

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY  
360 S. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA 94041



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# Mountain View Academy



Mountain View Academy Facebook page was established by Rita Hoshino. The group (with over 800 members) is intended for alumni and friends of the school to post updates about marriages, births, career or the passing of an alum.

You can also find regular posts from Tim Mitchell, MVA teacher and chaplain about current events on campus. Interim Alumni President Jayson Tsuchiya also posts updates regarding Homecoming Sabbath.

Come join us on Facebook!

You may also find a link to this page on MVA's website [www.mtnviewacademy.org](http://www.mtnviewacademy.org) under Alumni, Alumni and Giving.

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## MVA School Calendar

**March 19-21**

Urban Mission Trip

**March 19-29**

Peru Mission Trip

**April 11**

Alumni Homecoming

**May 29-31**

Graduation Weekend



Issue 8 Spring 2015

## Mountain View Golf Classic Benefits Students

This year's golf tournament was a little different than years past. Sunnyvale Adventist Church was working with Doug Sumaraga to host a golf tournament to help raise funds for a mission trip to the Philippines and MVA also had its annual tournament scheduled for a similar time period. The decision was made to combine MVA and Sunnyvale to minimize the work and increase the number of players and the results were great! We raised over \$25,000 for both MVA and the Philippines Mission Trip of Sunnyvale SDA Church.

A big thank you goes to Doug Sumaraga and his team for a wonderful tournament which took place on October 27 at Silver Creek Valley Country Club. Fifty golfers and over twenty volunteers put the total at more than seventy participants on-site to support these two great organizations.

Prizes were awarded and are as follows:

- 1st Place Winners: Van Araujo, Joe Corcoran, Dave Dimmick, Ryan Speyer
- 2nd Place Winners: Ryan Fastenau, Robert Hicks, Aiyan Ofreneo, Seth Sumaraga
- Long Drive Champion: Chuck Penaflorida
- Most Accurate Drive: Reuben Dayao
- Closest to the Pin: John Bylard Hole #15, Bart Nyhan Hole #4, Randy Lackey Hole #7, Max Rodriguez Hole #12
- Putting Champion: Max Rodriguez

Both MVA and Sunnyvale were blessed with many generous donors who sponsored holes, prizes and other aspects of the event. Because of their generous help, students are able to attend MVA who would otherwise not have the funds to do so and citizens of the Philippines will be assisted in their recovery from damages sustained in the most recent hurricane.

We praise God for His blessing on this event and we thank each of you whether you gave of your time, dollars or prayers.



## Principal's Report

by Jerry Corson



The 2014-2015 school year had a great start. Enrollment is stable, there was very low staff turnover, and student attitudes are very positive.

Over the summer the restrooms in the gym were remod-

eled, three classrooms had ceilings refinished and new lights installed, and six classrooms received technology upgrades in the form of interactive projector systems. With the new interactive features, teachers have the opportunity to add to their repertoire of effective teaching strategies.

While it is always exciting to see upgrades made, it is what is going on behind the scenes that is even more exciting for the long-term success and stability of Mountain View Academy. Facility upgrades are not just happening because there was a little extra money around and someone thought it would be a good idea. No, upgrades are occurring because they have been planned for in an organized fashion. Funds are budgeted for upgrades and then applied to the prioritized improvements. When additional funds are available, then additional items in the list can be completed. It is also not just a static list but one that is updated monthly as the needs of Mountain View Academy shift.

Due to this planning and the research done on projects, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) helps insure that upgrades are not just done on rooms, but also the underlying physical plant.

One example of this is the work that needs to be done to upgrade and improve the weight room. Rather than just putting in new flooring, paint on the walls, and better window coverings, the SPC is looking at reinforcing the floor so that increased use and devices in this room do not cause damage to the building structure.

It all takes time, money and planning, and the list seems to get longer the more we study what needs to be done we also know that it is the support of the community and the alumni

## Danesa Serns—Staff

by Bonnie McConnell



Young, vivacious and talented—these three words only begin to describe Danesa Serns, the new math teacher at Mountain View Academy.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, she

brings a slight accent and bubbly personality to MVA chapels, math classes and freshmen class meetings. Ms. Serns attended Portland Adventist Academy and graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a major in religion and a minor in math.

She is no stranger to Christian education and ministry, as her father is the senior pastor of the Richardson SDA Church in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, and her mother is a retired math teacher after 25 years in the classroom.

Currently Ms. Serns is teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and she is the Student Association and Freshmen Class sponsor. When asked what she loved most about teaching, she said, “The students remind me how much I love my job and how much I’m in the right position. Their desire for learning is contagious, and it invigorates my passion for the subject I’m teaching.”

It is not uncommon to find Ms. Serns in her classroom after school, tutoring students in math and answering questions. Theresa Vo, a junior and International Student at MVA commented on this. She said, “[Ms. Serns] always stays with me until 6:00 to help me do the reviews. As a result, I received high scores on my last three tests.”

Students remark that Ms. Serns finds a way to make learning easy, and she is knowledgeable and passionate about her discipline.

*Principal Report cont'd*

that keeps MVA moving forward. Your continued spiritual and financial support is vital to us. So if you have a project that you would like to have us work on, please let us know. We also welcome information about possible funding sources that would make your project a reality. God bless!

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Serns enjoys singing, playing the piano and writing music. She is currently a worship leader at the Sunnyvale SDA Church, and has led praise music at various church retreats in Texas. Ms. Serns has already shared her musical talents in chapel and at the Fall Festival this year.

On the MVA campus, she has helped organize groups of students to lead out in praise music as well. When she is not enjoying music, you can find her playing volleyball, cooking, or cheering her Dallas Cowboys to victory.

Students often ask the age old question—“When will I actually use math in the real world?” Ms. Serns is quite passionate about math. She often tells students, “Math is found everywhere! Even if you don’t use math, equations, or formulas every day, you will use the skills in problem-solving, logic and reasoning that you develop in math, in every other aspect of your life.”

Finally, she tells students that “careers that require math are usually in higher demand & pay more than other fields. Even if students do not choose a career that requires math, they are requiring simple math and logic every day to save money at the grocery store, understand the percentages on their first mortgage, and determine how to maximize the money they have.” Danesa Serns is truly a blessing at Mountain View Academy!



## Lloyd Best, '65—Alumni Feature

by Tim Mitchell



You can walk into the hallways of your old school and they will often smell just the same as when you left. Although those hallways no longer exist for Lloyd Best, because the old buildings for Miramonte Elementary and Mountain View Academy vanished long ago, the fragrance of memories is as rich as ever.

Like so many of the students from that era, the Best family landed here to work at Pacific Press, where the buildings still stand but the people are gone. So the memories are in the community of people who touched Lloyd’s life. “A lot of our teachers also went to church with us. My first grade teacher, Ethel Russell, and her family were close to our family. When I entered school we were

already friends. By the time I got to MVA she had become the English teacher there.”

Along with the core subjects he remembers playing various sports, though he claims he wasn’t any good. Yet “we had a tradition for having a great band. After lunch every day we would practice on the stage in the gymnasium. One year I played sousaphone, another year baritone, and trombone my senior year. We had a trombone quartet that played at our graduation, ‘We are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder.’”

“I was spiritually blessed by my Bible teachers, who were all very inspiring. We had a different one each year. One was Cy Bietz, who later became principal. Dale McCune

was the principal the first year, and we had very good chapels every week as he would often read from “The School of Hard Knocks.”

“Ken Stump was a science and math teacher, and I was surprised how much he

knew. He would sit on a stool and write on an overhead projector. On purpose he would wear two different colors of socks.”



Plus, the new technology is using 3000 lumen ‘short throw’ projection which means the projectors are visible in daylight and mounted on the wall right above the whiteboard so that there is no annoying shadow from the teacher standing at the board or glare in the teacher’s eyes when they look out into the classroom. Not only has the visual presentation capability been updated, but each of these classrooms have been enhanced with 300 watts of ceiling mounted HD audio. These changes will significantly enhance the instructional content and student engagement for optimum learning.

Space does not allow listing all of the improvements that have been made, but the

Eventually Lloyd was drawn to teaching math as a career. He got his MA from Pacific Union College and started toward his PhD at UC Santa Cruz. “About that time I got disillusioned with academia as I had a growing interest in righteousness by faith, so I never got the degree.” That didn’t stop him from teaching at MVA, PUC Prep, San Diego Academy, and for most of his career, PUC. He has served as chairman of the Math department for sixteen of his 31 years of teaching.

While Lloyd had an interest in the gospel, not all of his years have been lived with a vibrant faith. There was a period of life for which he describes himself “as a closet athe-

ist.” That phase came to an end as he seemed to hear God saying to him, “I’ve been here all the time, been waiting for you. You don’t have to know everything.”

Now Best can affirm that “God is my creator and savior and the spirit that gives me life, energy and happiness every day.”



## Campus Changes Report

by Greg Richmond

While retaining the external appeal of its award winning architecture, including the Mayor’s Award for its contribution to the City’s architectural landscape, the Academy continues to make significant internal upgrades to enhance the educational experience of the students.

Keeping in line with the Chapel and Chapel bathroom renovations completed in 2012 and 2013, the Gymnasium bathrooms were renovated this summer. Improvements to reduce the academy’s energy and carbon footprint that were initiated by the 2012 installation of

solar panels to provide all of the Academy’s electrical energy, have continued with the renovation of classrooms 205 (Biology), 207 (ELD), and 208 (English). This included installation of more modern and energy efficient lighting.

In addition, eight classrooms have been re-wired and upgraded with Epson smart projector technology which allows the teacher to write on the whiteboard using just their finger or a digital pen if they prefer. These annotations can be made on a blank board or over any image projected on the board, for example a photo, document camera, or PowerPoint lesson.

changes, both large and small, are in part made possible by the truly generous support of our alumni and friends who choose to share some of what MVA and God have given them.

MVA is a school you can continue to be proud of and you can count on the current administration with God as their leader to make wise investments with any gifts you give. Or if you have a passion for a specific area of curriculum and want to participate in making it shine, talk to the principal, Jerry Corson at 650-967-2783 or principal@mtviewacademy.org) about your vision for MVA.

## Alumni Updates

### Obituaries

**E**unice Rojas, '66  
passed away June  
23, 2014.



**K**risty Stone, '99, passed away June  
11, 2014.

### Do You Have Any News?

**W**e want to hear from you! Any-  
thing you would like to share with  
us—marriages, births, career updates, etc.  
—we would be happy to pass along your  
news to fellow alums.

Email us your updates at alumni-  
@mtnviewacademy.org.

## Snapshots From the Past



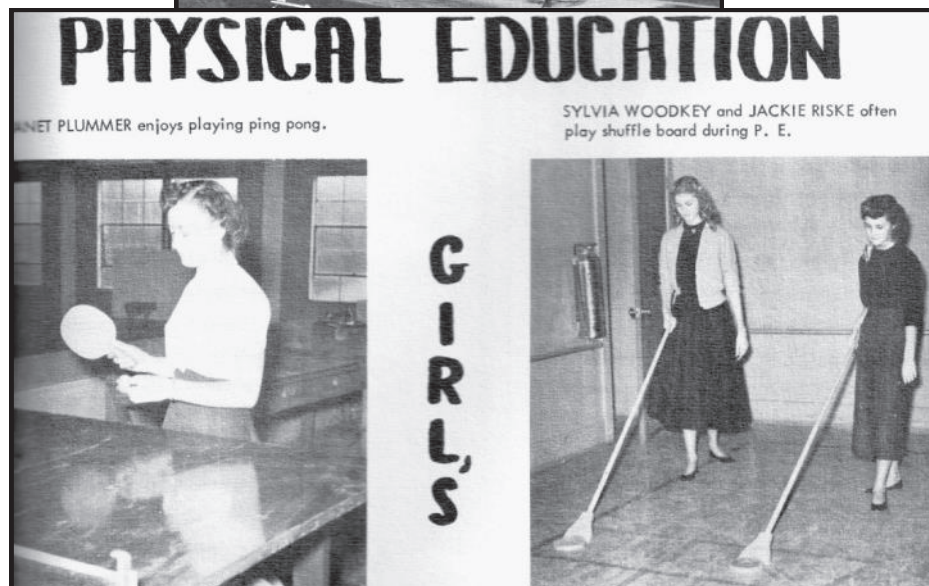
All those under the direction of MR. WILLIAM VAN ORNAM, head of the Music Department, always find in his music studio warmth, happiness, laughter and song.

Quartette: Mallen Kootsey, Max Johnson, Bob Iles, Bill Devine.

Junior Trio  
Joan Warnow  
Janice Whitten  
Carolyn Torrano  
Sophomore Trio  
Judy Tourville  
Shirley Edwards  
Donna Zweigle  
Senior Trio  
Carmen Hallsted  
Janice Whitten  
Ladele Raley  
Freshman Trio  
LuAnn Wallace  
Julie Porter  
Sandra Simon



Two professional skaters BEATRICE FRELIGH and DEIRDRE MAXWELL.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ANNET PLUMMER enjoys playing ping pong.

SYLVIA WOODKEY and JACKIE RISKE often play shuffle board during P. E.

G  
I  
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S

# Homecoming Sabbath

## April 11, 2005



Honoring Classes:

1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2005

- Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- The Gathering begins at 10:00 a.m., Gary Jensen '65 is the featured speaker
- Class photos following The Gathering
- On-campus lunch generously provided by the Cimino family



## Vote for Alumni President

Alumni President, nominations are currently being taken online at the MVA website: [mtnviewacademy.org](http://mtnviewacademy.org), Alumni and Giving, Nominate President or you may email them to [alumni@mtnviewacademy.org](mailto:alumni@mtnviewacademy.org).

Ballots will be given out at registration and picked up during the offering. Please help us select a new president for the upcoming year. The term begins following this year's Homecoming Sabbath). Jayson Tsuchiya has served as the unofficial interim president for more than a year and has done a wonderful job and now it's time for another alumnus to assist.

We urge you to take a few minutes to nominate someone and to please vote at Homecoming Sabbath.

### President Job Description

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, perform all the duties pertaining to the office, approve payments for the Association's expenses and oversee the planning of all Association sponsored events and programs including Alumni Homecoming. The President shall serve ex-officio as a voting member of the Board of Trustees of MVA.