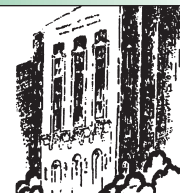


Austin Alumni Round-Up



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1 SPRING 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Winter gives way to Spring I am reflecting on the many opportunities for the Alumni Association to blossom!

The 75th Anniversary celebration held at the school in November was a grand event. Many thanks to Moises and the many who worked to put together this very special event. From the program in the auditorium to the voices of the Alumni Choir to the many greetings of the day to the 65 flags to the Brigade tribute to the outside pep rally and the new Stevie, every moment was filled with memories individually and collectively. We have much to appreciate – and we did!

Classes gathered from eight decades.

We have met two special classes who have very successful reunions, gatherings and golf tournaments which have resulted in scholarships. The alumni association is presently in conversation with the class of '79 and '81 to merge efforts into one common goal. The result will be a great benefit to Austin High School. I look forward to announcing the results of these conversations soon.

We observed last fall the great legacy that has been established at our alma mater. It makes me smile to see so many of those words, values and traditions present in the students today. It is seen in the new Stevie which was given to the school by your association. He

looks a bit different from the one we remember, but his spirit is alive and well.....and he is adorable! The traditions are seen in the posters which were presented to celebrate the 75th anniversary. Symbols were present in every poster – the rose, the crest, the mascot, a Scottish piper!!!

At some point the school will change its look, but we anticipate the efforts to keep so many things constant. Go by and take a look. You will find that many things have not changed.

Enjoy this edition as you see stories unfold. "The Mustang Spirit Lives.....!!!"

-Marsha Mathis Eckermann '64

Two HISD Educators Named 'Champions of Change' by White House

August 31, 2012 - Two HISD educators were honored Friday at the White House as "**Champions of Change**" for their efforts to improve the lives of Hispanic youths.

Teacher Development Specialist **Ben Hernandez** and Austin High School teacher **Armando Orduña** were nominated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which also handpicked them to be members of that organization's inaugural Teacher Advisory Council earlier this year.

At Austin High School, students and staff members gathered in two classrooms to watch the live feed of the White House awards ceremony, which highlighted all of the recipients. Principal Jorge Arredondo said he was proud of Orduña's achievement. "(It's) an honor and something we should appreciate and continue to support—the advancement of teachers across the United States," Arredondo said. "We want to be at the forefront of change and good practices, and so it's important to have our very own teachers who are leading here in Houston and being recognized at the national level."

Hernandez said retaining effective teachers requires a focused approach concentrating on three areas: redefining success, restructuring compensation to compete with the private sector, and developing career pathways, which is something HISD is committed to.

"(HISD is) very progressive and aggressive, so I think in a lot of ways, it can turn national eyes on us to see what we're doing right." Hernandez said.

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Scottish Brigade News

Austin Alumni Round-Up

Vol. 19 No. 1 Spring 2013

The Austin Alumni Round-Up is published two times each year by the Stephen F. Austin Alumni Association. Its purpose is to document news and activities of the Association and of former students.

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THIS NEWSLETTER PAID FOR BY THE
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Many things stand out about that gorgeous sunny Saturday, November 10, 2012 – the 75th Anniversary Celebration at AHS. However, I would have to say the highlight of the day was the unveiling of the Scottish Brigade Tribute.

Our plans for this tribute go all the way back to 2010, when Moses Villapando, the chairman of the 75th Anniversary, suggested that the Scottish Brigade should have a tribute in a prominent place at AHS. Upon Alumnae Association Board approval of the proposed plaque, a mockup was available, details were announced at the 2011 Luncheon, funds were raised, and plans proceeded.

This all culminated in the disclosure of the beautiful green marble plaque with skin frost lettering in the front foyer of AHS honoring our beloved Scottish Brigade and its founder and sponsors. It began with a stirring rendition of our familiar drum and bugle sounds along with photos of the Armistice Day Parade in 1937, marking the inaugural performance of the Scottish Brigade. As Chairman, I was honored to speak of the early times, the demise in 1978, and memories of B. Lytle, Betty Blakely, and Parthenia Papuga. These inspiring ladies led us for forty years as we became the pulse beat of AHS until the organization was retired, and we became part of the history of Houston.

Members of the first and last Brigade were represented by Bonnie Damon Torrey '39 and Ida Beth Geschke '78, when one lone voice began singing "The Bagpipe Corps Slow Song," followed by other voices throughout the auditorium as the Tribute was revealed on the screen. Needless to say, there was not a dry eye in the room as a bagpiper playing "Scotland the Brave" marched down the aisle.

I hope you will stop by to take a look at the Tribute -- it will remind former students, current students, and future students – just like it says in our song – of the "lively step of the bagpipes" hum leaving a memory that will not fade of Austin High and the Scottish Brigade." *continued at bottom of next page*



(left to right) Georgianne Tracy Sigler, '64, Priscilla Blackmon Mouton, '64 Pam Wilson Akins, '65, Camille Guerra Factor, '65, Pat Snyder Shoffit, '65

Majorettes & More Majorettes



Standing left to right: Christina Pyle Davis '67, Nydia De La Garza '81, Glenda Pulley '65, Janet Tobias '80, Dolores Hernandez Villarreal '79, Diane Edwards Bierce '68, Mary Helen Ybanez Rivera '79, Debra Carrizal '84, Judy Callihan LaCroix '68, Liz Oropeza Berrones '80, Cyndi Cortez-Smith '83, Rosalie Zavala Brillion '80



Standing left to right: Rosemary Donovan '83, Janet Tobias '80, Judy Callihan LaCroix '68, Cyndi Cortez-Smith '83, Debra Carrizal '84, Rosalie Zavala Brillion '80

What a wonderful time the Alumni Majorettes had at Austin's 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration! The smiles and warmth received when greeting friends from the past, the memories recalled from walking the hallways after all these years, the feeling of pride from being part of Austin's great traditions and heritage, the pure joy of performing our majorette routine to the Austin Fight Song, once again...a fantastic day that we'll remember forever!

A true blessing from this celebration was the "Majorette Sisterhood" that quickly developed from our time together. During six weeks of Saturday practices in the Boys' Gym, majorettes from years 1951 through 1983 realized that we share a common bond, rooted not only in our past experiences twirling at Austin, but also in the camaraderie we enjoy together.

Several of us also performed for the Christmas Celebrations at Eastwood Park and Burnet Elementary. Although no more 'twirling gigs' are scheduled, we'll be together soon for a Valentines Luncheon and plan to always stay connected! As our motto says, "Majorettes Forever!"

Sincerely, Christina Pyle Davis
Drum Major 1966-1967, for the Austin Alumni Majorettes

****If you were an Austin majorette and want to be involved, please send me an email at christinadavis_houston@yahoo.com. We'd like to include you in future get-togethers!****



Standing left to right: Janet Tobias '80, Debra Carrizal '84, Diane Edwards Bierce '68, Christina Pyle Davis '67, Cyndi Cortez-Smith '83, Judy Callihan LaCroix '68, Nydia De La Garza '81

The Clan gathered once more in the cafeteria at AHS for the 25th Annual Gathering on Saturday, February 2, 2013, to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of our Alumnae Association. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, fund raising opportunities and a short program of memories and highlights of the Association history, along with updates from current and past scholarship winners. All of the proceeds from the event go to the scholarship fund.

Please check out our website at www.scottishbrigade.org and join us on Facebook at "Scottish Brigade Alumnae Association." You can keep up with our latest happenings!

Nancy Parker Grissom '60
Chairman

SFA Alumni Choir / Christmas Gathering

SFA Alumni Choir composed of classes from the '60s under the direction of Jack Novak.



AUSTIN ALUMNI CHOIR 2012

Jack Novak Director

David Smith '62, Organizer

Adrienne Finch

Allynn Knox Dealy '62

Ann Culpepper Konikowski '63

Ann Thompson Riggins

Bob Baker '61

Sarah Jordan Baker '61

Candy Hoff '63

Candy Carolyn Allred Schuen-

emann '61

Charlotte Lawsen Zima

Connie Simmons Higgins '62

Darrell Cherry '62

Daryl James '60

Debra Limerick Bautista

Denah Duren Smiedala

Dixie Savage Mauney '60

Elizabeth Demny Villarreal

Fran Argiropoulos Pond '61

Genelle Long

George Restivo '62

Glenda Marcella

Helen Medley Mason '62

Jerry Hoffman

Joyce Basarich

Judy Cochran

Julie Bertrand '62

Karen Nelson Giesen '62

Kathy Goffe

Larry Rainey

Manuel Rodriguez

Marilou Panzram Bonner '62

Mary Gose O'Donnell

Michael "Mickey" Smith

Peggy Johnson

Randy Thomson '62

Ron Nissen '60

Rose Ann Martin

Sarah Wong St. John

Wayne Koch



Christmas Gathering

December brought the season for gathering. The association board met with leaders from the class of 1979 and 1981 at the home of Marsha and L.D. Eckermann. It was a wonderful time to meet new friends and visit. The association will be merging with the foundation from the class of '79 and with the scholarship efforts from the class of '81. Mr. Arredondo addressed the group and presented to Jacque McDonald Royce '59 and Marsha Mathis Eckermann '64 plaques of appreciation for work on the 75th anniversary. Moises Villapando was not present but was also presented an appreciation plaque.

Miscellaneous

THANK-YOU.....

There are so many to thank for the success of the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Among the many underwriters both with contributions and in-kind we are appreciative to:

*Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Eckermann, Paula Jankowski, Barbara Rung,
Ray Guerra, of Culligan Water for the bottles of water
Rogelio Marroquin '80, of Xerox Corp for the program printing
TTC Trammell Co. in memory of E. Trammel Sr. and Bruce Earl T. Engel
Constable Victor Trevino '70 and Pct. 6 Deputy Constables
David Smith '67 for all the food, sandwiches and goodies for the event
Victor Villareal '75 & Brenda Vawelka '80 for their generous donation of
two 2 night stays at Casa Del Mar Condos in Galveston
Winners were: P. Glenn Morris, DDS '63 and Rachel Perez '90*



Rene Gonzalez '71

Special Thanks to our two Web-masters:

The Alumni Association is fortunate to have a webpage that keeps us all informed with the latest happenings!

Thanks to **Larry Williamson '58** for maintaining the website for the last ten years.

Rene Gonzalez has assumed the task of webmaster since the fall of 2012. From the class of 1971, Rene graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Math from the University of Houston. He served in the Naval Reserve and retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Manager of Information Technology. We are grateful to Rene for this vigilant work on our website.

Check it out at www.austinalumni.org

The Alumni Association purchased for the school a new Stevie!!!

The old two-person-mustang had been retired (or lost) many years ago. When the students learned of this part of our history they wanted a new Stevie mascot. The more modern version is a spirited one-person horse with the finest head of any mustang!!!



Stevie made his first appearance at the 75th anniversary during the program and then at the pep rally. He is a great hit to represent the spirit of Austin!

Seen all over the East End, Stevie is a fine mascot. He joined the ladies at the ladies at the Brigade Luncheon and was welcomed with open arms, and a few kisses on the cheek.



Mustangs Speak 75th Anniversary

This is a collection from the 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration, which took place November 10, 2012 at the Stephen F. Austin campus. A collection of Reflections, Memories & Comments from our classmates who were there!

Well---- I don't know enough BIG words to describe last Saturday. It was a great concept for the day and was carried through to a T. Everything worked and was a success. Not many can say that about a massive undertaking that entailed working with so many different people, **especially OLD musicians !**

Thank you for letting me be, a part of something that was so inspiring to our service men and to Austin High School. It meant so much to me to see the "KIDS" from the 60's again. They did so well. **They can still sing!!!** You inspired me to do more and I thank you for that. **Jack Novak**

Great day...beautiful weather...wonderful time visiting with old friends. Thanks again for all your efforts to make the day a success. **Barbara Miller '60**

The entire program was just beautiful and thanks to each of you for your major role in putting it together. I was sorry Jim and Margie who live in Austin were not there to hear your remarks Nancy and especially Margie's quote used in your comments about the Brigade. I scanned a part of the program which is attached for both of them. **Brooks Wimberly '60**

My great thanks to you and all your committee members for the spectacular party on Saturday. From start to finish, it was tasteful and entertaining and meaningful. Of course, the Scottish Brigade portion of the program brought me to tears that never ceased until it was all over. What wonderful memories we have to share! Thanks for reminding all of us, from every year, who were privileged to attend. **Suzanne Page Morris '62**

I had a blast! During the cheers I had fun with the "We've got spirit, yes we do..." I got some laughs when I said, "We've got arthritis, yes we do ..." Gotta laugh, enjoy and make the best of aging. **Pauline Cooper**

I got back to Virginia late last night after an all-too-short trip to Texas to attend the 75th Anniversary celebration at Stephen F. Austin. All I can say is that I am soooooo glad that I went! It was wonderful to be there again and to see so many old friends. I wish circumstances had allowed me to attend earlier reunions (both SFA and Brigade)! So much laughter! My seatmates on the two airlines actually seemed to enjoy hearing about it all and looking at my yearbook! **Carol Gosnell**

I am so glad I went to the 75th reunion yesterday. If you didn't get to go, you've missed out on something so special. Thank you to Moises Villapando for his part in this get together. It was wonderful to see you and everybody else. I loved seeing all the Brigadiers and meeting some for this first time. Also loved the majorettes performing and Christina, Diane and Judy for the "strut" to start it all. The tribute to SFA's fallen heroes was moving as were the awards to those veterans who came and were honored. Also, I saw the Brigade video going on in the hall and will order one for myself today and when I get it I will probably cry all over again. Remember how emotional Installation Day was! **Melinda Moore Cornett**

It was so touching and the music was wonderful. I was very impressed with the total program. Thank you for your work and contributions. **Sue Ann Payne '53**

You did such a great job Nancy and your time and effort are very much appreciated! Thank you! **Debbie Kennedy**

Bonnie and I had a great time. The ceremony, including the Veterans Day tribute, was really fine. I enjoyed it so much, too. We didn't manage to find the Brigade monument but will try again next time. The students videoing folk got her and about 5 other Brigade folk from different years sharing their memories. I think she truly enjoyed it. Despite her physical limitations, she is so with it and these type experiences really keep her going so it is my [and my daughter's] privilege to see she gets there. **Sandra Williams (Daughter-in-law of Bonnie Damon Torrey)**

It was a fabulous day and a great celebration!!!! It was great to see so many from Brigade present and to see the reaction and appreciation they displayed! I spoke with so many students who were watching the videos and they asked lots of questions! Brigade still has an impact! **Marsha Mathis Eckermann '64**

I thought the whole event was fantastic! Appreciate all your planning and work. Great job! **Judy Rhodes Oates '60**

Just wanted to share that I had a wonderful time on Saturday at Austin! Everything was so nice! It was so heartwarming to back in the halls and see some old friends! The tribute to our Veterans and to our fallen Hero's was fabulous! Of course I cried! I pray that you had an **Renee' Fuller**

Wanted to let you know how nice the event was on Sat. Really proud to still have ties to the school. And I thought that the faculty, staff and students went out of their way to make all the alums welcome. **Kay Anderson Anderson '61**

What a wonderful day we had at SFA Saturday. I think everyone had a good time. You did a beautiful job with the presentation of the Brigade Tribute. The plaque is gorgeous and really complements the "Heroes" wall on the opposite side of the foyer. The younger students seem very accepting and appreciative of the school's heritage. **Darlyne Neyland Hurst '63**

You did a very nice job speaking for the Brigade. The film was nostalgic and the plaque looks super. **Frazer Dealy '62**

First of all, **MOISES VILLALPANDO**, chairman of the 75th Anniversary, you did us PROUD. I SALUTE YOU !!!!

If you did not attend today's Stephen F. Austin High School 75th Anniversary, you really missed it. To me the best part of the program was the presentation of the History of the Scottish Brigade. With the film of the BRIGADE and the Scottish Dress man playing the bag pipes coming down the aisle, there was not a dry eye in the place. History---Tradition---and the SPIRIT OF THE BRIGADE will continue forever in the former members of the BRIGADE (Just like

Mustangs Speak 75th Anniversary

being in the Corp of Cadets at Texas A&M)

In walking down the halls of **OUR HIGH SCHOOL**, I could feel the Spirit of the many teachers that would not give up on us. Their hard work of educating US is something to remember. They gave us the Education Foundation to continue our lives after we graduated from our high school. Now that I am much older, I understand why the teachers were so hard on me.

I am glad that I went despite not feeling well. I was not able to meet many of my class mates, but it felt real good to visit with the ones that I did. Yes, many years ago, we were young, foolish, ready to achieve our individual goals, and set the world on fire. Without the education that we received at our high school, we would not be today where we are.

I AM GLAD THAT I WENT BACK HOME. HOME TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL!!!! PROUD TO BE A FORMER STUDENT OF S.F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL **GO MUSTANGS** THE SCHOOL THAT EDUCATED THE COMMUNITY IN THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND IN THE FUTURE.

Joe O. Fraga, Gig'em Aggies - Class of '71
---DogCompany - El Segundo Barrio Connection
joe_fraga@hotmail.com cell: 832-444-9216

From the Choir.....

Dear Choir,
I haven't written before now because, to be honest, I was so moved by our experience at the school I didn't have the right words, not that I can now express myself fully now. I saw several members at lunch today and realized I had procrastinated enough. Please take a look at the Cc: list to make sure everyone you know was there is included.

It was such a wonderful time being with you all Nov.10. The program was a moving experience for the audience and for me personally. I was stopped by many folks, including the principal, to say how much they enjoyed it and thank the choir for their part of the program. At my 50th reunion that night people who were at the school that afternoon were very complimentary also. Today at our class lunch one stopped me to say how much he enjoyed the program with the salute to the military. So we were a success!

Thank you all. I received many compliments for my part in organizing the choir but it was all of your efforts that made it a positive event. I did want to especially thank:

Ann Culpepper Konikowski for her hard work, she really knows how to play to help us learn our parts (and how to balance on 3 or 4 books to reach the keyboard) and accompanied us beautifully.

Marilou Panzram Bonner for hosting the first rehearsal in her home, with food and beverages. That first rehearsal laid the foundation for all we accomplished together, and to Genelle Long for lining up the great rehearsal space in the choir loft of Grace Presbyterian Church for the second rehearsal.

Karen Nelson Giesen for realizing we needed to eat lunch (that picnic on the grounds was a treat, if you have photos of us out side, or of the performance, please email them to me) and bringing all the goodies. And Karen arranged for the *Risers*, and we all know how vitally important they were to the success we all shared.

Daryl James for the cd's of his music he brought to share with us .

And to all those who came in from out of town.

A Very Special thanks to the *Best* choir director I have ever known, Mr. Jack Novak. He makes singing fun! I was so happy he was honored at the 75th Austin High School program. He has touched many lives in his life, and I am glad I was one of them.

Have a Wonderful Christmas, David

Words are not enough but I think I got to hug all of you. Now I want to hug you again. That was the most humbling experience I have had in a long time. I felt YOUR feelings during Battle Hymn. It was there "kids". It was there. O my ! The years came back Didn't they ? You saw the reaction of the people. They felt it too. You made this time together so wonderful and I want to thank you for the opportunity to be with you again. I can't begin to name all of you names so I bow to OLD AGE 'he he'. It was all a success. Every bit of it.

LOVE EVERY ONE OF YOU HAPPY THANKSGIVING and AMEN. Jack

And, yes, Mr. Novak is my **"All time favorite choir director!"**
Karen Gaye Nelson Giesen

From the MAJORETTES

Just wanted to share a few comments about the 75th SFA Jubilee. Most importantly, I want to thank the Principal, Jorge Arredondo, for all his efforts in getting SFA all "shined up" for all the alumni, visitors, family members, special guests, and current students. The school looks amazing! Also, I want to give special thanks to Mr. Jennings, Band Director, (please correct me if I get the names incorrectly) for giving me a chance to speak to the Band members and share a few stories and memories with them on the day I came to the school to work with the current majorettes. Being a sponsor/mentor to these young girls gives me great hope for continuing the majorette skills and the responsibilities of teamwork that will take them far, if they continue to pursue perfection. A great big thank you to the art students who made the gorgeous paper magnolias. I keep mine in a very special place and know that they tried to make us all feel welcome. Wish I could hug'em all!!!

As an SFA majorette alumni, Nov. 10,2012, will stay in my heart forever. The applause after our performance in front of the school was louder than I have ever heard before. Even our performance in the '60s at the Astrodome did not top the excitement I felt that day. I still walk the halls of Austin High as if it were my own!! It's difficult to project to the current students that while you're doing the work today, everyday in class, that later in life when you get to be my age (62), that you just want to tell them, **"ENJOY EACH AND EVERY MINUTE OF EVERYDAY".... "TIME GOES BY SO VERY FAST!"** These moments are the moments that will never come again, **BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL AND BE SPECIAL TO SOMEBODY!!!**

OK, I'll stop preaching now, but just want to give my heart to each person who gave to me on a day that meant the world to me. **Mustangs Run in Packs, & Stay Together, GO MUSTANGS!**

Always,
Judy (Callahan) LaCroix - SFA Graduate 1968, Drum Major 1968, Majorette 1967

Poster Contest

Winners

Here are 75th Diamond Jubilee Poster winners receiving their monetary awards from Alumni Association president, Marsha Eckermann.



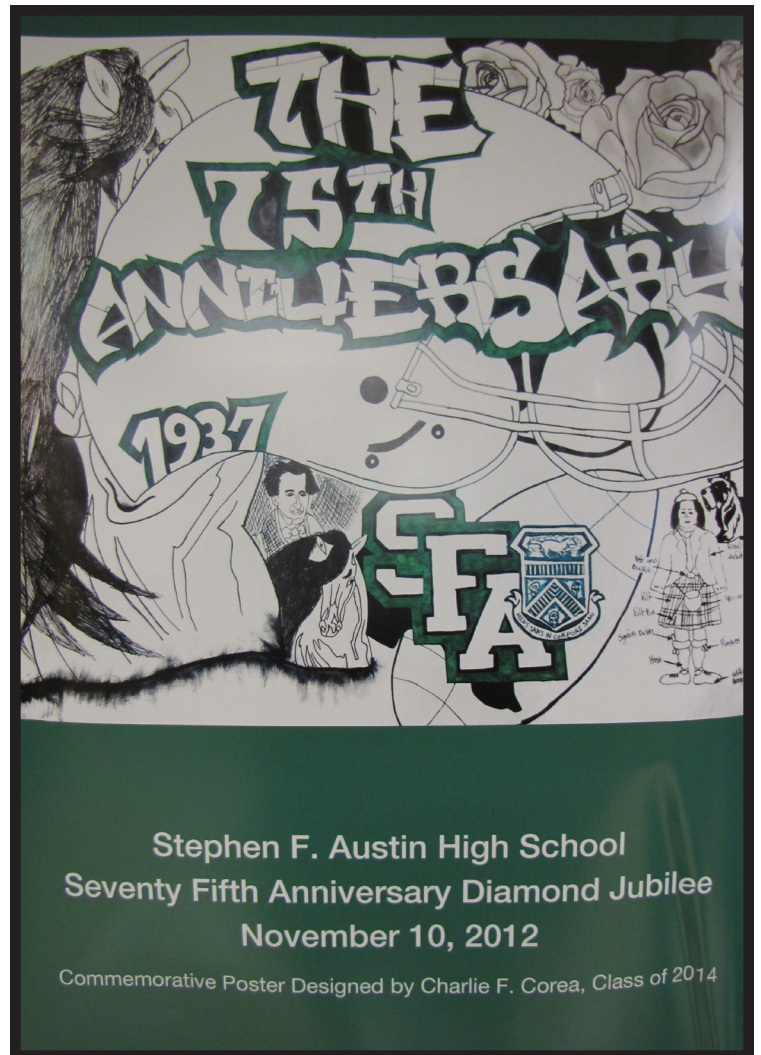
1st Place winner Charlie Correa



2nd place winner Jasmine Maldonado



3rd place winner Alexis Sevilla.



Results

The results of the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Poster Contest are in. Here are the results sorted by teacher.

Mr. de Hoyos Salazar's Students

Charlie Corea, Black Shirt, G11 – First Place, \$100

Oscar C Ramos Saguil, Blue Shirt, G12 – Honorable Mention

Mr. Orduña's Students

Jasmine Maldonado, Black Shirt, G11 – Second Place, \$75

Leonardo Sanchez, Black Shirt, G11 – Honorable Mention

Abraham Sandoval, Black Shirt, G11 – Honorable Mention

Steven Salazar, Black Shirt, G11 – Honorable Mention

Mr. Elizondo's Students

Alexis Sevilla, White Shirt, G10 – Third Place, \$50

Mr. Rodriguez' Students

Erika Monzalvo, White Shirt, G10, – Honorable Mention

Luisa Arroyo, Black Shirt, G11 – Honorable Mention

Thanks to all teachers who participated.

*all cash prizes were sponsored by the Alumni Association

How has Austin High School positively impacted your life as a young adult?

First Place, Frida E. Alfaro

Class of '13

Teacher: Mrs Nuñez

Award: Digital Camera/ courtesy of White Rose Luncheon

Finally going into high school, the place you always dreamed of since you were little, the place everybody talked about, mentioning more than once how hard high school was going to be or all the things you would find, the place where you wanted so badly to be yet so scared and curious about what was going to happen or what you were going to go through, YES! High school is the place where many of us take that big step without knowing how important it's going to be and the real meaning of it.

Going into my freshman year not only friendless but scared of the big building filled my head with fear. I didn't know whether it had been a good idea to choose this school or if high school was even for me. I remember walking in the hallway my first day and all I would see was people passing by me so comfortably, like they knew where they were going while I was just there wondering whether to make a right or left in the hallway. I then realized that walking without having any clue where I was going was going to get me nowhere and so I decided to ask. With my shaky legs and my hands sweaty, I remember looking for a girl, not just a normal girl, though, I was looking for one that was just as frightened as me, a short girl like me that was going to make me feel comfortable and a little bit more secure. Finally after my search through all the school I remember perfectly walking into a girl who, as a matter of fact wasn't short at all, perhaps 3 times taller than me, to be exact, but yet she looked more scared than I which made her my perfect match. After finally getting over our shyness, we then broke our silence and started asking each other questions while we walked to the cafeteria where we, for my luck, found out we had no classes together. That didn't matter as much though, because we still managed to plan our reunion for lunch so we could sit together which worked perfectly. Gladly, this went on for pretty much the whole year and every day we would meet up in the same place and walk together to our classes and lunch.

Meanwhile, sooner than I had expected, I was already meeting many new people. I also started joining clubs and sports. I would always stay before or after school whether for practice, meetings, or tutorials. It was then that I realized how fast time was going. My freshman year was now over, and later, my sophomore and junior year ended too soon.

Now I'm a senior in high school who plays softball, runs cross country, and is preparing for college. Every day I walk into Austin High School, I know that I'm closer to accomplishing my dreams of being a writer. I have met so many good teachers who have helped me through so many challenges, and some whom I consider as family. Austin High School not only has given me all the knowledge I possess, but it has prepared me for my next big step, college. It has given me all the support both physically and mentally. It has made me a responsible young adult who knows what to expect and how to accomplish goals. It has also shown me how competition is not always negative, but instead, can be conceptualized as fighting for what you want. I'm no longer that teenage girl who thought high school was purely a social experience or just appearing in class, with not a care of whether I understood the lesson or not. I know that if I ever have trouble with something, all I have to do is speak up and not be afraid of expressing myself. I am now that young adult who stands out because she chooses to be her own person and express myself. I am now that young adult who, through hard work, will get what and where she wants.

Honorable Mention Essay No. 160 Student: Steven Salazar, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate	Honorable Mention Essay No. 164 Student: Gloria S. Ortega, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate	Honorable Mention Essay No. 157 Student: Alan Hernandez, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate
Honorable Mention Essay No. 162 Student: Luis A. Torres, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate	Honorable Mention Essay No. 155 Student: Daniela Lopez, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate	Honorable Mention Essay No. 163 Student: Kevin S. Morales, Class of '14 Teacher: Mrs. Nuñez Award: Certificate

AFS White Rose Luncheon, April 18th... CU There!

Stephen F. Austin High School, HISD (AHS) announces the second annual White Rose Dinner to be held on Thurs., Apr. 18, 6 p.m. at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel, 4800 Calhoun. The cost is \$50 per person, and there are sponsorships available. The keynote speaker is Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, who is an AHS Alumna. Justice Eva Guzman was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas on Oct. 8, 2009, by Texas Gov. Rick Perry. The press conference announcing her appointment was held at the AHS Library and was attended by Governor Rick Perry, students, teachers and many local and state leaders from both political parties. Before her appointment, Justice Guzman served as an Associate Justice on the Houston-based Texas Fourteenth Court of Appeals for eight years and as a trial court judge on the 309th Family District Court, having been appointed to the 309th by Gov. George W. Bush in 1999. Justice Guzman brings broad based experienced to the bench, having ruled on thousands of cases and published hundreds of opinions. Texans have returned Justice Guzman to the bench in four elections since 1999. To assure a seat or to arrange a sponsorship, please call 713-924-1600. The public is invited.

As a hard-working judge on one of our state's busiest courts, Justice Guzman has consistently received high marks in judicial-evaluation polls. She has been recognized by many law and community organizations for her service on and off the bench. Most recently, she was awarded the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas 2012 Latina Trailblazer award and the Texas Women Lawyer's 2012 Pathfinder award. She has previously been named one of the "101 Most Influential Latino Leaders" by Latino Leaders magazine, a national publication. In 2009, the Hispanic National Bar Association honored Justice Guzman as "Latina Judge of the Year." The Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation also has recognized Justice Guzman for her many contributions and awarded her its "2009 Judge of the Year award." Two local law-enforcement organizations, P.O.L.I.C.E., Inc. and Houston Police Officers Union, have selected Justice Guzman as "Appellate Judge of the Year" in prior years. In 2006, Texas Executive Women presented Justice Guzman with a "Woman on the Move" award in recognition of her professional and civic accomplishments.

A Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum, Justice Guzman has a long track record of community service and has devoted many volunteer hours to organizations committed to children. In June 2010, she was named Chair of the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Commission on Children's Youth and families She has previously served on the boards of Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates, The Escape Center, Wesley Community Center, and The Chinquapin School, and the Advisory Council of The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Houston and the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Before taking the bench, Justice Guzman enjoyed a successful 10-year career in private law practice. She holds a B.B.A. from the University of Houston and a law degree from South Texas College of Law and is currently completing course work on an LLM in Judicial Studies at Duke University School of Law. Though born in Chicago, Justice Guzman grew up in Houston and has been a resident for more than 35 years. She and her husband, Houston Police Sergeant Tony Guzman, have one daughter, Melanie Alexis who is a junior at Harvard University.

We invite you to join us to support the next generation of leaders at Austin High School by participating in the White Rose event as a Donor or Sponsor. There are four premium sponsorship levels available and Donations are encouraged. All donations will be applied to programs which directly benefit the students of AHS.

The flower of AHS is the white rose, symbolizing truth, purity and honesty, and also appears on the Stephen F. Austin family's coat of arms.

Student News

Austin Debate Team, Houston Urban Debate League Tournament

The Austin debate team participated in the Houston Urban Debate League's third tournament of the year at Sam Houston High School last weekend. The team of Yadira Banuelos & Ana Cardona participated for the first time in the public forum division and competed through the quarter final round. By doing so, **the team defeated the #1 seeded team.**

This is the third consecutive tournament that this team has brought back awards to the campus. Congratulations!

LLEAD Program – This semester, beginning on 1/17, the second period 9th grade magnet class will participate in workshops sponsored by the Latino Leadership Enrichment and Development Program (LLEAD), a group of UH students who participated in a summer leadership session at the Harvard Kennedy School. Students will receive valuable instruction in public speaking, leadership, activism, and organizing and participating in a group community project.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo honored several students in our art program for their work.

White ribbons were awarded to: Jessica Ramirez G10, Enrique Martinez G9, Carlos Rodriguez G9

Red ribbons were awarded to: Daniel Hernandez G9, Lorraine Garcia G12

And a Blue Ribbon to Erika Monzalvo, G10.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated.

The SONIC BOOM band competed at North Forest Battle of the Bands on Sat., Nov. 20th and won:

2nd place Medium Band

2nd place Drumline

3rd place Dance Team

3rd Place Flag Twirlers

Austin received more awards than any other group in attendance that night. The Sonic Boom, Emeralds, Envy and Jades performed in the Annual 2012 HEB Holiday Parade.

Mr. Runnels honored by North Forest – In October, Sonic Boom Band Director K. Runnels was honored at the North Forest Homecoming game against Austin. Every year they select an accomplished alumnus from that district and recognize them at halftime. Congratulations to Mr. Runnels.

Children's Museum of Houston Internship Program - The spring semester of 2013 will see the launch of a pilot internship program between the 11th grade Teaching Professions students and The Children's Museum of Houston. The Children's Museum has interviewed and selected seven Austin students to work in their Education Department assigned to special projects directly related to visitor experiences. The following students are paving the way for an extended internship program to begin in the following school year: Jessica Baez, Juan Tamez, Mariah Robledo, Ashlea Young, Belen Barajas, Kaitlyn Alaniz, and David Moncivaiz.

Austin High School places in UIL News Writing in January–

Mr. Art Gonzales reports, "Yea!!! We won third place in UIL News Writing this past weekend!" Congratulations to Mr. Gonzales and to Jennifer Velasquez.

News Writing

First Place: Diana Vargas, Lee HS

Second Place: Nikki Foreman, Carnegie Vanguard HS

Third Place: Jennifer Velasquez, Austin HS

Outstanding Finalist: Carol Hernandez, Reagan HS

Outstanding Finalist: Love Osemwegie, Lee HS

Outstanding Finalist: Hannan Yoya, Lee HS

Science Fair, Wheatley HS, 1/19/2013 -

Mr. Johnson is proud to share the results from the weekend Science Fair at Wheatley High School, held on January 19, 2013.

1st Place Engineering - Physical Science- Itzel Avila and Marylu Salgado

2nd Place Engineering - Physical Science- Tania Anaya & Jennifer Velasquez

3rd Place Engineering - Physical Science- Ashley Gomez & Simon Hernandez

All of these were 12th grade students in AP Physics. We were one of five high schools in participation: Waltrip, Bellaire, Sam Houston, East Early Challenge HS and Austin High School.

75th Anniversary Honors Our Fallen Heros

Fallen Heroes Remembered

Austin High School has become a place where those alumni who have given their lives in defense of our freedom are remembered with honor. Visit the fallen heroes memorial wall, remember the 65 flags which graced the state in November, consider the two men especially remembered with wreaths during the program, and you will see that this patriotism is especially meaningful.

One of our alumni, Brigadier General Joe Ramirez, has returned to Austin on several occasions to remember these heroes. At the school 70th anniversary the military was honored, and General Ramirez who was in Korea at the time sent these greetings:



“Abraham Lincoln once said that ‘any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure.’we honor some of Austin High School’s truest heroes - the men and women who graduated from Austin High and joined the military service, served their country with honor, and gave the ultimate sacrifice - for our country, for our families, for our freedoms. OUR heroes - men and women like us, who grew up in our neighborhoods, who went to school with us, who answered the call of duty and served honorably and with distinction in places all around the world.....”



When General Ramirez returned to the states in December of 2010, he was welcomed back to his high school with a reception held in his honor, once again, honoring those fallen in duty. Today he serves as the commandant of the cadet corps at Texas A & M, his alma mater.

For the 75th anniversary General Ramirez joined us as the keynote speaker. He reminded us once again of these time-honored truths that freedom is not free. Two alumni were remembered with wreaths: Lt. Allen Harrison III, class of ‘41 and Lt. Thomas Charles Gosch, class of ‘53.

In the General’s own words, we echo the prayer: May God bless America!

Moments of the 75th, November 10, 2012



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Len Zamora
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75th Anniversary Chair
Moses Villapando

Principal
Jorge Arredondo

At large
Joe Nelson '64

Mission Statement

We the members of the Alumni Association of Stephen F. Austin pledge our commitment to support the students, teachers, and property that make up Stephen F. Austin High School. We will, to the best of our ability, make every effort to assist whenever possible in sponsoring fund raising activities for scholarships and school projects. We will serve as mentors, tutors and guest speakers when called on. We will assist and provide a newsletter with school and alumni news. We will go beyond the classroom and assist those classes planning a reunion. Lastly, we will make ourselves available to your principal for any special project she considers of value monetarily or educationally.

AUSTIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

Rene Gonzalez is the Webmaster of the Austin High School Alumni Association Web Site.

You may send your contribution to the web to Marsha Eckermann at mgeckermann@sbcglobal.net This is your web site and we hope you will check it often.

www.austinalumni.org

YOUR 2013 DUES ARE DUE NOW!
PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUSTIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In Memoriam

CLASS	ALUMNI	DATE OF DEATH
1939	Anne Denny Clark (John)	01/11/2013
1940	Mary "Maxine" Maxine Huffman Russell	06/01/2010
1940	Robert Louis Dean, Sr	10/11/2012
1941	Bert Ella Brunson* * *	05/29/2012
1942	Lillian G. Sneed Jackson* * *	05/07/2012
1943	Patricia Rae McBride Newton* * *	01/12/2013
1944	Barbara Lynette Meadows Loden* * *	08/21/2012
1944	Betty Bell Leonard* * *	11/13/2001
1944	Mary Lou Holtkamp Gossett* * *	11/06/2012
1945	Jake Jesse Royal, Jr	05/15/2012
1947	Dr. Robert Oswald Cody	11/27/2012
1947	Wanda Jean Redmond Liskow* * *	10/26/2012
1948	Margerie Beseler Peden* * *	02/04/2013
1948	Robert Dean Sr.	10/05/2012
1949	Mary Anne Hendley Pulte* * *	08/11/2012
1950	Anna Belle Buck Lavenda* * *	09/28/2011
1950	William Wayne Kilgarlin	11/05/2012
1953	Marie L. Matthews Charleston* * *	03/19/2012
1954	Beth Weeks	01/28/1994
1954	Doris Jean Laird* * *	09/28/2011
1954	Dorothy Ann Franz* * *	07/30/2012
1954	Marilyn E. Johnson	06/16/2012
1956	Glenda Whitworth Sawyer* * *	06/26/2012
1956	Mary Lou Schuenemann (Stebler)* * *	03/07/2012
1957	Sammie Ransom Teague	12/02/2012
1959	Margaret Miller Carlson* * *	05/27/2012
1962	Carol J. Briggs Alston	10/22/2007
1962	Charlotte Castleberry Williams	06/22/2007
1962	John Robert Cain	08/27/2009
1962	Linda Ruth Byrne McCormack	04/29/2007
1962	Louis Wayne Buchta	02/21/2007
1962	Mervin Clyde Cook	07/23/2007
1962	Michael Edward Bishop	12/21/1999
1962	Sollie Leroy Christian	05/11/2009
1962	William Delano Ballon	07/30/2010
1966	Robert M. "Bob" Savage	02/17/2013
1984	Andrew C. Perez	01/13/2013

*** = brigade members

"May you rest in Peace"

To Be or not to be, An Aggie or a Longhorn?



It is 6:15 AM, September 28, 2012 and quite dark at 1700 Dumble. Two Coach buses are pulled up in front of S.F. Austin High School ready to make the drive to Texas A&M University College Station, Texas. Fifty nine 11th and 12th grade students, dressed for success, board the buses this early morning and get ready to explore and walk the campus learning about the Aggies and their school. The students are excited about their next step into college and although Texas A&M seems to be a long way from the East End and their familiar neighborhood it is at least a possibility for the Class of 2013 and 2014. They come to Kyle Field, the academic quad and the newly renovated Memorial Student Center with eyes wide opened and an awareness that may be they can leave home and attend here. Our day is packed with tours of the Education department,

the Nuclear Reactor and the Mechanical Engineering department- some have to make a hard choices of where to tour. One of the highlights of the day is the lunch at SBISA, a huge dining hall with Austin High School students from 2009-2012 graduating classes. In this hour long lunch our students get to ask questions from their peers of what college is really like and how can they get in and stay there. They all get back on the bus at 4:30 PM still excited with questions answered and raised about their future college.

The same scenario is repeated but with another forty-eight students on October 3, 2012 but this time at 5:45 AM for a 6:00 AM departure to the University of Texas at Austin. Again students are exposed to UT and given the opportunity this time to attend briefly a class of chemistry. Our students are surprised to see the Chemistry class packed out with some students sitting in the aisles. They tour the engineering department and see a working wind tunnel and the college of communications where they learn about working in broadcasting or journalism. Again it is a full day and once again they get to see their peers there working towards a degree from UT. This gives them reasons to hope they can be in that place some day. Our day ends with a presentation with an excellent UT college admissions counselor who speaks frankly about the challenges he has overcome as a UT grad and what it takes to be a Longhorn in the Fall of 2013. Getting back on the bus at 5:00 PM we arrive back at SFA tired but encouraged that college away from home as far as Austin, Texas could work for many of them.

A special thanks to the S.F. Austin Alumni Association for their support in funding the buses and to Mr. William Stickney, Austin High College Counselor for assisting and coordinating these college visits. Also thanks to Principal Jorge Arredondo for allowing our students to miss a day of school for this very worthwhile purpose.



Walk-of-Fame Order Form

CLIP AND RETURN- For Membership use form on opposite side of this page

Yes, I/we would like to be remembered on the Walk-of-Fame and would like to order the following:

_____ \$50 (4"X 8" brick, approx. 12 letters including spaces per line, limit 3 lines)

_____ \$100 (8"X 8" brick, approx. 12 letters including spaces per line, limit 6 lines)

_____ \$500 (8"X 16" brick, approx. 24 letters including spaces per line, limit 6 lines)

_____ \$1200 (8"X 16" bronze plaque, 24 letters including spaces per line, limit 6 lines)

Bronze plaques placed in prominently featured locations and donations specially recognized.

My inscription is as follows:

Please mail order form to: Gwen Grebe '64 2100 Tanglewilde, #607 Houston, TX 77063

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Membership Form

**Life Membership Dues \$200 ■ Annual Dues \$25/year graduated more than 10 years;
\$10/year graduated less than 10 years**

NAME: _____
LAST MAIDEN FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CLASS OF: _____

DUES: FOR YEAR 200__ OR LIFETIME (\$25/YEAR GRADUATED MORE THAN
10 YEARS; \$10/YEAR GRADUATED LESS THAN 10 YEARS OR \$200 LIFETIME)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

LIBRARY BOOKS: FOR AUSTIN HIGH LIBRARY (\$14.00 PER BOOK)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

(IF DESIRED) NAME OF PERSON IN HONOR OF: _____ CLASS OF _____

WALK-OF-FAME (USE SEPERATE ORDER FORM FOUND IN THE NEWSLETTER)

"FALLEN HEROES" WAR MEMORIAL

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

TOTAL CHECK ENCLOSED \$ _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION CONTACT: DIANE WIGINGTON HOGAN '60 • 281-485-4429

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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