



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2024

Vol.37

Issue 1

The mission of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation is to serve as a charitable organization to unite Santa Rosa High School alumni, parents, faculty, staff and interested community members in order to provide financial support for SRHS programs and students, and to preserve and document the history and traditions of SRHS.

TURNING TRAUMA INTO SERVICE MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

By Don Cambou

“Anyone who works with me knows I’m transparent to a fault.” Santa Rosa High’s new principal made that statement very early in my interview with him. And as you’ll see, Principal Mark Ryan wasn’t kidding. He told me that when he was a boy he had an alcoholic father. “When I was eight years old, he tried to kill my mother at Thanksgiving dinner. He eventually went to jail. I testified in a trial against him. I was abused as a kid physically and emotionally.”

Luckily he had some very supportive teachers. “One very wise ninth grade teacher told me that I could use the trauma I had experienced in one of two ways: I could use it as an excuse and have terrible things happen in my life and no one would blame me or I could use the trauma as a set of tools to do something good with my own life and to help other people.” Mark Ryan chose the latter option. When he was a senior in high school he was accepted to West Point



Principal Mark Ryan, PhD

where he wished to become a military chaplain. But then West Point told him his birth certificate was invalid. When he called his “mother” about it, she told him he had been adopted. He then decided to become a Catholic priest. Instead, he began teaching seventh grade without a credential at his Catholic elementary school. His pay in 1984 was \$4,000 a year. He got his teaching BA and MS at

Mount Saint Mary’s University, and his PhD from the University of Southern California. Soon after, he became a principal in the Catholic school system, and then transitioned to the public school system – as a teacher. He was regarded as a very good teacher and encouraged to become a principal in that system. “Teachers had made such a big impact on me, I wanted to pay it forward.”

For the last eighteen years he has been the principal of two public military schools, both founded by past California governor Jerry Brown. He worked closely with Brown for eight years at the military school in Oakland, then for ten years at the military school in Los Angeles. Being public schools, both co-ed military academies gave disadvantaged kids a chance to succeed in a disciplined environment. When the Los Angeles military school shut down last August, Ryan began looking for a new position. He had several offers but took

Continued on page 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2024

By Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

It has been an exciting year thus far for the SRHS Foundation!

With the annual Year End Campaign behind us, the Polenta feed Committee has started the process of requesting donations for the Live Auction, Silent Auction and Raffle. Ticket sales began on January 15th to members of the Foundation and started March 1st to non-members and friends of SRHS and the Foundation. We are hoping for a sellout event with 450 people in attendance.

Mary Orsborn Beseda
President

The Scholarship Committee is in full swing with the addition of several new scholarships this year.

- Paul Huntzinger Scholarship(s) will be awarding two scholarships for two First-Generation-in-a-family students to attend college.
- Dennis and Ruth McGill Scholar-Athlete Scholarship will be awarding one scholarship to a Senior attending College; nominees will be recommended by the Athletics Department to the Scholarship Committee. (See p. 8)
- Marie Hindringer Kelly Memorial Scholarship(s) will be awarding possibly four scholarships to promising Seniors. (See p. 4)

This will make the scholarships awarded to over Fifty for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year. The Committee has their work cut out for them!

A new Ad Hoc Committee has been formed by Art Horner, School Liaison. It is the planning Committee for the SRHS 150th Anniversary, which is scheduled for October 5, 2024. (See p. 11) The Foundation will also be hosting the 6th Annual Show & Shine on the same day. More details to come. If you are interested in helping

with the planning or want to volunteer for the day, please send an email to info@srhsf.org or call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747.

The SRHS Foundation is always looking for new Board Members. We are looking for the following attributes in a qualified applicant:

- Someone committed to our Mission; unite SRHS Alumni, parents, faculty, and interested community members to provide financial support for SRHS programs & students, plus preserve and document the history and traditions of SRHS.
- Committed to serve on the Foundation Board for a minimum of three years.
- Commit to working on three Foundation sub-committees.
- Commit to help with one large Foundation event each year.
- Help the Foundation bring in new Members.
- Potentially serve as an Officer on the Foundation Board.

If you are interested, please email info@srhsf.org or call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747.

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74

NEWSLETTER

SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Article submissions are invited. Limit letters to no more than 150 words. Article ideas should be submitted to the newsletter editor in advance for approval. All submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Foundation. Please submit letters and articles in Microsoft Word if possible. Submissions are also invited to Panther Patter. Contact us at newsletter@srhsf.org.

Monica Baldenegro '95

Mary Orsborn Beseda '74 President

Don Cambou '64 Newsletter Editor

John Coddling '82

Paddy Robotham Coreris '66 Secretary

* Mike Daniels '59

* Donna Dennes Doyle '67

Kristine Erken, Friend

* Mike Grace '65

Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68

Veronica Stoops Haas '69

Rhonda Rehm Loop '73 Treasurer

JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56

Brian Mecchi '77

Tony Negri, Friend

* Doug Pavese '58

Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59

Ilona Mayer Williams '64

** Founding Director*

the position at SRHS, he says because he seemed to gel with the teachers and school board here.

“This is the most beautiful campus I’ve ever seen. The traditions here and the history here make this place truly remarkable... This is a really remarkable group of young people. They’re energetic. They’re thoughtful. They’re passionate. They’re compassionate. The same thing is true about the staff. This is singularly the best group of teachers I’ve ever worked with. This place has a whole lot of superstar teachers. And it’s not just the teachers. The people in the offices, the custodians, everyone who works here genuinely cares for kids and making this an even better place.”

What are Ryan’s goals at SRHS? He named three. “I want this place to continue to thrive and to get even better at the wonderful things that are happening here.” He understands that Sonoma County is experiencing dramatic birthrate drops and that all the schools are seeing enrollments declining. “This school has 200 students less than it did a few years ago.” Ryan sees a way to arrest that enrollment decline. “This school has so much amazing stuff happening. I don’t think we toot our horn enough. We’ve got to tell the world what an amazing place this is. If we did that even more, I think we’d have more people say I want to go to that school, or I want my kid to go to that school.”

His second goal is to see a higher percentage of students graduate. “Even one kid not graduating is one kid too many in my opinion. The trauma of the pandemic created a defeatist mindset. We have freshmen who have come to the conclusion that they’re not going to graduate. And that’s unacceptable. We have to adopt the mindset that dropping out is not an option.” His concern is not just for the at risk students. Although he believes SRHS already has incredible opportunities for top students, just days before our interview he met with the president of Santa Rosa Junior College about creating even more dual enrollment classes for qualifying SRHS students.

“The final thing I really want to address is the issue of safety. We live in a world where school violence is a real thing. We have homeless people who sleep here.” Ryan wants to create a tighter school perimeter, but certainly not with high fences everywhere. “Putting up a beautiful hedge could prevent someone with bad intentions from coming onto campus. This is such an open campus that it creates some very unsafe conditions.” Ryan says he gets a lot of pushback from people who think SRHS is such a wonderful place in part because it’s such an open campus. “It’s something that needs to be very thoughtfully considered. We have a lot of input from alumni, current students, safety experts, architects and engineers. It’s not going to be an overnight decision.”

To end our interview, I asked Ryan if he wanted to add anything to what he’d already said. First he singled out the Foundation. “The fact that the alumni give over \$145,000 in scholarships yearly is astounding. Also the Foundation’s involvement in the grant programs for teachers and students. Talk about paying it forward. I’ve never been to a school with that generous a group of alumni.” But he sees an even larger possible role for alumni. “I want alumni who have special skills or knowledge to reach out to me. We’d love to have you come in and be a classroom guest speaker. Have you come in and teach something about your career to our students. I’d love to see internships with alumni. There are so many other ways for alumni to give back, other than the financial way.” To that end, he wanted me to print his personal phone number and email in this newsletter. Call or text him at 707-888-8772. Email him at mryan@srcs.k12.ca.us.

A final thought from Principal Ryan: “For the last 149 years this school has created good adults who go out into the world and make it a better place by treating people with kindness and respect and that’s what we want to continue to do.”

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CHANGE

Please note that the SRHS Foundation Membership Committee will be mailing out post cards when renewals are coming due. Post cards will be mailed out one time, two months before your membership expiration date. If you have any questions please call the Pandy Line at 707-571-7747.



THE FINAL GIFT OF MARIE HINDRINGER KELLY A WOMAN KNOWN FOR HER GENEROSITY AND LOVE OF LIFE

By Don Cambou

Marie Hindringer Kelly '57 grew up in a small Santa Rosa house with her sisters and working class parents. She lost her mother when she was a high school sophomore, and her father when she was a senior. Yet this self-made woman went on to live a full and fascinating life. In her trust, she left the SRHS Foundation the second largest donation it has ever received: over a million and a half dollars.

Marie was a well-liked SRHS song leader when her father died. She was suddenly on her own. For the rest of her senior year, she lived in the home of larger-than-life Santa Rosa Police Chief Melvin "Dutch" Flohr and his wife Wilma, the parents of her boyfriend, Don. Several SRHS teachers had mentored her, and continued to mentor her.

After graduation, Marie quickly found work at the Sonoma County Title Insurance Company. That prepared her for her next job at R J V Real Estate. There, she learned how to identify good rental properties, and to buy them. Their income assisted her through the rest of her life. Although she was busy as a young working woman, she found the time to run for Miss Sonoma County. In those days, nearly everyone in Santa Rosa knew the name of Miss Sonoma County. It was a Big Deal. With the guidance of Santa Rosa High Drama teacher Glenn Guymon, she won the title in 1960. For the talent portion, she performed a comedy skit.

In the mid-70s, after many years as a successful realtor, Marie and her then husband took up residence in Hawaii. Still, she would return often to Santa Rosa for high school reunions, and to give guidance to Miss Sonoma County contestants. On her own, she would build a beautiful ocean front home and turn it into a bed-and-breakfast. The B-and-B played into Marie's strengths. According Sally Weeks-Gard '57, a fellow SRHS song leader and lifetime friend, "Marie was detailed, outgoing, friendly, cute, and smart. She loved to entertain, and loved to make people happy." While in



Marie Hindringer, Miss Sonoma County, 1960



Marie Hindringer Kelly

Hawaii, Marie also teamed up with a partner to create "Kona Helicopter," a tourist sightseeing service.

After over 20 years in Hawaii, Marie moved back to California. She lived in the popular desert resort communities of La Quinta and Palm Desert. After a few years living in the desert, she moved to Lake Forest, California and bought a home on that city's lake. She would live there until she passed away in 2022. She had a small electric boat there, appropriately named "Play and Eat." Sally Weeks-Gard, by then also a Lake Forest resident, remembers that Marie loved to give parties. She'd host block parties on the Fourth of July, at Christmas time, and during the city's annual boat parade. Everyone was welcome. According to Weeks-Gard, if you went to a restaurant with Marie, she'd know everyone there. And if she didn't, she'd know them by the time she left.

In her last years, Marie became an extensive traveler, exploring Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Old high school friends remember Marie as a woman of boundless generosity. She gave to eight or ten charities – every year.

One of the largest recipients of Marie's generosity was Santa Rosa High, through the SRHS Foundation. Although she was a Foundation supporter in many ways, including the One Thousand Panthers Fund, her largest gift by far came through her trust. From Marie's trust, the Foundation received \$1,533,134. \$468,000 of the total will go to the Marie Hindringer Kelly Scholarship Fund. The scholarships will exist in perpetuity, providing several large yearly scholarships. The rest of her gift will establish the Marie Hindringer Kelly Memorial Fund, from which both principal and interest will be available when needed.

Marie had very fond memories of SRHS, and of the teachers who mentored her as a young woman, suddenly alone in the world.

A FOND GOODBYE TO DARRYL BEARDALL, ONE OF THE GREATEST RUNNERS IN SRHS HISTORY

by Mike Daniels

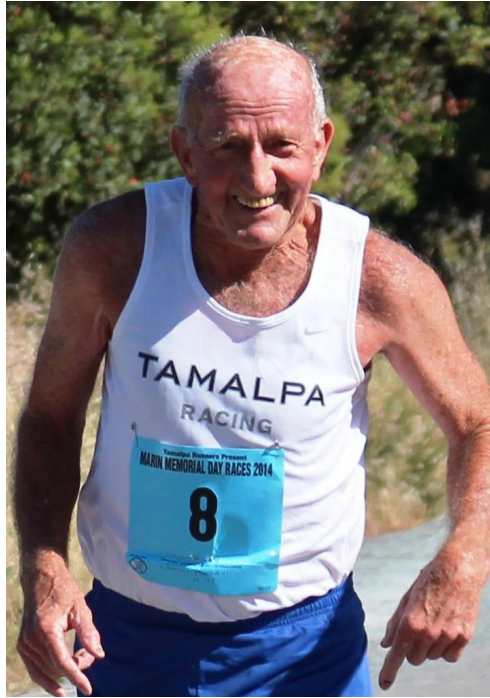
In the mid-1950s if you saw Darryl Beardall and his brother Alan jogging along Franklin Avenue and over Montecito Heights in their high-top tennis shoes you knew it wasn't an uncommon sight, but it certainly was exceptional to see other people out jogging. Few people ran then.

Darryl enjoyed exception throughout his career of one foot in front of the other. His accomplishments over pavement and trails have been well documented—300,000 total miles, won the extremely challenging Dipsea twice (begins with a 600-plus step staircase), twice had the best time in that race, 300 victories in cross-country competitions, ran the Salt Lake Desert Marathon 40 times and the Napa Marathon 32 and the Kenwood Foot Races 49 – the last on July 4th, 2023, just four months before his death. He'd train by running 120 miles a week.

He ran track in Santa Rosa Junior High, Santa Rosa High ('56 alumnus), Santa Rosa Junior College and Brigham Young University. But it is what his Panther teammates recall that is the most telling about Darryl.

Mickey Prickett '56 was on the SRHS squad with Darryl and remembers spotting him running in sparsely settled Rincon Valley Wallace Road areas.

Bob Dale '58 remembers, "If you ran cross-country at SRHS, you knew Darryl Beardall. Today I can say I ran with Darryl Beardall, but of course I was way behind. He never lost a race and there were many."



Darryl Beardall, doing what he loved

Dale remembers training runs up steep and winding Parker Hill Road that were "no problem for Beardall. About one-third of the way up that ungodly hill, Darryl would meet the rest of us on his way down, smile and say 'Hi.' That was Darryl, a natural runner, a model athlete, a non-assuming guy who'd take the time to say hi in the middle of a run. He set the standard."

Dave Engman '57 affirms that behavior. "Everyone (on the team) liked him. He was always friendly. He wasn't fast, he ran at one speed but he kept going."

Teammate Mark DeMeo '58 also remembers seeing Darryl running around the hills and the streets—"like the Eveready Bunny. I wondered how he could do it." DeMeo recalled Darryl as "very nice and generous with his time."

Tom Daniels '55 remembers Darryl as a competitive two-miler (today's 3,200 meters). He also competed at SRJC with Darryl and recalled how Darryl lifted weights to build upper body strength.

Once age and a hip injury limited his running, Darryl escalated his connection to SRHS athletics. As a volunteer, he ran the clock at basketball games, helped at track meets and sponsored an award given to the most inspirational athlete on both the cross country and track teams. He was one of a kind, the "toughest of the tough," as the Marin Independent Journal said.

TIME FOR BASEBALL!

Spring means baseball, and there's no better way to swing into the season than by attending the annual Panther Alumni Game.

Scheduled this year for April 20 on the SRHS diamond, festivities will begin at 11:30 in a ceremony to honor former players. First pitch will be thrown at 12:00. Also on the program are a silent auction, lots of food and drink and a whole big bunch of fun.

Alumni interested in playing are urged to register at either of the following: SRHSBaseballTeam@gmail.com or bprice@srcs.k12.ca.us

Playing or spectating, come to the campus for a great afternoon of the best of Panther baseball as another season gets underway for the Orange and Black.

CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WINTER 2024

By Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68 and Brian Mecchi '77

For the period October 2023 through January 2024, the Foundation welcomed 6 new members, 100 renewing members and 3 lifetime members. Membership dues total \$ 6010.00 for this period. Total active membership in the Foundation now stand at 677. We continue to actively contact members regarding up coming renewals.

The following Foundation members and friends made contributions in addition to membership dues.

Phylis Fallon Accornero '68	Jerry Grey '58	Stephen Olsen '61
Robert/Kim Carpenter '77 Agrella	Ted Grosman '60	Ed Pisenti '55
Norma Bracco – Parent	Larry Hartley '62	Charles Proses '50
Don Cambou '64	Shirley Capri Havner '55	A. James Robertson '55
Bob '58/Bobbie Olenberger '60 Cheli	Clarke Holland '70	Leslie Hallock Sanders '68
Robert Coleman '67	David Hunter '56	Gene Sato '59
Peter/Anastacia Lara Duarte - Parents	Jackie Yates Irene '58	Jacklyn Cooper Schalich '57
Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56	James Kinkela '57	Jean Schulz – Friend
David Engman '57	Lulu Butcher Kistner '57	Honora Bessone Shipe '64
Kristine Erken - Friend	Kathleen Koran - Friend	Terry Tauzer Smith '75
Burl Estes '61	Mike Liewald '70	Lorne '49/Janice Kaelin '52 Swanets
Robert Fabela '83	Bill/Jeanne Marioni - Friends	Joanne Tyler '86
Robert “Bob” Falco '67	Janis McMurtry Martin '65	Marilyn Michetti Walker '66
Nora Gibbs – Friend	William/Joan Francis Mills '49	Jean Wood - Parent
Rick/Paulette Guaspari Gomes '68	Lucille Moholt-Siebert '68	Patricia Walker Yeckel '66
John Grace '64	Gwen Nicholson Neary '65	Tom Zuur '62
Mike/Kathy Daniels Grace '65	Maridee Noonan '76	

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Katherine Jo Brumbaugh 2022

Zoe Brumbaugh 2020

Leslie Hallock Sanders '68

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Michael Bucchianeri '71

Donald '70/Alda Giusti '72 Creed

Dennis '59/Karleen Kittinger '64 Maguire

Jake Molettieri 2020

Linda Cousins Olufs '73

Beth Reddick Shelton '68

ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Benevity

SEAT PLAQUE

Charles Johnson '61

In memory of Susan Evatt

Charles Johnson 1961

MEMORIAL & SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You may send the SRHSF a contribution in the name of a deceased Panther, or in the name of a specific living person, department, group need, or scholarship fund.

ACADEMIC

Donald/Madeline Getts – Parents

Alicia Hodenfield '85/Parent

Jack/Marsha Vas Dupre – Parents

AGRICULTURE FFA

Marianne Scheffler Wurnitsch '53

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Rick '67/Rocky Call

NEAL AUSTINSON '59

Art Valencia '59

WILLIAM BARCLAY DIRECTED: MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Jim Nelson '61

BASEBALL PROGRAM

Scott Beseda '72

DENNIS BRODIE '59

Art Valencia '59

ROBERT “BOBBY” BROWN '64 DIRECTED BASEBALL PROGRAM

Jan Brown – Friend

KATHRYN SLATEN CLARK ‘59

Mike Daniels ‘59/Penny Hastings ‘59

HAROLD CLEEK ‘57

Robert Guenza ‘57

JUDITH COLLINS ‘58

James Laier, Jr. ‘58

**RICHARD “DICK”
COLOMBINI ‘49**

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde ‘55

DANCE DEPARTMENT

Darlene Bath ‘56

JEFFREY DAVIS ‘87

Mike Daniels ‘59/Penny Hastings ‘59

ROBERT DAVIS ‘59

Mike Daniels ‘59/Penny Hastings ‘59

BARRY GAMBINI ‘60

Patti Sutton Clinton ‘60

GOLF PROGRAM

The Touchstone Golf Foundation

**IN HONOR WILLIAM “BILL”
GRACE ‘62**

Jay Berger ‘62

WILLIAM “BILL” GRACE ‘62

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde ‘55
James Laier, Jr. ‘58

**M. HERB GREENBERG
DIRECTED: ART
DEPARTMENT**

Rick Delanty ‘69

DAVID GROSS ‘59

Mike Daniels ‘59/Penny Hastings ‘59

RICHARD ALLEN HUNTER ‘49

Tom/Kirk/Joe/Andy/Dan Hunter – Sons

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Stephen Irish ‘69

**JACK KELLAR “LUCKY
JADE” SCHOLARSHIP**

Charles Mertel 53

**CHARLES “CHUCK”
KRACKER MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Annette O’Kelley ‘75

BILL LARKIN ‘58

James Laier, Jr. ‘58

JANET MARTIN LAWSON ‘48

Todd ‘73/Mary Orsborn ‘74 Beseda

RON MATTERI ‘58

Steve ‘60/Elaine Olson

**DENNIS AND RUTH MC
GILL SCHOLAR ATHLETE
SCHOLARSHIP**

Dennis ‘67/Ruth Mc Gill

PAM GRIFFIN MC MAHON ‘67

Daniel Mc Mahon – Friend

**BRUCE MECCHI MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Art ‘68/Andi Gambini
Brian Mecchi ‘77
Rena Mecchi – Parent
Yvonne Papeman – Friend

DANNY MENDOZA ‘64

Robert ‘63/Donna Mc Clelland ‘64
Lombardi

DONALD MOORE ‘56

Allen/Yvonne Post Garayalde ‘55
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
William “Bill” Firestone ‘64
Anthony Martin ‘64
Thomas Rackerby ‘76

**IN HONOR JAMES “JIM”
PETERSON ‘62**

Jay Berger ‘62

**ROBERT “BOB” RATTO
‘48 DIRECTED: BASEBALL
PROGRAM & WOOD SHOP
DEPARTMENT**

Julia Ratto – Friend

FREYA FICK RICHARDSON ‘60

Patti Sutton Clinton ‘60

**PETER SLUSSER
AGRICULTURE & DEBATE
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Redwood Foundation - Friends

GARY STONEBURNER ‘58

Richard Mc Drew ‘58

**JOYCE NELSON THOMPSON
‘46**

Ward ‘58/Pat Townsend ‘59 Thompson

**BERTA WIGGINS
SCHOLARSHIP**

Oren/Nadine Wiggins ‘59
Smedshammer

ROBERT “BOBBY” YATES ‘61

Janice Yates - Friend



In Memoriam Winter

Thelma Wallace Ramsey	1943	Lester Obie	1958
Gloria Bertoli Silva	1944	Charles Ross	1958
Barbara Forestler Fisher	1948	Gloria Stretch Rossini	1958
Joyce Nelson Thompson	1948	Rebecca Alves Walker	1958
Richard Hunter	1949	Marie Sullivan Yowell	1958
Nancy Hoffman Hodapp	1952	Russell McDrew	1960
Ralph Huntsinger	1953	Lorene Winter Lake	1961
Ernest Bertolini	1954	Patricia Gilligan Grundman	1964
Virginia Kerrigan Sorensen	1954	Danny Mendoza	1964
Diane Robotham Trowbridge	1954	Sylvie Anne Moore	1965
Barbara Guenza Payne	1955	<i>Former SRHS Foundation Board Member</i>	
Melvin Solie	1955	Brenda Bothern Petersen	1968
<i>Deputy Superintendent, SRCS</i>		Peter Thomas	1975
Darryl Beardall	1956	Edwin "Skeeter" Canevari	1976
David Hamley	1956	Bradley Brake	1977
Francine Ellor Staggs	1956	Royden Keely	1983
Darlene Strawn Ayers	1958	Gregory Boothroyd	1985
Helen Buck Davis	1958	Mark Bruner	1987
Ronald Matteri	1958	Jeffrey Davis	1987
Chonne Patton Harman-Werner	1958	Tiffany Wareham Harvey	1989

DENNIS AND RUTH MCGILL CREATED A SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP

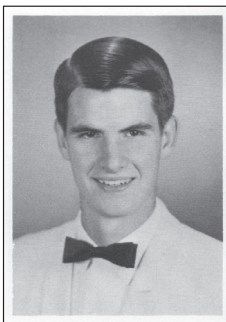
By Mike Daniels

When Dennis McGill '67 entered Santa Rosa High School as a sophomore, he wanted to play Panther basketball. Going out for the team but feeling discouraged and intimidated, as underclassmen often are, his comfort level was buoyed when Mike Grace, a senior on the team, told him not to give up, to "stick with it. You'll be fine."

He did and became a big contributor in his own senior year to the '67 NBL championship squad. His play and his presence as a basketball point guard and left-handed pitcher and first baseman in baseball were such that he was honored at graduation as Student Athlete of the Year.

Additionally, Dennis was an officer in the Block S Club, an organization for male athletes; he was also an officer in Inter-Act, which promoted community service projects, developed leadership skills, personal integrity and a strong work ethic; he was active in the Student Activities council; his academic accomplishments qualified him for membership in the California Scholarship Federation and the Honor Society.

"We all come from somewhere and that has an impact on who we are and what we do," Dennis said in reference



*Dennis McGill, SRHS
Senior Photo*

to his SRHS years of balancing and succeeding at study and athletic competition. Those years formed Dennis' outlook and inspired him to succeed. And succeed he did. After college, his work in finance helped create important recycling systems in Virginia and South Carolina, among other enterprises.

That success motivated Dennis to create a scholarship in his and his wife's name to "do something good for kids" at SRHS. The earnings on their donation of \$81,000 will fund The Dennis and Ruth McGill Scholar-Athlete Scholarship in perpetuity. Additionally, the McGills funded this school year's scholarship for \$4,000. The scholarship will be awarded annually to the student who "is seen as a strong scholar and the best teammate but perhaps not the best athlete." Not necessarily expected to use this scholarship to attend a post-secondary school, the recipient must demonstrate leadership, sportsmanship and character on and off the sports arena and contribute to team morale.

It's another example of, yes, SRHS alumni contributing to the school and its student body. As Dennis put it, "Helping others perform makes a big difference."

SRHS STUDENTS WIN NY TIMES WRITING AWARDS

By Don Cambou

This school year, Omé Zúñiga received an honorable mention in The New York Times 100 Word Personal Narrative High School Competition. Omé is a student in the Advanced Placement Language and Composition class, a college level class on the SRHS campus taught by Hollis Fennen. The award is unique, and brings with it a healthy dose of pride. To put it in perspective, consider the odds: 13,000 students enter the contest; less than 70 are in the total of first place winners, runners up, or honorable mentions. Now think about this: Ms. Fennen had an honorable mention student narrative in last year's contest as well!

Fennen says the biggest hurdle is helping her students decide what to write about. She asks them to find something no one else could write. Omé Zúñiga chose to write about a lesson he learned from his grandfather, at his ranch in Fresno. He says, "I can't explain it, but whenever I go to his house the rest of the world falls away." After choosing a subject, Fennen has them write long first drafts, to just commit the story to paper. Then they sculpt down their stories. The students in her



Hollis Fennen, Advanced Placement Language and Composition Teacher

classes help each other find the strongest and most interesting parts of their very short stories. They read five or six pieces-in-progress at a time during various stages of the drafting progress. They give their fellow writers compliments, suggestions, and questions. Laura Haugen, last year's honorable mention winner states, "I was so inspired by my peers' vulnerability with their words and my instructor's encouragement. There was a definite comfort in knowing that all of us were hovering over our blank documents.

It was as painful as it was extraordinary." The class spends a couple of weeks in October writing, critiquing, and submitting their 100 word memoirs. Each class member enters the contest. Fennen says, "It's about possibility. You never know what will happen." It is the only contest they will enter in her class. They are a group, and they are unified. The entire class celebrates their colleague's honorable mention with a pizza party and cookies.

Writing can bring joy, but it isn't necessarily easy. Fennen reflects, "I'm endlessly impressed with the students' ability to challenge themselves."

HAZLO

By Omé Zúñiga

I stood in the organized chaos of my grandpa's workshop, armed with a rusty hammer and a wrench against a cantankerous bolt. All of my earlier plans had failed; I resorted to brute force against metal. My frustrated hammering against the wrench echoed under the corrugated metal roof, but the bolt resisted.

Then, a different beat — my grandpa's uneven steps and his cane. His blue Vasco eyes studied me and my helplessness. "Mi'jo, mira." He intuitively wedged a simple screwdriver into the bolt at the perfect angle. The bolt fell. "No lo pienses tanto; simplemente, hazlo."

Editor's note: Last line translates as "Don't think about it so much; just do it."

SUNRISE, LET THE NIGHT STAY

By Laura Haugan

When a neighbor hurled rocks at our kitchen window, my best friend and I knew 2am karaoke should conclude. The awaiting Elvis ballads argued otherwise. We crescendoed to mournful melodies, rising from the couch with heartfelt soul, a symphony of strained belting and cacophonous falsettos. My heart ached. Morning would emerge, our time together would run out. I would be alone again. We had forgotten the pandemic depression that estranged us, sent us careening into abysses of young adulthood alone. We bridged this lost time, distracting ourselves from life's disasters, singing in the safety of an eternal friendship.

**HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE FOUNDATION
IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?**



ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

Donations fiscal year 2023/2024 to January 31, 2024

Thank you for your generous donations!

Nicholas Econome 1952, Honoring Theodore & George Econome

Art & Andi Gambini*****Art Gambini 1968 & Andi, In Memory of Larry Sani 1937

Art & Andi Gambini*****Art Gambini 1968 & Andi, In Memory of the Moms who kept the 3 Amigos mostly out of trouble: Alma DeMaria Orsborn '43, Aileen Michetti Bianchini '43, & Norma Rochetti Malone '41

Art & Andi Gambini*****

Art Gambini 1968, Andi and Kevin 2001, In Memory of Rae Gambini 1937

Mary Mailer Rigney 1961
In memory of J. Clark Mailer

Jim Streeter 1976

Larry Weese 1964*****

Bill 1970 and Cindy Porter 1969 Gallaher*

Leslie Hallock Sanders 1968

Virginia Grossi Templeton 1963
in Memory of Bruno Grossi*

Victor Trione 1965 and Karen Trione **

Paddy Robotham Coreris 1966 In Memory of Diane Robotham Trowbridge 1954 and Rosemary Robotham Struckman 1957

Bill and Susie Simas Friedman 1966*****

Wes 1985 and Carol Langford 1985 Daniels#*

Marilyn Malvino Hunter 1952 in Memory of Richard Allen Hunter 1949

Daniel J. McMahon in Memory of Pam Griffin McMahon 1967***

Lorne 1949 and Janice Kaelin 1952 Swanets

Richard Bastoni 1957***

Bruce and Debra Agee Burton, Parents

Alana Kelly 1978 *****

Penny Mueh 1960

Eric Pierce 1965**

Todd 1973 and Mary Orsborn 1974 Beseda in Memory of the three Albany Drive BFF's Alma DeMaria Orsborn 1943, Aileen Michetti Bianchini 1943, and Norma Rochetti Malone 1941

David C and Kathleen E Faris*

Jim Streeter 1976

Bonnie Panizzera 1963**

Stephanie Lowry Nacouzi 1977**

Tad Shapiro 1973

Gail Rocco Dutton 1962*****

Kathleen Smith 1967 in Memory of my beloved Mom, Arlene Miller 1941*

Gerald L. Gray 1958 to Honor Doug Pavese 1958

Mark 1967 and Cathy Trione*****

Lisa Keller Evich 1985*

**Indicates multiple donations*

#Indicates Front Sign Plaque

One Thousand Panthers is a campaign in progress to enrich the SRHSF Endowment Fund by utilizing \$1,000 donations by 1000 Panther supporters to reach a goal of \$1 million.

Proceeds are allocated to student needs at SRHS through the Panther Project Fund of the SRHS Foundation.

The campaign began in 2011 and will continue until the goal is met.

CURRENTLY WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 311 DONORS
(many with multiple donations)
WITH \$593,511.35 IN THE FUND

JOIN US! Call the Pandy Line (707-571-7747) or visit us online at www.SRHSF.org for assistance or email us direct at donations@srhsf.org.

Donations options by cash, check, credit cards, or securities direct are accepted from individuals and groups (pooled).

Donations can include pledges over 2, 4, and 5 years, employer matching funds, and marketable securities.

CALL US!

27TH ANNUAL POLENTA FEED

It's that time again. The 27th Annual Polenta Feed to be held on Friday, April 26, 2024 at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. The social hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets went on sale January 15th for Foundation Members only at \$40.00 each. As of March 1st, tickets are available to all supporters of SRHS at \$45.00 each. ADULTS ONLY.

Only 450 tickets will be sold. We will stop selling tickets on April 15, 2024. You can order your tickets by calling the Pandey Line at 707 571-7747. Leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned by the following day. Tickets sell quickly so make that call today. There will be a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle; The 50/50 Raffle will support Athletic Programs at SRHS.

Join the fun with other alumni and supporters of SRHS. You won't want to miss this fantastic event!

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther!"



*Section of Polenta Feed 2022,
the first post pandemic Feed*

SRHS TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

by Mike Daniels

Santa Rosa High School opened its doors to educating Santa Rosa's youth in 1874. That's 150 years ago! To mark the occasion, plans are now emerging to celebrate with a full slate of activities. Circle October 5 on your calendar as you won't want to miss it.

The day is currently scheduled to include a variety of historical and fun activities. There'll be a homecoming football game on Friday evening in which the Panthers will compete in throw-back uniforms. On Saturday there'll be the annual Show and Shine vintage car show, historical displays, departmental programs, music and dance productions, tours of the one-of-a-kind museum and food trucks.

National, state and local notables will be invited to participate in this memorable and noteworthy event that's testament to Santa Rosa High's 150-year tradition of excellence.

The ceremonial opening of a time capsule and its reinsertion until 2074 (SRHS 200th birthday!) will be another Saturday event.

Every member of every graduating class is invited to participate.

CHOIR FUN

Editor's note: The Foundation does much more than buy microscopes, athletic uniforms, and other student or teacher needs. Sometimes it makes grants that just allow students to bond and have fun together, as the letter below attests.

Dear SRHS Foundation,

Thank you very much for donating \$1000 towards the SRHS Choir members to have a day long retreat on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023. We started our day with breakfast together in the choir room, followed by 2 hours of singing (even a little bit of Karaoke). We then shared a potluck lunch together before heading off to Rebounderz in Rohnert Park. Your donation made it possible for us to have 3 hours of indoor fun - rock climbing, trampoline dodgeball and basketball, jump extreme tower, air and foam pits, arcade, ninja warrior courses... 35 students had a blast together creating a memory to last a lifetime. Thank you for helping me create a team building experience for my talented singers.

Sincerely, Marla Tusa



SRHS Choir enjoying fun time together



SRHS FOUNDATION

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"

P.O. Box 11006

Santa Rosa, CA 95406-1006

Address service requested

Time to renew?

Please check your expiration date
above your address to see if it is time
for you to renew your
membership.

If you have already renewed

THANK YOU!

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Name (please print)

Maiden Name

Spouse's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

Preferred Method to receive mail & Newsletter:

☐ Email

☐ U.S. Mail

SRHS Grad Year _____

Spouse SRHS Grad Year _____

☐ SRHS Staff

☐ SRHS Friend

☐ Parent/Grandparent (circle one): Grad Year of Student(s) _____

Membership Fee:

☐

\$25 ~ 1 year

☐

\$45 ~ 2 years

☐

\$60 ~ 3 years

☐

\$500 ~ Lifetime

Annual Fund Campaign Contribution:

Please accept my gift of \$_____ for:

☐

General unrestricted gift

☐

Directed gift for _____
(Department or Program)

☐

Gift in honor/memory of _____
(circle one)

Join One Thousand Panthers:

☐

\$1,000 or more

☐

\$500 ~ 2 years

☐

\$250 ~ 4 years

☐

\$200 ~ 5 years

Please acknowledge this donation in name of: _____

YOU MAY SEND CHECK (made payable to SRHS Foundation) for GRAND TOTAL OF \$_____ OR

Charge my: _____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Discover Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

3 digit CVV# (on back of card) _____ Name as printed on card: _____ Signature: _____

Please return this form to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. If you prefer, you may complete your transaction online through our website: www.srhsf.org. For more information, please call the Pandey Line at (707) 571-SRHS (7747) OR email us at: info@srhsf.org. Tax ID #68-0195375 (for a gift of Marketable Securities, please contact us for more information.) Remember... Once A Panther, Always a Panther!