

West High School RODEO

ALUMNI EDITION

SPRING 2008

ALUMNI NIGHT

Friday, May 16, 2008

Location: West High School Lunchroom on the first floor.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues until 7:00 p.m.

Meeting will be called to Order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will include election of officers, presentation of Outstanding Alumni awards, a message from Pat Sanchez, principal of West, and entertainment by West High Students.

Refreshments and time for visiting follow the program.

Handicapped Access is available at the southeast entrance, both before and after the reunion.

**Please plan to attend. You will enjoy reminiscing with old friends
and meeting other West High graduates.**

2008 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

THIS YEAR WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE, IN ADVANCE, THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS WHO WILL BE HONORED AT ALUMNI NIGHT, MAY 16. WE INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF THEIR CLASSES TO PLAN TO ATTEND IN SUPPORT OF THESE VERY SPECIAL WEST HIGH GRADUATES.

**LOIS OSTBY DOWNING
CLASS OF 1958
AND
JERRY FELD
CLASS OF 1949**

The accomplishments of these graduates are truly "outstanding!"

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

West High School is not the same school many of us remember. Sure, the building may be the same, except for additions. The old gym with its overhanging balcony has been replaced, along with a new library and swimming pool. The young people who go there still have many of the same desires we had and many would

like to go to college or trade school after graduation. The trouble is, a smaller percentage of these students are graduating. In fact, too many are gone by the time they are in the 10th grade. There are less than 1,000 students in a school which in 1960 had more than 3,000. The School Board and Administration have been having to relook at all DPS facilities, including West, and develop a plan for the future.

West principal, Pat Sanchez, on the job for just two years, has been working hard to bring the school back to its former stature. As a result of school choice, too many students in the West District are choosing other schools for their high school careers. Principal Sanchez has done much to restore discipline, enhance school spirit and provide the support the faculty needs to do their jobs. The wood shop has been reopened, and an aviation program has been introduced. The Denver Foundation has established a College Counseling Program with a full-time person to assist West students with their choices and learn about after graduation opportunities.

And now the GOOD NEWS! In the 2009-10 school year West will enter a new era with a new magnet program called STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). While still in the planning stages, this program promises to be attractive to students throughout the district and will be the only school offering this curriculum. Enrollment should increase and all of us hope good things will happen.

Your Alumni Association has worked hard to support the school this year. Once again we awarded nearly \$20,000 in scholarships, built new display cases for the alumni room, which is shared with the College Counseling Program. We helped finance the renovation of the alumni room, contributed with the help of Alumni of the Year winner, Jerry Feld, \$1,300 to the football program and other school projects.

Reunions are important to many of you and we are hosting a meeting of Alumni Reps to help with this process on April 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Alumni Room. Anyone who is interested is welcome. We continue to work on bringing our computer system up to date and, with the help of Membership

Secretary Beth Sjulstad Wolter [’84] should be up and running by the end of the year. Our web page is now a part of the school web site, but we really need a knowledgeable Web Master to pick up the work of Sherrie Britto [’74] who has had to resign. After many years of devoted service to the Association we will miss her.

I want to thank the Board and all of you who have helped the Association this past year. A special thanks goes to Fred Anderberg [’60] for assuming the Treasurer’s position and, with the great help of Cherry Sedbrook Winter [’60], our outgoing Treasurer, bring our financial information up to date. We now have more than \$100,000 in assets and an annual budget of \$30,000.00.

Most important is our need for new faces to serve on the Board and in other positions. In other words, we need you! If you think you can help, please call Helen Harris (303) 904-1694 or me at (303) 716-1979. Hope to see many of you at our annual get-together on May 16.

Ralph “Butch” Pahel [’60]
President



REUNIONS!!

Class of 1942- 1st Annual.

The class of ’42 is having their 1st yearly gathering at the Country Buffet, in the old Cinderella City, 301 Englewood Pkwy, on Friday, July 11, 2008 At 11:30am. Classes of 1940-1944 are welcome. If interested, please call by June 1st. Carolyn Sullivan Johnson (303) 979-1046; June Busick Davis (303) 756-1361; or Florine Moline Goldman (303) 233-4527

~ ~ ~

Class of 1948 ~ 60th Reunion

Luncheon at The Old Neighborhood Restaurant, 7923 Allison Way, Arvada CO 80005 on Saturday, August 2, 2008.

Picnic at O’Kane Park, August 3, 2008.

Contact Wanda Kitzman Leeper (303) 838-7721 or Agnes Lucero Vigil (303) 233-0684 – vthehawk@msn.com;

~ ~ ~

Class of 1955 -- 50+

Luncheon at Sweet Tomatoes, 8971 Yates, Westminster (in the northwest area.) All are welcome. Please come on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 1 p.m.

This is a buffet for less than \$10. There will be a separate area for our group. For further information call Karen Lochner DeJean at (303) 973-9034.

~ ~ ~

Class of 1958 ~ 50th Reunion

August 15th - August 17th are the dates of our 50 Year Reunion, with a possible golf tournament on August 14th. The reunion will be held in Denver & reservation letters will be mailed in June. Please contact Lois Downing at (303) 471-6906 or e-mail Lodown61@aol.com if we do not have your current address. You won’t want to miss this one!

~ ~ ~

Class of 1973 ~ 35th Reunion

A luncheon is being planned for Wednesday, July 9th, at a local restaurant. For further information please call Bobbie Kuhlman (Lynd Lindsey) at (949) 759-0957 or email drkuhl@hotmail.com

~ ~ ~

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Reunions In The Planning Stage

Class of 1968--40-Year Reunion

If you are interested in getting together for a reunion, please call Linda Strausheim at 303-979-6091

Class of 1978--30-Year Reunion

For information please call Anthony Chavez at 303-967-9548 or email at

Cowboys1978@live.com

Class of 1997 –10 plus 1 year.

Tentative dates: 8/1-8/3 or 8/15-8/17, 2008. For further info and how to get involved please call Maria Trujillo (303) 847-1365 or Michelle (Dea) Maldonado (303) 459-7896.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

DON'T SEE YOUR CLASS LISTED? NEED INFORMATION ABOUT STARTING OR JOINING A REUNION COMMITTEE?

We haven’t heard from the classes of 1988 (20 years) or 1998 (10 years).

If your class never had a reunion, it’s possible that your class does not have a class representative or needs volunteers to form a committee. If you are interested in assisting with your class reunion or need information regarding planning a reunion, please contact a member of the West High School Alumni Association. Reunions only get planned if members of your class do the planning. Class committees can have fun and reconnect with each other while planning a reunion. Many classes have not had a reunion because no one wants to take charge. Please take a moment to volunteer if you would like to have a class reunion.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

CLASS REPS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

1943, 1975, 1985, 1988, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

The class lists are sent only to the class reps when they are requested from the membership chairperson. Class reps are invited to attend a meeting sponsored by the Alumni association Board where information is given regarding class reunions. They are not responsible for organizing reunions although it usually begins with the class rep getting the reunion committee organized. The class rep is the person who takes responsibility for keeping the Alumni Association updated with addresses and name changes. We deeply appreciate our class representatives. Thank you for deciding to assist the Alumni Association in keeping your class informed. To volunteer call Lois Otsby Downing at (303) 471-6906.

PLANNING YOUR REUNION?

The Alumni Board members can help with suggestions for you to set up your class reunions. We provide current class lists to the class reps. We do not provide funds. We can recommend ways for you to get started. Please call any board member for further information.

~ ~ ~ ~

VOLUNTEERS!!

We need you members to get involved on the board and/or in board activities. Activities can include inter-action with school functions, mentoring students, assisting with resume writing, job interviews, etc. We particularly need to encourage you to become board members to replace those who are leaving. Please call any board member to volunteer NOW!!

**West High School
Receives \$77,000 School
Innovation Grant
School Will Use Funds to
Become a New Math,
Science and Tech Magnet
School.**

February 17, 2008 (Denver, CO)-West High School, recently received a \$77,000 School Innovation Grant. West High School plans to use the money, in collaboration with Emily Griffith Opportunity School, to develop a comprehensive three-year plan to become a magnet high school with a focus on Math, Engineering, Technology, Arts and Science (METAS).

The METAS program will be based on the nationally renowned concept of STEM (Science, Technology and Engineering Math). The concept of STEM is based on a common-sense approach to education that includes student choice, applied learning and character education. There are fewer than 200 STEM High Schools in the United States.

West is developing four small "Thematic Academies" that fall under the areas of engineering, technology, arts and science", said West High School Principal Pat Sanchez. "Each of these areas will directly align with one of the colleges of study at Emily Griffith."

Incoming freshmen at West will choose a major area of focus that aligns to their personal strengths and vision and will be able to pursue that vision by selecting a sequence of electives for the entire time they spend in high school.

West High School has begun to see improvement on Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) Scores and is beginning to close

the achievement gap of students of Hispanic and Latino heritage. This year 100 percent of our 450 freshman and sophomores were tested. Approximately 97 percent of West students are of Hispanic or Latino heritage, and 85 percent quality for the free or reduced lunch program.

For more information on this or other programs at West High School, e-mail newwesthigh@dpsk12.org Or contact (720) 423-5300, or visit <http://westdpsk12.org/>.

Submitted by: *Christina Arbogast,*
Faculty Representative



**ALUMNI
PERSONALITY
PROFILES**

Each year the Alumni Association recognizes alumni who have contributed in outstanding ways to the betterment of their community or have enhanced the lives of others through their activities in their local, state, or national affairs. We depend upon you to help us locate and recognize these people. All nominations are kept from year-to-year and are carefully considered. We need your assistance in finding those West High graduates who have distinguished themselves. Please send your nominee's name and information about why that person deserves recognition by April 1 of any year to:

**West High Alumni Association
Outstanding Alumni
Nominating Committee
10815 W. Jewell Ave. #K
Box 1184, Lakewood, CO 80232**

LAST YEAR OUR HONOREES WERE:

**KAREN LOCHNER DeJEAN
CLASS OF 1955**

Last year I was selected to receive the Outstanding Alumni Award. What normally happens is that my credentials are then listed this year in the Alumni Rodeo for you to read and assess if I was deserving of this award. I asked that I might be afforded this space to tell you why I have spent the last nearly 50 years of my life involved in volunteer activities. My peers on the board granted me this opportunity.

Volunteering seems to run in my family. My mom was always active in the community culminating with her participation as a city council person in Cedaredge, Colorado and also serving as mayor pro tem. My brother was honored as the Outstanding Alumni a few years ago. Giving back has always been important. I have been involved in PTO and youth organizations when my children were young, politics (both democratic and republican), civic groups, cultural and creative organizations, and West High Alumni Association where I have served in nearly every capacity. Most of my time on the Alumni Board was as the membership chairperson. Why have I devoted so much time to volunteering? Obviously, it makes me happy to know that I have been able to improve some small piece of the world; otherwise, I wouldn't continue. I have met some truly remarkable like-minded people in the process.

There are so many places that truly need volunteers. Do I believe everyone should volunteer some of their time? Definitely! You will be giving something to the group where you volunteer but you will receive so much more in return. Are you interested in finding an outlet for volunteering? Where should you start? Well, my philosophy is "bloom where you are planted. "Personally, my best

experiences have been during my time on the West High Alumni Board. My connection to West High is strong. My parents, aunt, uncles, brother, husband and two of his brothers, best friends, neighbors, etc. attended West. We lived in this community for many years and we knew and cared about so many people from this area for many decades. It was so much fun going back to my roots and finding dear, dear friends who were an important part of my life growing up and being able to renew my friendships with them after having lived out of the state for 20 years.

If you have just a few hours each week, you might consider helping as a tutor for some of the students at West, or you could help organize things in the Alumni Room, or you could serve as a class rep and help organize your class reunions. The opportunities are endless. And you, too, would be giving something back to the place where you became whatever it is that you have blossomed into.

My feelings about volunteering are strong! I would encourage you to ask yourself where your interests lie. What would you be happy doing? What are you qualified to contribute? I'm sure there is a special place just waiting for you and your talents where you can feel pride in the contributions you make. Don't wait till you have more time, money, or inclination. Take this opportunity to volunteer your services. It will enrich your life and you will be so glad you did--I promise

~ ~ ~ ~

WILLARD SPILMAN CLASS OF 1957

Willard came to West from Baker Jr. High as a freshman, where he was Head Boy. While at West, Willard served as Class President

of our freshman class and was a member of Student Council all four years. He participated in many organizations and received the War Memorial Award his Senior Year. He has been a contributing member of our Reunion committee since we graduated in 1957.

After graduation, he served in the military, 101st Airborne from 1959 - 1962. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in math in 1970 and received his Master's degree in Secondary School Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 1975.

Denver Public Schools employed him for 22 years, both as a math Teacher and an Information Specialist.

While at West, Willard participated in a Christian group called Young Life, which was an active, on campus ministry. He received the Lord Jesus Christ as his savior and in 1964 dedicated his life to the ministry of God's word. Willard began preaching in 1964 and has been the Pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 5140 Carr Street, Arvada, Colorado since 1972. The Church recently moved into a beautiful new 9000 square facility, which was built primarily by the congregation under his supervision and hard work. He is involved with a group called Macedonian Builders that build Churches both in the U.S. and overseas. He has worked on fifteen different Church building projects.

Willard is married to Elizabeth, his wife of 44 years and has two daughters and four grandchildren. He comes from a family of 15 children. He supported himself during High School by working at a drug store and living in an apartment over the store. He has

accomplished much and we are very, very proud to have him as our friend and nominee.

**CONGRATULATIONS
Outstanding Alumni for 2007**

WILLARD & KAREN

DO YOU HAVE YEARBOOKS OR OTHER MEMORABILIA THAT YOU WANT TO DONATE TO A GOOD HOME?

The Alumni Association has one complete set of yearbooks for viewing in our Alumni Room. Extra books are not available. If you know of someone (possibly the family of a deceased class member) who no longer uses their yearbook, please contact them and tell them the Alumni Association would appreciate their donation. We also accept class photographs, dance programs, newspaper articles, old editions of the Rodeo, etc. for our archives. Please keep us in mind when you are cleaning out your "stuff." We do not have the resources to pay for these items. All items may be dropped off at the office at West or mailed there to the attention of Alumni Historian.

**COWBOY LAPEL
PINS & DECALS
AVAILABLE**

Decades ago, graduating seniors were awarded a "key" from the Alumni Association. We resumed that tradition in 1998 by presenting the graduating seniors a cloisonné lapel pin, done in orange and black, outlined in brass with the cowboy on the bucking bronco. We will have these pins available for purchase by alumni for \$4 on Alumni Night. If you wish to order these pins by mail, send your mailing information to West High Alumni Association, 10815 W. Jewel Ave #K, Box 1184, Lakewood, CO 80282, together

with your check for \$5 to cover mailing costs. We will also have decals depicting the West cowboy over a "W" for sale for \$1.00 each on Alumni Night.

There will also be West High School shirts and hats available and copies of the Alumni performance of the Singing Christmas Tree

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S
WEB SITE**

West.dpsk12.org

The Alumni Association has now merged its website with West High School and it is accessible to all alumni. We will try to keep the alumni portion updated so you can keep up on what is happening with fellow alums.

Log on and let us hear from you!

THANKS!!

To Our Board Members 2007/2008

PRESIDENT:

Ralph (Butch) Pahel, 1960

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

Lee Becker, 1953

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:

Elizabeth Condos, 1958

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT:

Rita Aceves, 1976

SECRETARY:

Pat Driscoll Miller, 1960

TREASURER:

Fred Anderberg, 1960

SENIOR HISTORIAN:

Forney Wells, 1958

JUNIOR HISTORIAN:

Bernie Lopez, 1967

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON:

Beth Sjulstad Wolter, 1984

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE:

Christina Arbogast

ALUMNI RELATIONS:

Karen Lochner DeJean, 1955

And Lois Ostby Downing, 1958

TRUSTEES:

Helen J. Harris, 1960

Cherry Sedbrook Winter, 1960

PAST PRESIDENT:

Ralph "Butch" Pahel

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT WEST HIGH SCHOOL?

History of West High School School District #1 East Denver School District #2 West Denver School District #3 Highlands

Central School (1880 to 1893). Part of the Central School building was used for high school teaching.

Franklin Building, from 1884 to 1893, a large wing of Franklin was expressly used for high school students.

The history of West High School at the age of 13 (1893) was the Baker Building.

West High School had a history of 46 years before moving into the present building in 1926.

June 1884, the first graduates in District 2 got their diplomas. There were exactly 6 graduates; the date was Friday the 13th.

West High Alumni Association started with the classes of 1884 and 1885. Alumni have always supported West High School with their money, their time, and their hearts. You might almost call them “guardians” of West High School.

Two students, Verne Dyson and Dwight Mead, who conceived the idea of having a school magazine, started the Herald and The Annual. It was the first of its kind in Denver.

Athletics started at the Baker Building in 1894. The football team played high school and college clubs. Attendance at West High School was only about 1/3 the size of East High School and considerably smaller than Manual’s. West’s football team conquered all of the local high school teams and tied the School of Mines! Players were paid a \$50.00 fee for each game.

West’s school colors were not always orange and black. Their first school colors were red and gray. Coach Morris wore an orange and black “C.C.” sweater. All of the football players admired the sweater and asked the coach if they could change their football uniforms to the colors of orange and black. Two students, Hakanson and Sullivan proposed that orange and black become official school colors.

High school was for the elite; only about 10% of the school age population elected or was able to enter high school.

To be in high school in 1884 was a grand thing and to graduate was to be instantly entered into the rolls of society’s better classes.

The class motto: “To The Brave and Faithful, Nothing is Difficult.”

Dr. H. F. Wegener was the first principal and teacher of West High School. He ruled the educational process with an iron hand....an artificial hand with a screw at the wrist that he would adjust to hold a book. This was a real attention getter.

As of 2007, West High School has had 24 different principals.

The new gymnasium and classrooms in place of the old gymnasium were built in 1978-1979. The pool was built in 1993. The new library was built in 2000, at the costs of \$4 million. The cafeteria was remodeled in 2005.

Submitted by: *Bernie Lopez*