldogs hockey team, California's first and perhaps still only

competing public high school ice hockey team, is doing its best to live up to the legacy. Saturday's Sharks High School Hockey League JV C championship game featured the Tech Bulldogs facing off against the top-ranked Tri-Valley Demons at Sharks Ice San Jose on the same sheet of ice used by the NHL's Sharks for practice. The back and forth game was tightly contested and saw several lead changes until, with the Demons leading 6-4 and just over five minutes remaining, Tech called timeout to regroup. Thirty seconds later freshman Gray Zeltser, a converted roller hockey player, scored his second goal of the game to bring



the Bulldogs within one. Then, with senior goalie Darnell Pipken pulled for an extra attacker, senior Allen Lin scored his third goal of the game to even the score at 6-6 with just 1:15 remaining. Pipken returned to the goal to deny the Demon's league scoring leader Ian

Terra one-on-one as time expired with Tri-Valley battling to the end. The game would be settled in sudden death overtime. The first five-minute overtime period was not enough to break the deadlock. But at 3:14 of double overtime, Zeltser deftly stick-handled in from the left side and whipped the puck into the top right corner of the Demon's goal for the winner, launching a celebration among the Tech players, hockey staff and many fans who had traveled to San Jose to support the team. All that was left was for junior captain Chan Saephan to hoist the Cup and pass it around as the team skated a victory lap.

It is the second title for the Tech ice hockey program in just its sixth year of existence. But the first for this group of student athletes following a near total rebuild of the team after the graduation of Tech's first generation of hockey players in 2013. Every player on this year's championship team was introduced to organized ice hockey at Oakland Tech, many learning to skate and handle a hockey stick for the first time over just the last two years. This year's championship team included eleven seniors, so the team is looking to recruit new players to the ice for next season. The team is coed and very representative of Oakland's diversity and community spirit. Support from the City of Oakland's Oakland Ice Center (managed by Sharks Ice) and generous grants, donations, fundraising and volunteering allows Tech students to participate in the program free of charge.

Particular thanks is owed to super-volunteers General Manager Lynne Hosley and Assistant GM Sid Cowles for tireless support of the team and program over many years, to Head Coach Colin Thompson for his dedication and excellence in leading the team from worst-to-first in his first year behind the bench, and to the Oakland Ice Center.

Great Tech Teachers *continued from page 6*

better world for themselves, their families, and society." Together with Steve Athanases and David Christiano, Ms. Drexler started the Interlinks program, a powerful community of learners in World Cultures, Literature and Writing, and US History and Literature. Many OTHS 1990s graduates credit Interlinks, David Christiano and Susan Drexler with shaping their years at Tech. A 1992 graduate wrote, "Their collective brilliance and comfort with both the subject matter and their students was evident from day one. I never once felt like these two individuals were ever confused as to why they were teaching- and teaching us. Mr. C and Ms. Drexler never wavered in their high standards of how we were expected to think, perform, and behave." A 1997 graduate said, "We were encouraged to connect with our peers AND the teachers. It was priceless to witness the transparency of our Interlinks. They were willing to be vulnerable before the youth they were teaching—such a great example for teachers and leaders in general." Ms. Drexler certainly changed lives and her own life was changed in the process. Ms. Drexler said about her connections with former



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An Oakland landmark

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Parent, Teacher, Student Association
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Another Victory for Tech's Robotics Team!



OTHS's robotics team, the Cyberdogz, just completed the First Robotics competition at the Valley Regional at San Jose State University sports arena this weekend. More than 70 schools compete each year. Tech's team won the Judges Award for the competition! This marks the 5th year since Tech started its robotics program. In those five years Tech's team, under the tutelage of Mr. Onyeador, has won first place at the Piedmont robotics competition, the First Robotics Rookie

Award, and now the judges award. Mr. Onyeador is proud of Tech's students and the effort and dedication they have put into their work. He is also grateful to all the ex-Computer Academy students, mentors, and parents who have been a source of inspiration and support for current students. You can see their work here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAN1B7oKDXE>
Go Cyberdogz!

NOTE: The Cyberdogz's participation in this competition was made possible by a grant from the PTSA.

From the Top Dog *continued from page 1*

of our community around growing our academies. OUSD Superintendent, Antwan Wilson, has a goal that in 2016 all 10th grade students in every high school in Oakland will belong to an academy or pathway. If you would like to engage in these conversations, please come out and be part of our Meaningful Family Engagement meetings. Look for information on the website.

The school year is winding down, but we still have a lot of work to do. Please stay informed and get involved! Thank you!

Great Tech Teachers *continued from page 7*

students, "These are the rewards. These are the things that keep me going, that make me realize, at 74, that I did accomplish my goals!"

The 2000s

We are fortunate to have many outstanding teachers at Tech today. We will thank you the first week of May during Teacher Appreciation Week, but please know that we are grateful for your hard work on behalf of our children every day! Thank you for teaching them and for inspiring them to reach for their dreams!

Many thanks to **Piedmont Copy** on Piedmont Ave. for generously donating part of the cost of printing this newsletter. Please consider them for your copy needs!

Bulldog Bytes



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Have a comment or suggestion?

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