



The Newsletter of the Laguna Hills High School Alumni Association

Volume #11 Issue # 3

Fall, 2009

LHHS 13th Annual Hawk Challenge

Hawks from all classes are invited to join current Hawks, their parents and faculty members at this year's big event, the 13th Annual Hawk Challenge. The event will be held on **Monday, November 9th at El Niguel Country Club** located at 23700 Country Club Drive in Laguna Niguel. This year, we have something for everyone and special packages for Alumni. Proceeds benefit the LHHS PTSA. The event features a golf tournament (lunch & dinner included), a golf ball drop (closest to the hole wins \$2,500), cocktails, and auction. There is a cocktail/dinner option as well for non-golfers. The check-in time for golf is 10 AM. Cocktail hour begins at 4:30 PM, followed at **4:45 by our 1st ever Helicopter Ball drop**. Dinner, auction and raffle begin at 5:30 PM. Below is a list of the following packages specially priced for alumni.

Hawk Alumni Pack - \$25 Includes: 3 golf balls, and 3 raffle tickets (**\$45 Value**)

Hawk Pride Alumni Pack- \$75 Includes: dinner, 3 golf balls and 3 raffles tickets (**\$95 Value**)

Hawk Alumni All-Star Pack- \$199 Includes: Golf Tournament, 3 golf balls, and 3 raffles tickets (**\$244 Value**)

Hawk Alumni Social Only- Social only w/ no host bar (**Priceless**)

** For more information see the additional attachment or contact Steve McCormack at Steve.McCormack@svusd.org or Sheri Sandler at onefastmom@cox.net. Steve McCormack will buy a drink for the first twenty alumni to RSVP to his email.

2009 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Nathan Lynch Memorial Scholarship

Ginny Sklar took many challenging classes and worked several jobs during high school. In addition, she was also involved in several activities, including Girls Scouts (she won the Best Delegate Award in grades ten and eleven) and Model United Nations (MUN). She was Secretary General of MUN, and over the past four years was a Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award winner.

Ginny will be attending UC Berkeley majoring in International Political Economy. Her career goal is to be the youngest speaker of the house of representatives. Ginny believes LHHS challenged her to work beyond and outside the box.

Hawk Pride Scholarship

Over the past several years politicians have worked hard to destroy public education. **Lauren Werner** and her classmates have tried really hard to stop this process. Because she loves LHHS, Lauren has written and delivered speeches, talked to the newspapers and helped organize rallies to keep the politicians from cutting any more programs. As a member of the Model United Nations program, Lauren has worked with middle school students promoting the LHHS community.

Lauren will be majoring in corporate communications and public affairs at Southern Methodist University. Her career goal is to be a lawyer. Lauren's best memories are working with

scholarship winners continued.....

Mrs. Geiger and Mr. Brown in MUN.
The best thing about LHHS was the feeling that she belonged to a family and not just a school.

Sally Van Buskirk Memorial Scholarship

Yuri Pacheco and her family had many personal and financial problems, which required her to move six times during her four years of high school. Despite these hardships, she excelled in all of her academic courses while being a member of the newspaper staff (she was editor-in-chief her senior year) and a member of several other school programs.

Yuri will be attending Fordham University in New York and majoring in Middle East Studies. She is considering a career with the State Department, CIA or Amnesty International. Her best memories of LHHS were with the International Baccalaureate Program and being able to learn material from a global perspective.

Mrs. Jax Retires

Lynn Jax started teaching at La Paz Intermediate in 1972. She taught English, reading, and math (believe it or not). After three years, she left to open Serrano Intermediate in 1975, where she was the English Department Chair. Lynn stayed at Serrano until 1983, when she moved to LHHS. Over the years, Lynn has taught English, reading, and American Studies (team taught with Jackie Knauer for 15 years). She was WASC Coordinator, Teacher of Year (District and semifinalist for O.C. 1994), a member of the School Improvement Committee (20 Years) and CSF advisor for 7 years.

One of her favorite memories was the faculty Lip-Synch because so many staff members were involved. Her group (Ingham, Knauer, Alms, Paegle, Nick and Dempsey) performed "My Boyfriend's Back". Mrs. Knauer wore a long blonde Dolly Parton wig and looked great.

Lynn plans to take advantage of the off-season travel times and see many places. She looks forward to reading more books and joining a few volunteer organizations in Laguna Beach. She is not cutting all ties with LHHS because she will continue to be the CSF advisor next year as a "walk-on." Lynn would have to say that LHHS was her favorite place to work.

Hawks in Flight

Taku Nishi '97 - currently works at Microsoft's Japanese subsidiary as the Product Manager for the Application Platform (.NET and Visual Studio). He is overworked and underpaid, but he loves what he does. "It's great to have the opportunity to talk to people in various industries. And it's great to be able to teach them about new technologies and tools, how to leverage them, and how to streamline their business processes to make everyone's lives easier and more productive." When he speaks, he says it's like being a teacher of a really quiet class but wishes he had more opportunities to "teach" in English as well. Taku plans to stay in Japan for another few years before heading back to the States, though he is contemplating doing some time in Europe, as well. He also sends his thanks to his classmates who have visited him in Japan over the last four years. Taku is still single and has no children (that he's aware of).

Jennifer Steiger '99 - is in her fourth and final year of the JD/MBA program at the University of Texas at Austin. Last year, she visited Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an, Chongqing and Hong Kong with students from the MBA program. The trip included sightseeing and company visits, and culminated with the delivery of a consulting project for BYD Motors. After graduation, she plans to take the bar exam and move to San Diego to start work as an attorney in the corporate practice at Morrison & Foerster LLP.

Chaiya Mohanty Ortiz' 85 - recently moved to Fairfax, VA (about 20 miles from Washington DC) to assure job security for her husband. His company is headquartered there and the Anaheim Hills office is far from healthy these days. Chaiya is teaching Spanish full-time at two campuses that are part of the Northern Virginia Community College District. Her two Native-Californian children are adjusting to the transition. Luckily, they are in 4th and 6th grades, so hopefully this won't be as traumatic as her many childhood moves. Those of you from the class of 1985 may remember that she came to California during her freshman year. Boy, talk about culture shock! She thought she had landed on a different planet. Please feel free to look her up on Facebook, and she will welcome visits once she is settled.

Jim McGraw '80 - and his wife Anna have been married for 10 years and have 4 kids, the oldest is in high school now. Jim has been managing a network of foreclosure attorneys for a large bank the last 8 1/2 years and he has recently moved into a position with JP Morgan Chase, negotiating settlements on litigated foreclosure matters. He still manages to find the time about twice a month to continue his amateur motorcycle racing where he is ranked #27 by the AMA in the over forty year old, 250cc class.

Erica Weinstock (Benson) '95 - attended Adelphi University in New York before moving back home to California. She met her husband, Brian in 1998 and they were married in 2002. In 2003, Erica went back to school for her Microsoft Certifications. After going through several downsizes, she started her own business, an online Scrapbook Store (www.YourScrapbookStash.com) and has been able to pay the bills, doing something she truly loves for the last 2 1/2 years. Her son, Nicholas was born in 2007. Before he was born, they traveled extensively in an effort to see the world before they settled down. Erica and her family (including her Pug, Rascal) still live in Southern California.

Jennifer Wells '96 - studied photography at the Art Center College of Design and graduated in 2002. Since then she has worked in the magazine and advertising industry as an Art Producer, until November 2008, when she moved to Reston, Virginia with her husband. In January 2009, she had a baby boy, Sebastian Wells, and is privileged to stay home with him along with working on her freelance photography.

Jonathan Kuai '99 - is a corporate attorney in the Los Angeles office of Morrison & Foerster LLP (affectionately referred to as MoFo), with a focus on mergers and acquisitions in the fashion, sports, technology, entertainment and executive search industries. He is happy to report that a few other former Hawks are or will soon be a part of the same firm. Jonathan got married a couple of years ago and his wife owns and operates an event planning and floral company serving the Los Angeles, Orange County and Palm Springs areas. They live in San Marino with their dog Madison.

Please email your current bio to
Steve.McCormack@svusd.org

LHHS Class of 1990 20 Year Reunion

When: July 17, 2010 5:00 PM until

Where: Balboa Yacht Club in Corona Del Mar.

Cost: \$100 per person.

**This will include a limited open bar, food, entertainment and more...*

** Please make checks payable to:

Brad Grebel

49700 Rancho San Francisquito

La Quinta, Ca 92253

In the memo write: Class of 1990
Reunion.

For more information: Contact Brad Grebel at
760-218-0017 or Bradley@dc.rr.com or
LHHS1990@dc.rr.com

"Hawks helping Hawks"

***For all of your **snow boarding** and related needs, contact **Dave '92** and **Anne Gullo (Katsuyama) '91** at the number below



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Membership Application

First Name Last Name Maiden Name Phone Number E-mail

Street Address City State Zip Code Grad. Year

Membership Level: \$20 Standard \$35 Hawk White \$50 Hawk Brown
 \$100 Hawk Gold \$250 Hawk Platinum \$500 Hawk Diamond

*** All donations above the \$20 standard membership will fund alumni scholarships for graduating seniors. Platinum and Diamond are life time memberships.*

Return this form with your tax deductible **check** to LHHS Alumni Association,
Attention: Steve McCormack, 25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Please make your check payable to the **LHHS Alumni Association**

Check this box if it is OK post any pictures of you from old year books on the web sites.

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