



# The Alum Castle Crier

Spring 2009  
volume 4 issue 2

## Officers

President:  
Kim-Dung Nguyen, '99  
Vice President:  
vacant  
Pres. Emeritus:  
Toni McElroy, '69  
Secretary:  
vacant  
Treasurer:  
Bill King, '56  
Parliamentarian:  
Roxana Larsen, '51

## Board of Directors<sup>4</sup>

Carol Becton-Berry, '66  
Lanna Bulter-McCoy, '69  
Thuy Thi Nguyen, '93  
Diana Becton-Smith, '69  
Pamela Bull Brooks, '69  
Greg Hickey, '56  
Rich Klier, '58

**Castlemont Website:**  
**Castlemontalumni.org**

## Crier Co-editors:

Gary Yee, '62;  
Roxana Larsen, '51;

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## Time to Renew your Membership?

**If you are a current member, please do renew now! It's only \$25 a year, and you will receive in the mail a token of our appreciation, a brand new, CHSAA pin.**

Better yet! Become a life member! Get a membership form from [castlemontalumni.org](http://castlemontalumni.org)

## The President's Report

Kim-Dung Nguyen, '99

I am excited that the Board chose me to be the President of the CHSAA. In its five years, I will have been the third President, succeeding Toni McElroy, '69, who in turn succeeded Thuy Thi Nguyen, '93. Just in case you think there is some resemblance, yes, Thuy is my older sister! Since completing my degree in American Civilization at Brown University, I returned to work in the community, finally starting a teaching career at Elmhurst Middle School, my alma mater; oh, and I married Todd (he maintains the alum website)



I look forward to working and collaborating with the Board to achieve the following goals:

- develop an inventory of class representatives.
- work with administrators at Castlemont Community of Small Schools to see how the association can better support the community.
- increase our membership to 500 active members.
- communicate more frequently with members by producing three issues of the Crier.
- regularly maintain our website. ([www.castlemontalumni.org](http://www.castlemontalumni.org))

The CHSAA is organized and operated by Castlemont alum volunteers who are invested in keeping the spirit of the **ALUMNI IN TOUCH** alive. If you are interested in supporting the association either as a class representative, contributing writer to the Crier, organizing social events and etc. please feel free to contact the association at [board@castlemontalumni.org](mailto:board@castlemontalumni.org).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Toni for her leadership these past two years. She has set a good model for me to follow. I look forward to a dynamic and productive year!

## Meet Our Board Members

Even before the CHSAA, Greg Hickey, '56, has helped organize alumnae through his all class summer picnics (see second page). After Castlemont and three years in the Marines, Greg worked in sales for Kraft Foods, retiring in 1999. In his spare time, Greg continues to work part time, and stays in close contact with the current generation of teachers and staff at Castlemont, as well as alumnae from as far back as 1944. For that and other contributions, Greg was awarded the 2006 Gold Key Alumni Award. Greg lives in Pleasanton and still finds time to putter around the community in his 1978 MGB!

Pam Brooks, '69, represents us all as the Newark City Postmaster.

She began her career shortly after graduating from Castlemont, rising from distribution clerk to her current position. the Post Office is a family thing, with husband Rudy and daughter Avalon also part of the postal family.



Pam is proud that she completed her BA from UOP in 2008, and will soon complete her MBA.

## In the news:

Last issue, we told you about Dalvin Butler, '09, who spoke with such passion at the annual membership Luncheon. Just in: Dalvin was awarded the prestigious Gates Millenium Scholarship, and he will be going to Georgetown in the fall. He through a wonderful reception for friends and family (and alums) at the East Oakland Youth Development Center: What class!

And, track and field coach Chuck Schneekloth reports that scholar athlete Jeremy Jones, '04, will graduate from Angelo State University in Texas, as a Division II All American, where he set school records as a hurdler and sprinter. Congratulations!





## Sports Report

### Castlewood Track and Field finishes undefeated season!!!

Castlewood sports teams continue to dominate and excel this year. First, the Lady Knights swept into first place in the OAL basketball league and competed at the state finals in Sacramento in January.

Then the Castlewood track and field teams, both men and women's, reigned victorious, gathering important wins at the local, state, and national levels, and winning the OAL championships.

Despite competing shorthanded, the boys defeated Tech and Skyline to capture their first OAL title since 2004. Junior distance star Jaime Lopez won the 1600, the 800, and gutted out a 2nd place in the 3200. Senior Robert Krebs placed 2nd in three events as well: high hurdles, long jump, and triple jump. Senior Tyrone Radford won the triple jump, and a 2nd place in the 400.

The Lady Knights won the OAL title with a win over Skyline.. Senior Ronda Nervis won the 400 and placed 2nd in the 200, the long jump, and the high jump. Ashley Heedley and Deanna Atkins went 1-2 in both the shot put and discus, senior Katricee Corgile ran on the winning 4x100 relay and second place 4x400, and 4th in the 400. Senior Chelsea Ingram placed in four events: high hurdles, triple jump, 4x100 relay, and the 100.

This is the first time in school history that both the boys' and girls' track and field teams won OAL championships in the same year.



Girl's sprint relay team, with 400m record holder Michael Johnson



Victorious Boys' and Girls' track teams at Laney College

## Reunion News

Greg Hickey, '56

On Saturday, Sept.12 this year, there will be the biannual all classes picnic at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Attendance at prior picnics has averaged several hundred people from many classes. There is always lots of memorabilia from the old school and there will be Castlewood Knight T shirts for sale. Contact me via e-mail for information on the shirts and other memorabilia(whizman@prodigy.net).

JoAnn (Albert) Bailey, '54, announces their 55th reunion picnic and Sunday brunch weekend, Sept 12 and 13th, at the Castlewood Country Club. Contact her at 925 443 3286 for more info, or Joy (Lewis) Fox at albertlewis54castlecontacts@gmail.com.

Sheridan Downey, '59, announces their 50th reunion on September 11, the day before the picnic. sdowney3@aol.com

**Thank you Class of '58!!** After last year's reunion, in September 2008, the organizers decided to donate their leftover funds to the CHSAA. This will go a long way toward sustaining the work of the CHSAA. If you know of any reunion events, or if you have events that you would like to announce, please contact me and I will be happy to include them in our files.

### View Castlewood's history, and support Castlewood's future!!!

Bob Bechler, '52 and Roxana Larson, '51, have been collecting and organizing artifacts of Castlewood's past. This year, they put together a wonderful DVD of that history, and showed it for CHSAA members, and others at Barack Obama Academy, where Toni McElroy, '69, is the principal. For more information, contact Roxana Cowden Larsen, '51, roxlar@dslextreme.com

### Math Afternoon 2009

The CHSAA sponsored a math event for the third straight year on Wednesday, May 27. Rich Klier, '58, was the guest speaker. He made three presentations: "How Many Chicken McNuggets Can't You Order", "Klier Numbers" (Have you never heard of them?) and "The Mathematics Explaining 3D hologram".

Ms. Battle's Calculus students Kathy Zepeda, Julia Vasquez, Eric Fuller, Desiree Sanders, Magdaline Armstrong, Torrance Jones and Tiffany Parker, all made presentations too. This year attendance was up. We are building a tradition and this year was a positive step in that process.

## THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ALUMNI AWARD:

**Ester Dixon**, '66, received a B.A. in Home Economics with a minor in Sociology. from San Francisco State University. In 1976, she returned to Castlemont as a Home Economics teacher. She is still at Castlemont, teaching business and culinary arts; always a proud Knight, often wearing purple.

In 1996, Ester helped start and manage the award-winning "Knights Caf," a coffee and snack kiosk at the Oakland Airport. The Knight's Caf has trained more than 60 students in all aspects of business. The café ran for 12 years. The café received the Oakland Business of the Year award in 2002. Ms. Dixon, herself, received the Marcus Foster Educational Institute Distinguished Educator Award.

## THE GOLD KEY ALUMNI AWARD

**Robert E. Beechler** graduated June '52. He married his high school sweetheart, also a Castlemont graduate. After Castlemont, he went into the Army. After the service, he spent 7 years in North Africa flying for oil companies and spent over 27 years flying for Union Oil Co. in Los Angeles, retiring in 1994.

Bob has always been enthralled with Castlemont's beauty and the tradition of the Knights, King Arthur and his Court. He has gathered as much of Castlemont's history as he could find. Bob has yearbooks and Criers going back to 1930. He has building materials such as slate from the old school's roof, and several lanterns which were on the entrance to the school prior to its demolition (they now proudly hang at the entrance of his own home). Bob has participated actively in his Class Reunions, creating several Knights to use in decorating the reunion site.

## THE SPORTS HALL OF FAME ALUMNI AWARD:

**Will Souza graduated in Spring, 1954.** He excelled in baseball, basketball, and football during his tenure as a student at Castlemont. He was captain of the varsity basketball team. National Baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio presented Will with a gold watch for being one of the most valuable baseball players. (his son accepted his award, and is in the photo)



## THE DISTINGUISHED KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR ALUMNI AWARD:

**Sheridan Downey, III**, '59, received his BA from Stanford University, and juris doctorate from UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall. Sheridan lived in East Oakland for 65 years and practiced general business law. He also taught law at the University of Santa Clara. Sheridan was appointed to California Fair Political Practices Commission by then-State Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and served as Commissioner for six years. Sheridan's grandfather was a U.S. Senator from California. His father was a federal bankruptcy judge who helped officiate track meets and transport athletes,

Sheridan ran track at Castlemont, under the legendary coach, Nick Garedakis. Over the past five years, Sheridan has been supportive of the track team's coaching staff. In 2003, he met Chuck Schneekloth, a track coach at Castlemont. Sheridan was impressed with Chuck's enthusiasm and love of the sport, and saw the "reincarnation" of the legendary coach Nick Garedakis. Be it over emails or dinner that he buys, Sheridan has been a great source of enthusiasm and encouragement to the staff over the years. attended several track meets and helped organize them, along with contacting other alumni and community members to get them to donate their time and money. While at meets, he literally gets his hands dirty; one can often find him raking the sand, running the high jump event, or taking time at the finish line. For one senior, he donated a computer to help her in college.

**Castlemont Alumni Association Life Members** (as of May 12, 2009)

- |                             |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Donna (Butler) Ambeau, '69  | Gregory Hickey, '56               | John Minney, '51               |
| Encil Baker, '56            | Ann (Kenmuir) Hyde, '52           | Dung Kim Nguyen, '99           |
| Raymond Bargagliotti, '57   | Wayne Jensen, '57                 | Thuy Thi Nguyen, '93           |
| Diane Becton-Smith, '69     | Christine(Hargreaves)Nuna, '66    | Leo (Bill) King, '56           |
| Jackie (Hurd) Campbell, '69 | Rich Klier, '58                   | Dr Evelyn Pellaton, '39        |
| James Campbell, '68         | Wilma Carol(Bennett) Knowles, '66 | Jan (Thruston) Schwartz, '58   |
| Ernest Chann, '52           | Roxana(Cowden) Larsen, '51        | Richard Vannucci, '56          |
| Sheridan Downey, III, '59   | Dr William McCall, '56            | Tom Wesselhoff, '64            |
| Dave Heagerty, '45          | Bill McMillan, '58                | Lawrence Charles Williams, '71 |
| Roger Hewitt, '58           | Manuella (Major) Milton, '66      | Gary Yee, '62                  |

**Castlemont Alumni Association 2009 Members** (as of May 12, 2009)

- |                                            |                                          |                                      |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Judith (Wachtel) Adams'58-9;</b>        | Stephanie Allen'69-4,5,6,8,9;            | <b>Bud Amouroux'43-9;</b>            |
| <b>Sue (Cecchettini) Amouroux'61-9;</b>    | Cecelia Angel'58-8,9;                    | Bob Beechler'52-5,6,7,9;             |
| <b>Lawrence Bennett'59-9;</b>              | Carol (Becton) Berry'66-4,5,6,7,8,9;     | <b>John Bianucci'58-9;</b>           |
| <b>Edna (Wills) Billings'52-9;</b>         | Pamela (McNeary Bull) Brooks'69-4,5,8,9; | <b>Bobby Carney'68-9;</b>            |
| Mileva (Prodanovich) Brown'50-4,5,6,7,8,9; | Evelyn Call'57-4,5,6,7,8,9;              | Shirley Call'57-6,7,8,9;             |
| Lanna Butler-McCoy'69-4,5,6,7,8,9          | <b>Jan Irene Cole'71-9;</b>              | <b>Carol (Jensen) Combs'58-9;</b>    |
| George Coakley'46-7,8,9;                   | Eleanor (Damele) Cox'51-4,5,6,7,8,9;     |                                      |
| Floyd Cormier, Jr'59-4,5,6,7,8,9;          | Ruth (Valach) Demarest'50-5,6,7,8,9      | Sandi Nethercott'60-7,8,9;           |
| <b>Glory (Mayo) DeGroat'58-9;</b>          | <b>Coral (Hahn) Eggers'66-9;</b>         | Richard Ehrhardt'54-5,6,7,8,9;       |
| Nancy (Gray) Dyer'66-5,6,7,8,9;            | Joy (Lewis) Fox'54-5,6,8,9;              | <b>Warren Garrison'58-9;</b>         |
| Anne (Shiraki) Farwell'64-8,9,10           | Lupe Gomez'57-5,7,8,9;                   | Ronald Griffeth'54-5,6,8,9;          |
| Leonora Gillard'56-5,6,7,9;                | <b>Patricia (Keef) Hansen'58-9;</b>      | <b>Diana Harris'71-9;</b>            |
| Ruth (Kast) Grizzell'50-4,5,6,8,9          | Marian (Pitney) Holland'45-8,9;          | Gene Miranda'58-8,9;                 |
| Eleanor Hart'51-5,6,8,9;                   | Robert Jones, Jr'86-7,8,9;               | <b>Cherie Randolph'00-9;</b>         |
| Betty (Green) Jackson-Jones'63-5,6,8,9;    | Toni McElroy '69-5,6,7,8,9,10;           | <b>Edina (Heagerty) Nelson'47-9;</b> |
| Roberta (Mackinnon) Jorgensen'57-6,7,9;    | Peggy (Hand) Mitchell'47-5,6,7,8,9;      | LeRoy Moniz'59-4,5,6,7,8,9           |
| Patricia McNeary-Calloway'71-6,7,8,9;      | Ramona (Smith) Mulvaney'45-6,7,8,9;      | <b>Walter Nelson'58-9;</b>           |
| <b>Diane (Duncan) Mowery'58-9;</b>         | Yolanda (Simon) Peeks'64-7,8,9;          | <b>Phyllis (Jones) Penn'71-9;</b>    |
| Marlene (Martin) Northam'51-4,5,6,7,8,9;   | <b>Howard Reed'56-9;</b>                 | <b>Elyn (Dini) Roberts'58-9;</b>     |
| Bernadine (Lobo) Puccini'51-6,7,8,9;       | Robert Ryan'59-2005,6,7,8,9              | Patricia (Gilson) Schuchert'58-8,9   |
| Valerie (Harvey) Roberts'49-5,6,7,8,9;     | <b>Joanne (Porter) Slama'52-9;</b>       | Rose (Marengo) Stack'45-8,9;         |
| Lynn Simonson'63-5,6,7,8,9;                | Arue (Beaulieu) Szura '48-4,5,6,7,8      | Claire (Severs) Thoni'46-5,6,7,8,9   |
| <b>Martha (Milton) Stookey'58-2;</b>       | Sandra (Lindquist) Walton'57-4,9         |                                      |
| Bess Vance'51-5,7,8,9;                     | Rita Washington'64-4,5,6,7,8,9;          |                                      |
| <b>Karmestine (Lewis) Washington'57-9;</b> |                                          |                                      |
| Jackie (Watson) Whitener'51-4,5,6,7,8,9    |                                          |                                      |

The list of members for 2009 is as of May 15, 2009. The names written in **Bold** joined our association for the first time in 2009. Prince Valiant'33-2004,5,6,8,9 (a made up alum) indicates Prince Valiant is a member of the Class of 1933 and has been a member in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009. We don't know why he didn't renew in 2007.

Nine years of annual membership makes one a lifetime member. A couple who both graduated from Castlemont can both be lifetime members for \$250, in effect paying \$225 for a lifetime and \$25 for one annual membership. Each joining annually for five years would also make each of them a lifetime member.

**From the Membership Chair:** I think it is time to think big. We had 112 members in 2008 As of March 29, 2008 we had only 31 members and the crisis was undeniable. That June I sent 176 former members a renewal letter, urging them to rejoin the association. and we ended the year with 112 members. In our sixth year, we have 101 members as of June 2009. We've hovered around 100 members these first five years. I'm hoping a big push will result in the impossible, **1000 members in 2009.** I think 1000 members is possible. What do you think? -rich klier, '58