



## At GHS, the Sky is the Limit!

It's hard to believe, but the 2014-2015 school year is two-thirds of the way through the first semester, and the Thanksgiving break is just around the corner. However, with construction underway on the final phase of improvements to the GHS campus, a successful Homecoming celebration completed, a new and improved system for communicating with parents called Infinite Campus, and more students than ever attempting the honors, career technical education, and AP courses that lead to college and career success ... the sky is the limit at GHS!

Pictured above, students from Rob Ridgway's Calculus BC class recently experimented with flight and the differential between the pressures acting on the top and bottom of the wings. Students carefully measured each plane's

wings and performed complex calculations prior to launching their entries into the air. The winner for maximum distance was Ashley Schwartz and Sierra Orsinelli-Rivers took first for maximum air time.

Mr. Ridgway is just one of the many excellent AP teachers at GHS who combine traditional learning with hands-on experimentation in order to make challenging content come alive for students. The history and current status of Grossmont's impressive AP and honors program is outlined on the next page.

Throughout the newsletter, please read about the activities and achievements of other GHS students, as well as news from the Alumni Association, the GHS Museum and the GHS Educational Foundation. Though we're well on our way, the sky is the limit!

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*Interested in a stay at San Diego's Hard Rock Hotel? Check out page 3 for details.*

*Save the date!  
8th Annual  
GHS Rock & Roll Dance  
Saturday, March 7,  
7:00 p.m.  
La Mesa Women's Club*

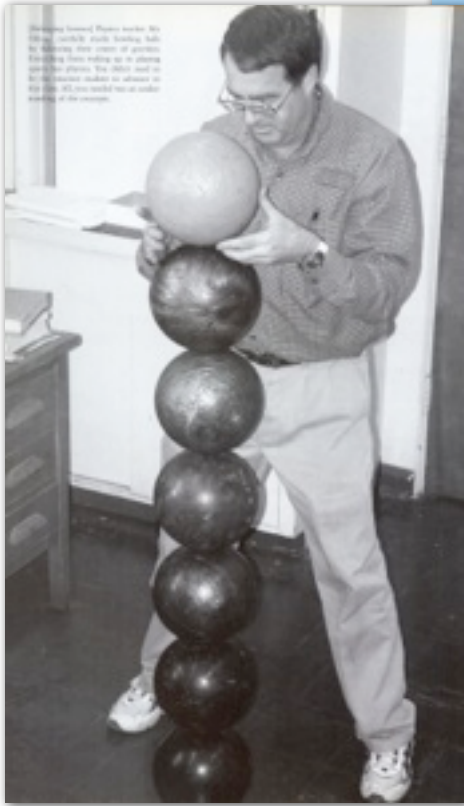
Take Your Memories... Leave Your Footprint



# Living Traditions: Advanced Placement



Long-time AP Physics teacher Tom Eklund personifies the talent and commitment behind the GHS honors and AP curriculum, the most diverse in the Grossmont Union High School District. Far left, Mr. Eklund demonstrates the laws of physics in action; immediate left, his students test a theory from atop the Science Building.



A commitment to educational excellence has always been a part of the culture of Grossmont High School. In the 1980's, Grossmont began offering a new curriculum, Advanced Placement, courses which challenge the high school student to master a rigorous college level curriculum. Each May, the students may take the test; passing the exam with a score of 3, 4, or 5 will in most cases translate to the student receiving college credit or course exemption.

In 1981, Kay Adams, English teacher, offered an after school tutorial for her senior students who wanted to take the AP English Language and Composition Exam. 21 students met with her to receive preparation for the exam; all 21 students passed the exam with 5 students receiving a 5, the highest score. Kay recalls about the class, "I learned more than I ever taught. Those students were the brightest minds I ever met." Beginning in 1982, AP courses became a yearly English course offering.

Other challenges presented themselves to early AP teachers. In the 1980's-1996, Sue Emerson, AP Biology teacher, creatively scheduled her class; on Wednesdays, the students came in an hour early to allow them to complete the sophisticated experiments the curriculum required. Sue recalls, "One fun activity was a nationwide project studying wetlands. The students shared information with schools around the country via telecommunication from their study of the Tijuana River Estuary."

Today Grossmont offers 15 different honors courses, which prepare the students for the subsequent 19 Advanced Placement courses offered at GHS, the largest variety within the district. The most popular classes in terms of students enrolled are AP European History, taught by Kevin Bradley, and AP English Literature and Composition, taught by JoAnn Phillips and Todd Bell.

Over the years, the curriculum has evolved. AP French Language and Culture teacher, Azita Mahmoudi, notes that the "AP test has changed from a narrow grammar based test to an open-ended test based on cultural knowledge." Longtime AP Physics teacher Tom Eklund, whose enthusiasm for his subject is contagious, believes, "Physics isn't difficult. It only has the reputation of being difficult."

During the past 5 years, the number of tests taken by Grossmont students has risen from 453 in 2009 to 646 in 2014. The Grossmont High School Educational Foundation helps fund test fees for high-achieving students who simply can not afford to pay for all the tests they are qualified to take. According to principal Dan Barnes, "Grossmont High School is proud to support our honors and Advanced Placement curriculum. We are very excited to see the very high increase in participation in our courses over the past three years and continued success by our teachers and students, shown in their AP exam pass rates."

While last year GHS recorded the highest number of AP tests ever taken in the school's history, too many motivated and high-achieving students did not sign up for all the tests for which they were prepared. Why? Test fees. In 2015, each AP test fee will be \$91, meaning that taking the AP test for every AP class may be out of reach for students who are attempting multiple AP classes. Help the GHS Educational Foundation raise funds for test scholarships by contributing to the Foundation's General Fund. Information is available online at [www.FoothillerFoundation.com](http://www.FoothillerFoundation.com).

# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to all of the Foothillers who have joined the Foundation as Friends, Fanatics or Fans this school year, especially the staff members who are included in the list below. It is not too late to show your support for initiatives like student scholarships and awards, AP test fees, teacher mini-grants and other needs that the Foundation funds. Become a supporter by Parent Shadow Day (November 21) and be eligible for a prize drawing for a one night stay at the fabulous Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. Everyone who has joined, including those listed below, is eligible and does not need to be present to win. Join online at [www.FoothillerFoundation.com](http://www.FoothillerFoundation.com).

Rosalie & Paul Acevedo  
Deborah Aguila  
Lindsey Alper  
Macarlo Alvarez  
Heidi Anderberg  
Constance & Lynn Baer  
Dan & Valerie Barnes  
Denise Bates  
Todd Bell  
Todd Benrud  
Martin Blase  
Dave & Annette Bojevsky  
Pam Brill  
Tony Camara  
Kurt & Nika Campbell  
Cynthia & Roger Chance  
Fred Cole  
Jeremy Cooke  
Kira Cooper  
Christian Curiel  
Karin Dann  
Bruce Davidson  
Laura Dawson  
Sherrie Dixon  
Phillip Dobranski  
Sewell Dunton  
Leann Eldridge  
Glen & Ellen Erath  
David Erickson & Vicky Scimone  
Delsyse Espinelli  
Michelle Fanning  
Tom Fordham  
Curtis Fauth  
Paul & Leila Gagnon  
Cristina & Jose Garcia  
Thomas & Tange Gavin  
Don & LeAnne Ginn  
Raymond & Janet Glaze  
Michelle Hayford  
Paul Hedberg

Lisa Himmer  
Trinity Hoeben  
Mike Holcomb  
Phlyn Heubach  
Melissa Master-Holder  
Anna Jacobs  
Laurie Jensen  
Marta Jiacoletti  
David & Tiffany Johnson  
Kevin & Heidi Johnson  
Holly Jones  
Mercedes Joyce  
Tom & Nicki Karlo  
Dave Kesner & Sheila Dowe  
Scott & Bonnie Kopp  
Christine Kor  
Peter Krahlung  
Stephanie Laberge-Luchnow  
Steve & Carolyn Laethem  
Holly & Richard Larson  
Tony Lawrence  
Jeffrey Lee  
Christine & Raleigh Levandowski  
James Llamas  
Megan Long  
Michael Lopez  
Frank & Olga Lujan  
Michael Macres  
Jan Mafnas  
Azita Mahmoudi  
Karen Manns  
Julianna Manuel  
Dan & Courtenay McGuckin  
Noel McMahon  
Shelby Miller  
Stephen & Tammy Moyeor  
D. Wilson Ochoa  
Dianne & Mike Osterling  
Brie Pagano  
Carmelina Pantoja

Hillary Park  
Gary Pennefather  
Edwina Perez  
Joann Phillips  
Sue Phillips  
Susan B. Philips  
Jim & Micki Plummer  
Jesslyn Ponce-Dick  
Tom Price  
Toni & John Pyjar  
Rob Pyle  
Cheryl & Erin Quil  
Chris Ray  
Jennifer Raymond  
Will & Michelle Redfield  
Tomas & Amanda Reynoso  
Rob & Christie Ridgway  
Kathleen & Randy Rivers  
Lawrence & Carolyn Robak  
Cathleen & Corey Ruppert  
Mary Rutherford  
Ed & Julia Ryder  
D.L. Sampson  
Cathy Schlaht  
Karen Schreiner  
Elizabeth Scott  
Kim Shuksta  
Tim & Barbara Staufenbeil  
Ethan & Amy Steveson  
Eric & Cynthia Svalstad  
Amy Thomason  
Chrystal & Matthew Thompson  
Nicole Thren  
Luke & Deborah Towne  
Leticia & Stephen Valley  
Yvonne Vellone  
Hans & Fanny Widjaja  
Rebecca Vargas-Wilson  
Steve Whitely

Special thanks to our three new Foothiller Founders: Jeffrey & Theresa Kemper, Tom Bloomer, and Lyle Wright.

# foothiller photo gallery

Right, the Royal Blue Regiment competed in both the field show and parade competitions at the recent Mt. Carmel Invitational – the only GUHSD school to compete in both events! For field show, the Band was awarded 2nd place and the Color Guard got 1st place! For Parade, the Band and Color Guard each got 3rd place. It was a fantastic showing for the Hillers!



Above, the cast of The Matchmaker, a period farce (comedy), practices its curtain call. The show dates are 12/3-6 and 12/10-12 at 7:00pm in the Little Theatre. Ticket prices are \$7 for students with an ASB card and \$9 general admission. Get there early to see your Foothiller Players in action!



Right, the Grossmont NJROTC held its Battalion Field Meet at Harry Griffin Park recently. The platoon with the highest amount of points at the end of the meet won the BFM and a banner for their platoon flag. First Platoon took home the honors.



Above, the Grossmont High School Girls' Varsity Gymnastics team was recognized at the GUHSD Board Meeting as the **2013-14 CIF State Academic Team Champions** in their respective sport. The State CIF recognizes teams with the highest collective grade point average, based upon an unweighted 4.0 scale.



Get your fresh Christmas trees and holiday wreaths while supporting the GHS Girls Water Polo Team! Order by Thursday, November 13th. Details can be found at [www.foothillers.com](http://www.foothillers.com). Trees and wreaths will be available for pick up at GHS on December 7th between 9 - 11 a.m.

# Fantastic Foothillers!

## Star Student of the Month Awards (September and October)

**Business/Tech** - Michael Byerline, Serena Thurman.

**Counseling** - Elayna Cary, Jonnathan Salazar.

**EL Department** - Yousif Shaia Almoshi

**English** - Kaelin Bell, Gulmira Bakirova.

**Specialized Education** - Teld Avid Avelar, Trinidad Galvan, Noah Hanna, A.J. Fiume.

**Mathematics** - Morgan Stidum

**NJROTC Program** - Austin Smith, Leanna Barfield.

**Performing Arts** - Emma Davis, Alexis Ehman.

**Physical Education** - Michael Bautista.

**Science** - Kaimi Gilman

**Social Science** - Alexandra Munson, Joseph Melendez

**World Language** - Ashlynn Jimmerson, Andrew Valoria



it's a happy hiller halloween!

# Grossmont Museum and Alumni News

by Connie Baer



## GHS Class Reunions

Several classes had successful reunions over the summer. The Class of 1949 celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion! The Class of 1969, as part of its reunion, visited the Museum in June while the Class of 1984 visited us in August. Several classes are already planning their reunions for next summer. Visit the GHS Alumni website and see if your next reunion is there; if not, contact Paul Miller at [FoorhillersAlumni@aol.com](mailto:FoorhillersAlumni@aol.com) for his assistance in contacting your classmates as you organize a reunion.

Both the Classes of 1949 and 1964 had already commemorated their Foothiller years with campus benches; perhaps, your class could join them? Another way to commemorate your class is to purchase a GHS Endowment Fund Friend or Founder Tile as has the Class of 1938 (George Bailey), and 1948 (Gene Chubb), and the Class of 1964.

## Dedication of Ken Lehr Bronze Plaque

In June, during a Saturday barbecue, Ken was surprised with the plaque created in his honor. Installed outside the new Automotive Technology Facility, it is a permanent testament to all that Ken did to foster the state recognized program at GHS.



## GHS Memorabilia Donations

Thanks to Jerry Halterman, Class of 1959, for donating his amazing collection of Foothiller memorabilia including his letterman's jacket, photos and articles of his GHS career as a basketball player, and even his sneakers, which a student visiting the Museum said, wishing she had them, "I could really rock them!"

Also, thanks to Paul Miller, Class of 1966, for the donation of his father, Joseph Miller's (Class of 1940) wonderful collection of Future Farmers of America memorabilia including FFA programs as well as poultry judging award certificates and 1939 track meet ribbons!

## Sponsorship Opportunities

As always, we have several projects we have completed or are working on. We appreciate your generous support as we continue our efforts to celebrate, protect, and display our Foothiller heritage.

Projects completed in summer 2014 included: restoration of the 1950's-1960's All Western Band Review and Mayor's Trophy Plaques and Perpetual Plaque, funded by Barry Dingle, Class of 1968; creation of missing yearly plaques, funded by Paul Miller, Class of 1966; transplant of the 1960 Roses from the GHS Administration Building area to the planters outside the Museum, funded by Bill Woolman, Class of 1962; and restoration of the 1922 original school master clock and purchase of a 1922 classroom clock (see next page). Thanks to the volunteers of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Chapter 133, who repaired the original clock this summer and to Bob Stockton, Class of 1955, who funded the purchase.

*continued on page 7*

Thanks also go to Bill Woolman, Class of 1962, who funded the purchase of a new GHS flag for the 1978-79 Spirit Flagpole for the Lower Quad.

2014-15 projects for which the GHS Museum is seeking funding include: creation of the 2014-15 Girls and Boys Basketball Programs (\$250); creation of the 2015 Hall of Honor Plaques (\$700); sponsorship of the 2015 GHS Alumni Website for one year (\$850); funding of the Class of 1921 Bench to honor GHS's first graduating class (\$1500, thanks to Deanna Brady Sampson, Class of 1965, for proposing the idea and for being the first donor!); and restoration of the Class of 1989 donated sign at the front entrance to the school (cost unknown).

You may mail donations payable to GHS Educational Foundation to GHS Museum or GHS Alumni, P.O. Box 1043, La Mesa, CA 91944. Please specify in the memo the project you'd like to support, or donate via Pay Pal on our website at <http://www.foothillermuseum.com>.

### Alumni Website: Did You Know?

At <http://grossmontalumni.net>, our GHS Alumni website, you can register for free, search for class contacts and individual classmates and read the information about themselves they have shared, find reunion information, memorials to *Foothillers We Have Lost*, and more. Spend some time exploring YOUR website!



For 92 years, this master clock has observed Foothillers. It now hangs on the wall of the Attendance Office along with a classroom clock.

## Hall of Honor Profile

### Robert Kokernot Class of 1940, Honor Graduate, 1967

Dr. Robert Kokernot was an assistant director, Center for Zoonosis Research, at the University of Illinois. Zoonosis is a disease of humans acquired from an animal source. Over the course of his career, he received three doctorates: one in veterinary medicine from Texas A&M; one in medicine from Baylor University College of Medicine; and one in epidemiology from John's Hopkins University.

Dr. Kokernot served as a staff member for the Rockefeller Foundation from 1953-1963 and was assigned to South Africa and to Colombia. He worked in South

Africa for six years and was on the medical faculty of the Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, from 1961-1963. Upon his return to the United States in 1963, Dr. Kokernot worked on research at the University of Illinois from 1963-1968.

Over the next twenty years, Dr. Kokernot continued his work in a variety of medical jobs including nine years as Chairman of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at Texas Tech University. Retired since 1988, he lives in Columbus, Ohio, enjoying landscaping and travel.



# CALENDAR

Thursday, November 13, 6-8 p.m. -  
College Night & College Mini-Fair,  
Old Gym.

Monday, November 17, 6:30 - 8:00  
p.m. - Beat The High Cost of College  
Financial Aid presentation, Old Gym.

Friday, November 21 - Parent Shadow  
Day at GHS; minimum day.

Wednesday, December 3 - Saturday,  
December 6 and Wednesday,  
December 10, 7:00 p.m. - Saturday,  
December 12 - "The Matchmaker"  
presented by the Foothiller Players.

Saturday, December 13, 8:00 - 11:00  
p.m, UCSD Price Center - GHS Winter  
Formal.

Monday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. -  
Red Robe Choir Winter Concert,  
Fletcher Hills Presbyterian Church, 455  
Church Way, El Cajon, CA 92020

The GHS Alumni Association, Museum, and Educational Foundation all operate on donations to support our efforts to enhance the athletic, artistic, and academic activities at Grossmont and foster Foothiller pride.

Please detach and return with your donation:

Foothiller Friend Legacy Donation of \$250 \_\_\_\_\_  
(4x8" gray tile on the Humanities Building)

Foothiller Founder Legacy Donation of \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_  
(8x8 inch gray tile at the entrance to the Old Gym)

GHS Alumni Association Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

GHS Museum Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

GHS Educational Foundation Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to GHS Educational Foundation and mail to  
GHS Alumni and Museum, P.O. Box 1043, La Mesa, CA 91944-1043.

All donors will receive an income tax receipt.)



Find us on  
Facebook:  
GHS Foothiller  
Foundation!