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ECHS Archiving Project Newsletter

Newsletter Issue XLVI

July 2016

Gauche News

President's Message

Joshua Ko	Ian Birnam	Heather Edgar
Diego Murillo	Jessica Tran	JingJing He
Nai Saeyang	Tiara Williams	Elizabeth Sanchez
2013	2009	2006
Rebecca Dao	Eric Chen	Alba Basurto
Alvin Tran	T	



Editor's Note: Some ECHS graduates are inspired and others are inspiring. I think you will agree that ECHS 1972 graduate Oscar Blackwell, Jr.'s story is both. If you have a story to share, please forward to: jsbayat1@comcast.net.

Life Lessons: Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles

By Oscar Blackwell, Jr. ECHS '72

Background

Growing up, my mother was a struggling single woman raising three children on her own. We were living in the City of Richmond. I was 8 years old when I was tested at school and diagnosed as having a learning disability. It was difficult learning how to read and write in school, and I felt uncomfortable in the classroom.

Being labeled with a learning disability affected my self-confidence, and as a result, I did not do well throughout elementary school and middle school. I needed something to balance my life that made me feel good about myself. I enjoyed playing sports, especially baseball, as I transitioned into high school.

El Cerrito High School

During my sophomore year in high school, I had problems with attendance and grades, so this meant I was ineligible to play sports. Because of this, I had a meeting with the Dean of Boys, Mr. Bowles. We talked about my attendance and grades, and he suggested that I think about transferring to a continuation high school. That definitely was not the school for me! The conversation with Mr. Bowles was a wakeup call to turn my life around and work hard toward graduation from El Cerrito High School in 1972.

As a result of the conversation with Mr. Bowles, in my junior year, I was determined to work hard at improving my attendance and on raising my grades. Making this dedicated change meant I was eligible to play sports that year. After my junior year, I attended summer school to earn credits I still needed.

I was looking forward to my senior year and I continued to stay focused on my grades. I even enrolled in one extra class to make sure I graduated on time.

I was also looking forward to being a member of the El Cerrito High School Varsity Baseball team. That year, we had a good baseball season and won the A.C.A.L. Baseball Championship. After graduation from El Cerrito High School, I was asked by Coach Quirico to play summer baseball for the El Cerrito American Legion team. We had a special team that year. We won the District, Area, State and Western Regionals and advanced to the 1972 American Legion's World Series that was held in Memphis, Tennessee. The summer of 1972 was the highlight of my baseball career!

After coming back home from the World Series, I enrolled at Contra Costa College and was a member of the 1974 Baseball Championship team. I was being recruited by the U.C. Berkeley Baseball program. After being referred to a U.C. Academic Advisor, I learned that I needed three more transfer classes before I could be accepted at Berkeley and enter the U.C. Berkeley Baseball program. So I enrolled at Alameda College, passed the required classes, and was accepted and enrolled at U.C. Berkeley in the spring quarter of 1975.

accepted and enrolled at U.C. Berkeley in the spring quarter of 1975. Yet, the best decision I ever made was to NOT play baseball at U.C. Berkeley. Instead, I made the conscious decision to devote all my time and energy on a career where I can be in a helping role and make a positive difference in the lives of young people. As a result of my decision, upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley, I achieved my goal and was an Education Case Manager Specialist for Contra Costa County Office of Education until my retirement in June 2014.

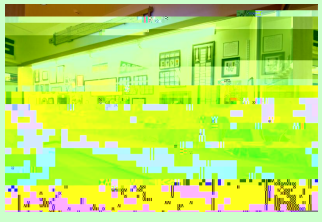
What's the point of telling you my story? Ju3Ju3gr 03



Ken Kahn Retires
George Austin Returns

Take a Look!!

Visit our Museum!



Old

Class of 2006--10 year

- Contact: Deven Sanders Trowers -- deven.trowers@gmail.com

Class of 1956--60 year

- Contact: Jackie Fonken-- j_fonken@hotmail.com
- Save the date: Sat. Oct. 15, 2016

Class of 1967--50 year

- Save the Date, October 14, 2017
- Mira Vista Country Club
- Contact: Roddy Lee-- echs1967@aol.com
- <http://elcerritogauchos.net/alumni/alumni/alumni-class-pages/1967-2>

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- Class of 2006-Deven Sanders Trowers -- deven.trowers@gmail.com
 - Class of 2001--15 year
 - Class of 1996--20 year Tina Wright--ec96reunion@gmail.com.
 - Class of 1991--25 year--robinhuey73@sbcglobal.net
 - Class of 1986--30 year Vanessa Drummond--vanessadrummond@me.com.
 - Class of 1981--35 year
 - Class of 1976--40 year--Gregg Mayer, gregglmayer@mac.com
 - Class of 1971--45 year
 - Class of 1966--50 year: Sandy Berry, sandyberry60@yahoo.com
 - Class of 1961--55 year
 - Class of 1956--60 year: Jackie Fonken, j_fonken@hotmail.com

Reunion leaders, classmates: If you are planning your reunion or need information about your reunion. Please Contact Roddy Lee: ECArchProject@aol.com

Archiving Our Newsletters

- [Special Events](#)



Penshê..... 2/\$1.00
Pins..... \$1.00
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Book Marks..... \$3.00

"Green & White/The Gaucho Story" - the DVD - \$15.00

ECHS Bags..... \$10.00

Reunion Bags..... \$5.00

License Plate Frames... \$7.00

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