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**All Class
Reunion BBQ
Save The Date
October 20th 2024**

Newsletter of the Whittier High School Alumni Association and Educational Foundation

Cardinal Chatter

WHSAAEF
PO BOX 65
WHITTIER
90608-0065

current topics >>

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President's Message

**Summer
2024**

“Change is inevitable, growth is optional,” a quote credited to John C. Maxwell.

After coming off the Hall of Fame in April, these words resonated with me.

The legacy of those who came before, the accomplishments and the contributions that have been made by Whittier High School graduates and faculty are amazing. Obviously, change has taken place over the years, but WHS has put effort and focus into the growth of the school, it's programs and support offerings, all for the benefit of the students.

Our HoF event also celebrates the seniors that received the Alumni Association Scholarships for this year. My mind and my heart are so full hearing the stories of these young people. The road they have taken and their interests that will take them farther make me wonder, who and for what will WHS be honoring in the future for the Hall of Fame.

WHS and the educational offerings available here have checked the box for growth. It is my hope that WHSAAEF can also meet that goal. We have been working at growing, but only so much growth can be achieved by the same people year after year. This is not to say that I don't appreciate everyone involved with the Alumni Association ... I do and I'm awed and inspired by the selflessness that is volunteered month in and month out, but as always, I hope for the involvement of new people, new thoughts, new gifts that can be offered.

Sometimes life forces change, and growth can be a welcomed byproduct ... such as COVID. The pandemic forced people to make changes, and because there was no other option other than to quit, the Alumni Association changed our meetings to Zoom calls. Well people can meet face to face again, but we found that by staying with the Zoom calls we were able to grow, location no longer mattered. You can live anywhere and be an integral part of the Alumni Association.

1 hour a month ... it doesn't really sound like much on the surface, but people's lives are busy, and it is a big deal. One I don't take lightly and one that I appreciate each and every month that someone decides to give their time to the Alumni Association. 1 hour to help us during the inevitable times of change make intentional periods of growth where we know that we are doing for our WHS community what others have done before us for WHS, Whittier, California and yes, in some cases, the nation and the world.

We have calls the 3rd Thursday of every month. Our next big event is in October for our All Class BBQ. After that will be the 3rd Annual Holiday Sing Along (a free event for the community). There are other exciting opportunities that are happening every month that are behind the scenes but so important to our mission to support the students of WHS.

We welcome anyone to listen in or jump in and participate ... take it at your own speed, but everyone's voice and ideas are a step towards growing to keep WHSAAEF an organization we can all be proud of.

Until next chatter – Ellen Durman (*81)

...And Always, Always Love You Whittier High!

2024 CARDINAL REUNIONS

- 1964:** Contact Nancy Weeks Lewis – nancylewis7674@aol.com 847-372-0417 or Melodee Williams Zamudio mczeduc@gmail.com 60th Reunion - **October 18th, 19th, & 20th 2024.**
- 1969:** 55th Reunion planned for **Sat Sept 28, 2024** at Mile Square Event Center 10401 Warner Av, Fountain Valley. Contact Regina Basham 714-222-3072 reggiealbright@aol.com Rita Foiles at 562-692-6037; Nancy Watson Taylor 909-618-6930 nanseesamimi@gmail.com Tickets \$100 ea, \$185 couples until July 15.
- 1974:** whscards1974@gmail.com 50th Reunion **Sat Oct 19th 2024**, 5 pm Candlewood Country Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1376575719255467>
- 1994:** whs1994reunion@hotmail.com Contact Francine Lopez Garcia francinee1@yahoo.com / Laura Camacho 562-656-9608 30 Yr Reunion **Sat July 27, 2024**. 6pm-midnight. *appetizers *drinks *casino tables - The Greenleaf, 6712 Greenleaf Ave. \$100 each. Pay by Venmo: Laurasgoodies4 or Zelle: 562-656-9608. Put REUNION in Memo. **'92-'96 Cardinals welcome!**
- 2004:** Contact Jennifer Alvarez Dickerson jenniferalvar@gmail.com or on Facebook "WHS class of 2004" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139081586196954>
- 2014:** Senior Class President Matthew G. Oliver. 562-556-2406 mgoliver@ucsc.edu

If you are planning a reunion reach out to the WHS Alumni Association to give you some ideas and to post your event on our website. If any of the contacts above are incorrect, please let us know. Email whittierhighalumni@gmail.com or call Janice 562-556-4000.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AT WHITTIERHIGHALUMNI.ORG

Remembering Ivannia Soto



The Whittier High School Alumni Association mourns the loss of author, educator and 2016 Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Ivannia Soto-Hinman, who passed away on April 23 at the age of 48 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Born in Los Angeles, Soto graduated from Whittier High School in 1994. Ivannia received a bachelors and dual masters from Biola University and PhD in Education from Claremont Graduate University in 2005. She taught at Whittier College from 2009 until her death.

A member of the Jaime Escalante teaching tree, Soto's specialty was the pedagogy of English language acquisition. Soto authored 12 books, including *ELL Shadowing: A Catalyst for Change*. She was the director of the Bilingual Educator Strategic Training project and served as a board member of the California Commission on Teacher Education

Soto divided her time between Whittier and the California Central Coast. She is survived by her husband Ron Skamfer and dog Frida.



HALL OF FAME 2024

www.whittierhighalumni.org



On April 14th 2024, we were honored to induct 5 wonderful Cardinal Alumni into the Hall of Fame.

Mark Gotts, Ray Girvigian, Julia York Hockett, John Saul & Linda Winzenread.

We were honored to recognize 23 well deserving seniors with a collective amount of \$46,000 in scholarships. We sincerely appreciate the Alumni, Faculty, and family donors who have so generously contributed to make these scholarships possible.

Lascaris Deli on Lambert provided a wonderful spread of desserts, coffee and refreshments. We appreciate our relationship with them and their love for Whittier High School.

A big thank you to Joseph Thee Baker who also provided wonderful cakes in a cup that were enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our community sponsors, Paul Viveros of Whittier Health Insurance who donated our centerpieces and Molina's Automotive.

Opportunities to be a community sponsor for the 2025 Hall of Fame will be highlighted in upcoming Chatters. You can find information about donating towards a scholarship or choosing to name a scholarship for the 2025 Hall of Fame by visiting our website.

whittierhighalumni.org

Save the date! - Hall of Fame 2025 - April 13th 2025

SAVE THE DATE

October 20th 2024

All Class Reunion BBQ

How Many Ways Can You Support Your Alumni Association?

Go to our website to find out – whittierhighalumni.org

Donations can be mailed to:
PO Box 65
Whittier CA
90608-0065



WHITTIER HIGH SCHOOL
Alumni Association &
Educational Foundation

PO Box 65
Whittier, CA
90608-0065

Principal Liggett's Last Update

Greetings, Whittier High School alumni. As of this writing, we are just days away from the Commencement Ceremony of the Class of 2024 on June 4, 2024. This is an outstanding senior class with nearly 15% of the students graduating Cum Laude with at least a 3.9 cumulative, weighted GPA. This includes 17 students who are graduating Summa Cum Laude (with a 4.3 GPA or higher) and 19 Cardinal Key winners who embody the very best of the Cardinal Creed and virtues of Cardinals with CLASS. Keeping in mind that this is the graduating class that began high school online during the 2020-2021 "COVID Year", their accomplishments are that much more impressive. I know that they are all excited to join the ranks of the alumni when they cross the stage next week.

Graduations are always bittersweet for those of us in education, but this one is particularly so for me. This will be my final graduation as the principal of Whittier High School as I have accepted a new position within the district beginning in July. For the past 19 years, I have been proud to call myself a Whittier Cardinal and I can only hope that I have given as much to the school as the school has given to me. To say that Whittier High fundamentally altered the course of my career is not an

exaggeration and I will forever be grateful to the entire Whittier High community for their support, particularly over the last eight years as the principal. Without a doubt, the WHS Alumni Association has been, and will continue to be, one of the true strengths of Whittier High School. No other high school in the area has a comparable level of alumni support and it makes a legitimate, noticeable impact on our campus. Thank you so much for everything you do to support the Legacy of Excellence at Whittier High School; it has been a sincere pleasure to work with all of you.

"Thank you so much for everything you do for our students."

WHS Principal – Timothy Liggett

Stay tuned for the next chatter where we will be celebrating our newly appointed Principal of Whittier High School, Andres Favela.