



The Alum Castle Crier

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The Alumni Association: Report from Career Day

Thuy Nguyen, '93 President

The Castlemont High School Alumni Association once again sponsored the annual career day for the three Castlemont High Schools: the Business and Information Technology School, the Leadership Preparatory High School, and the East Oakland School for the Arts.

We had over twenty alums, along with others who were part of the career exploration day. Students could choose from careers ranging from health to sports to public service, and workshops were presented twice, so that students could hear about more than one career. Doris Limbrink, a well-known pastor with Acts Full Gospel, gave a rousing and challenging speech, that set a positive tone for the day.



Reggie Green ('73), and Career Day speakers, have breakfast together.



Art Thompson III ('72), talks with student about a career in sportswriting.

I was proud to present four new awards to alums. The **Community Service Alumnus Award** was presented to **Fred Korematsu**, Class of 1937 (see pg. 2).

The award was accepted by Mr. Korematsu's daughter, Karen Korematsu-Haigh. The award recognizes an alum who made an outstanding commitment to the service of others. Mr. Korematsu was sent to jail for defying Executive Order 9066 that sent Japanese Americans to concentration camps during World War II. Nearly 40 years later, Mr. Korematsu's conviction was vacated by the Supreme Court, and President Ronald Reagan

offered a public apology on behalf of the country.

In 1998, President Clinton bestowed the Medal of Freedom, this nation's highest civilian honor on Mr. Korematsu., and stated, "In the long history of our country's constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls ... Plessy, Brown, Parks. ..To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu."

The **Sports Hall of Fame Alumnus Award** was presented to **Joe Morgan**, Class of 1961. The award is given to an alumnus who has excelled in an athletic endeavor and exemplified the sportsmanship spirit of Castlemont Alumni. Voted National League MVP in 1975 and 1976, Mr. Morgan is one of the greatest second basemen in baseball history. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990. He has an active career in sports broadcasting, and contributes to many programs that directly benefit our community (more on Joe in the next issue).

The **Distinguished "Knight In Shining Armor" Alumnus Award** was presented to **Gary Yee**, Class of 1962. The award is the Association's highest award and is given to an alumnus for representing the true spirit and ideal character of a Castlemont High School alumnus. For more than 30 years, Dr. Yee has been active in numerous community efforts to improve the lives of young people in Oakland. Today, he serves as an elected Board Member of the Oakland Unified School District and Dean at Merritt College in Oakland (see pg.2)

The **Gold Key Alumnus Award** is presented to **Carol Hayes Cavalli**, Class of 1962. The award is given to an individual for dedication and service to the Castlemont High School Alumni Association. As Board Secretary and now Board Member, Ms. Hayes has committed numerous hours and resources to help establish the Association in January, 2004 and ensure its success with Career Days and annual picnic. (more on C



Karen Korematsu-Haigh, Gary Yee, Thuy Nguyen, and Carol Hayes Cavalli

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Reunion News

The Class of '55 is having their fiftieth reunion on September 9, 2005. Contact Tom Bullock at 831-335-3389, or Marlene Wisotti-Brown at 925-449-0428.

The January Class of '55 held theirs fiftieth on February 26, 2005. Everyone had a chance at the open mike to tell about their lives. A special thanks to Marlene Hintzman (Beck) and Pat Pollestrini (Cordes) and their crew for putting the reunion together.

The Class of '59 celebrated their reunion on February 26, their 45th year. It was held at Scott's, Jack London Square, with commemorative "The Castle" wine to go with dinner. 150 attended. 100 were grads. This was the last class to have January and June graduates, and they have had a combined reunion every five years.

The Class of 1970 is having its Reunion Dinner Dance on August 6, 2005, at Hs Lordships. Contact Louise Oatis (510 228-7676)

Alum News

Not a reunion, but.. a weekend in the mountains! Castlemont alums from the 50s, got together to just... (see photo). Their best recollection was of a football game, between Castlemont and McClymonds, when Tim's Model A ran out of gas, and they put together \$.18, which bought just enough gas to get them back to East Oakland. Pictured from left to right: Roxana (Rocky Cowden) Larsen, '51, Bill Brown, '50, Lucille (Peski Biondi), '52, Nick Biondi, '50, and Tim Goolsby, '50.



Roy Nunes, '53 (June), passed away April 11, 2005, in Rogue River, Oregon. He was a regional representative for the Teamsters

Fred Korematsu, '37, died March 30, 2005, in San Rafael. A native of Oakland, he graduated from Castlemont High School in 1937. He played tennis and golf at Castlemont. After World War II, he was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from four different universities, including California State University, Hayward. Many organizations honored him in recognition of his civil rights advocacy.

Herbert "Herb" Bradford, '77, one of our Knights has left the Castle and gone to be with the King! Died at his home suddenly after a long battle with kidney disease. Herbert was raised in Oakland where he proudly received his Letter "C" in track and football at Castlemont High School. His simple nickname, Herb, was an illustration of his life. He lived a straightforward and fruitful life with the unselfish desire to help others. He made a career of helping underprivileged children through Alameda County Social Services for over 25 years.

Spot Light on.....

Gary Yee, '62, recipient of the Knight in Shining Armor Award, is presently the dean of instruction at Merritt Community College (formerly Oakland City College). One of his departments, Physical Education, is chaired by "Coach" Maurice Compton, '61. Gary has worked in higher education for the last decade, and before that he was an Oakland Public School teacher and principal.

Gary and his wife, Caroline, '62 (Tech), still live in Oakland. In addition to being an editor of the Crier, Gary serves as President of the Oakland School Board. When he's not working at a school, or in the community, or at Fruitvale Presbyterian Church, he's busy cooking up Chinese food, seafood gumbo, and barbecue (Korean, Texas, and Oaktown styles).

We still have cool Castlemont visors! Contact the Board. They are \$10, or join the CHSAA and get one for \$5!

Basketball Dinner

Greg Hickey, '56

Phil Pruski and I attended the Castlemont Basketball Award celebration April 7, 2005. The Potluck dinner celebrated the huge success of Lady Knights and Knights, both varsity and junior varsity. The Men's team advanced to the NorCal Basketball Championship game in Sacramento.

It was noted that 36 of the 50 student athletes earned Honor Roll status (3.0 or above GPA), and two have already won scholarships: Kieisha Phelps (St. Mary's) and Chris Oakes (Pepperdine). Kieisha averaged 17 points and 11 rebounds a game as Castlemont's women finished with a 24-4 record and a berth to the NorCal Division 1 playoffs. Chris averaged 18 points, 12 rebounds, and 5 blocks a game, and led the Knight men to the NorCal title game. Lady Knights coach, Matthew Lane, was honored by CIF as one of this year's "Model Coach of the Year."

The CHSAA donated a cake, and was duly thanked by all 125 people in attendance: players, parents, and coaches. Thanks to Athletic Director Johnny Lorigo, for his tireless hard work! If you would like to help out in the future, please contact athletic director/school counselor Johnny Lorigo (510 60406373). The Knights spirit and prowess reigns!

Castlemont in the News

Unfortunately, not all the news at the school is good. Just after the career day, a fire was discovered behind the auditorium. In addition to fire, smoke, and water damage to the building, pianos, other instruments, and music was destroyed. While the cause is still "under investigation," the newspaper reported that there was suspicion of arson.

Mr. Abdel-Qawi, the principal of the East Oakland School of the Arts, estimates that there was \$750,000 in damage to the school. But staff and students are determined not to let this incident define who Castlemont is!!



Preston Pleasants, '66, with Lita Jackson and Diane Becton-Smith before Career Day

The CHSAA Board and members join Johnny Lorigo in mourning the tragic death of his son, Sean.