

SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

# WOLF TRACKS

SPRING 2011

100

YEARS

SRVHS

EST. 1910



SRVHS  
WOLF FOUNDATION  
BUILDING FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## Dear Alumni, Parents, Community and Friends of San Ramon Valley High School,

It is with great excitement that we launch our new Wolf Tracks magazine. This magazine is the first of its kind in our district and, as Wolves, we are very proud to be the first!

We are reaching out to our past and present SRV community to continue the great tradition and legacy that you have set before us, and that we continue to build upon.

First I want to thank you for making San Ramon Valley High School your home and not just your school. As I have come to know many of you during my seven years as Principal, my appreciation for San Ramon Valley High School has grown tremendously. Our high school is truly the "Home of Champions" - a source of pride for our community and a place to get a great education.

During this school year, we celebrate one hundred years of existence. The joy and pride that surrounds current SRVHS students, parents, and alumni is evident. Our school has been highlighted in newspapers and on TV throughout the Bay Area.

As we move forward, we will continue to educate our students with the basics, and prepare them for what they will encounter in the future. The basics include skills such as: critical thinking, curiosity, collaboration, communication, and creativity along with technology. These skills, translated into the 21st-century lingo, are now called rigor, relevance, and relationships. These three, along with affirmation of the basic five, give our students the difference between a regular education and an education that prepares them for the future. As always, it is our goal to support students and their learning as well as the teachers who are assisting the students in their quest for knowledge.

As with any educational institution, academics are a top priority, but co-curricular and extracurricular activities are also important. In order to ensure the continued success in all areas, adequate funding is of paramount importance. I am sure you are well aware of the fact that budgets for education have been slashed state-wide; funding may never return to its former level. We are asking alumni, parents, and community members to help support our school through financial contributions. Since we are in the middle of our one hundred year celebration, this year's giving campaign is fittingly themed, "\$100 for 100 Years," but as always, we welcome contributions of any size.

Detailed information about our 100-Year Gala can be found throughout this magazine. I cordially invite you to join us in celebration of this very special anniversary on March 19th at the Blackhawk Museum.

Sincerely,  
Joseph A. Ianora  
Principal

## WOLF TRACKS IS PUBLISHED BY THE SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WOLF FOUNDATION

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# THE WOLF FOUNDATION

## SRVHS WOLF FOUNDATION CELEBRATES SECOND BIRTHDAY AMID SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL

San Ramon Valley High School (SRVHS), originally called San Ramon Valley Union High School, began in a Danville house in 1910, with approximately 30 students. Over the next several decades, the student body grew significantly and additional classroom buildings and athletic facilities were added. Some of those, such as the pool complex built in 1953, are still in use today.

Currently, more than 2,000 students attend SRVHS, and despite recent upgrades to several classroom buildings and the addition of the new gym, several facilities and programs are in need of support beyond what the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) can provide. Due to constraints from both the state budget crisis and the school's rural zoning designation, SRVHS does not receive sufficient funding from the district or the state to upgrade the school, one of the oldest high schools in the Bay Area.

Enter the SRVHS Wolf Foundation, formed in 2009 by a group of parent volunteers and fueled by the vision of the school's principal, Joe Ianora. Together, this group's commitment has resulted in an organization dedicated to raising funds to augment those available from the SRVUSD, bond measures, parcel taxes and the State of California.

The Wolf Foundation is supported entirely from contributions and fundraising events. The 100-Year Gala, scheduled for March 19th at the Blackhawk Museum, is the first large scale event sponsored by the Foundation, and the third fund-raising event overall. The black tie optional event is also the first event designed to bring together current SRV families, SRV alumni and surrounding community members. During the Spring of 2009, the first alumni donation drive was held, and in September 2009 the Foundation

hosted the Fall Fest, an event for the entire community to create awareness of the Wolf Foundation.

"In contrast to other campus organizations, the focus of the Wolf Foundation is on large-scale capital improvements," said Joe Ianora, principal, SRVHS. "During the first 18 months, the Foundation raised nearly \$250,000 through a combination of fundraising events and several generous donations from local families. These funds were used to provide significant upgrades to the stadium that otherwise would not have been possible. Additionally, construction of a combined snack shack, bathroom facility due to break ground this spring, is being almost fifty percent funded by the Wolf Foundation."

The Foundation is run by a group that consists of five Foundation officers and a board of directors (BOD). Representatives from SRVHS, including the principal and a staff member, are on the BOD to ensure coordination between the Foundation's vision and the priorities of the school. Because the Wolf Foundation is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation (SRVEF), a representative from that organization also serves on the BOD. A complete list of current Wolf Foundation board members can be found on the inside cover of this magazine.



THE VISION OF THE WOLF FOUNDATION IS TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND SRVHS FAMILIES DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON THE SRVHS CAMPUS.

## Q & A WITH FOUNDING PRESIDENT, LISA BLACKWELL

**How did the Wolf Foundation take shape?** The Wolf Foundation was the brain-child of Joe Ianora; SRVHS principal, and other parent leaders from SRV's various booster groups. Joe conducted several early morning round-table discussions with community leaders involved with SRV in 2007 and 2008. We discussed the needs of the school and ways that we could enrich the academic environment. Given the state of public school financing and the drastic budget cuts over the last few years, we realized that we would need to seek alternative ways of funding to truly make improvements at San Ramon. We studied the various high school and college foundations in the area and modeled the Wolf Foundation after the best ones.

**How did you get involved?** I was part of the round-table discussions because I was the current PTA President of SRV and was very aware of the needs and issues. I had also been on the first boards of the Greenbrook Elementary Eagle Fund and the Charlotte Wood Charger Fund, and had worked closely with the San Ramon Valley Education Fund. We started putting together by-laws, goals and objectives in the fall of 2008 and the Foundation began to prioritize needs and raise funds beginning in 2009.

**Why did you think it was important for SRV to have a Foundation?** In order to help with improvements in capital projects and academic programs at our schools, we needed a non-profit entity where community leaders, local businesses, educators, and alumni could safely donate funds. Our hopes for the Foundation were to be a central

fund-raising organization as well as a unifying entity for the various booster groups. We are very fortunate to live and work in a community that gives so generously of time and resources to its youth. The hard work of the volunteers associated with the Foundation is a testament to that commitment.

### **A Thank You to Outgoing President, Frank Miller.**

Most successful organizations have one thing in common: a sound structure where the responsibilities of each member are clear and well organized. When he became involved in the very early days of the Wolf Foundation – before it was officially formed – Frank Miller, the Foundation's second president, quickly realized that in order to be a strong and lasting organization, the Foundation had to be based upon fundamental business principles. As such, Frank spent countless hours building out the structure of the Foundation and interviewing candidates to fill key roles.

As the Foundation got underway, Frank also realized the enormous impact it could have acting as an advocate for SRVHS with the school district. In this way, substantial amounts of funds could not only be raised through donations and fundraising events, but they could also be channeled from existing bond measures if Foundation project members were able to participate in pivotal meetings, such as Measure A fund allocation meetings. As such, Frank amended the role of the Foundation to include advocacy as well as fund raising.

Under Frank's leadership, substantial upgrades were made to the stadium to include replacement of the worn out turf, replacement of the condemned stadium lights and the addition of a new scoreboard. The current board and school principal, Joe Ianora, would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to Frank Miller for his tireless contributions to the formation of the Wolf Foundation.

### **A WORD FROM CURRENT FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, BOB POND**

In these times of budget cuts, traditional funding sources are no longer able to meet the ongoing needs of our school. We have to be creative and focused to bridge the gap between the limited funds available from the state and school district and the real need of new facilities in a 100-year old school. Our alumni, dating as far back as the class of 1936, are key participants in helping us to successfully meet this challenge.

This year, the Foundation will launch a multi-year capital campaign to fund infrastructure improvements such as a new pool, a multipurpose field, and technology systems upgrades. In addition, we are positioning the Wolf Foundation to play a key role in acting as an umbrella group for the other booster groups on campus to coordinate fundraising activities and maximize their impact. The first example of this is next month's fundraising auction held in conjunction with the 100-Year Gala which celebrates SRV's centennial anniversary.

We look forward to working with our alumni community to make certain that SRVHS has the resources necessary to meet our students' needs in the 21st century, and ensure that it remains a source of pride for our alumni and surrounding neighborhood for the next 100 years.

ALL ALUMNI CORDIALLY INVITED TO CELEBRATE  
100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!



*100-Year Gala*

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY,  
A SPECTACULAR BLACK TIE OPTIONAL GALA WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011  
AT THE BLACKHAWK MUSEUM  
BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM  
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM FOR REGISTRATION)

THE EVENING INCLUDES SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS, WINE TASTING WITH EIGHT LOCAL  
WINERIES, A LIGHT DINNER BUFFET AND DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC.

*This fun and nostalgic event is open to current SRV families, alumni, faculty - current and retired - as well as  
the entire Danville and Alamo communities. We are anticipating a sold-out event with limited seating,  
so please don't wait to purchase tickets.*

*The proceeds from the event benefit the academic, athletic and performing arts programs at SRVHS as well as the  
SRVHS Wolf Foundation. Sponsorships and donations are needed as we prepare to host the Gala. To donate or  
volunteer, please contact one of our event co-chairs at the phone number or email address listed below.*

...

Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased by visiting the SRVHS Web Store at [www.srvhs.net](http://www.srvhs.net),  
calling (925)437-2034 or emailing [srv100yeargala@gmail.com](mailto:srv100yeargala@gmail.com). Leave us your name, address, and  
phone number and we will contact you about reservations.

...

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!

PAT PEED & LESLIE (MADDEN) WARD  
100-YEAR GALA EVENT CO-CHAIRS

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# MILLIE FREITAS / CLASS OF '36

### A LOOK AT SAN RAMON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AND DANVILLE IN THE '30S

In 1932, Prohibition laws were still in force and the Great Depression had not yet ended. Franklin D. Roosevelt was voted into office; "Tarzan the Ape Man" opened starring the Olympic Gold Medal swimmer Johnny Weissmuller, and Johnny Cash and Ted Kennedy were born. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to make a solo air crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, the summer Olympics were held in Los Angeles, and the New York Yankees won the World Series.

In a small town 31 miles east of San Francisco, Millie Freitas entered her freshman year at San Ramon Valley High School in 1932. There were 27 seniors and the total student body was 108. The girls wore basic uniforms consisting of blue skirts and white shirts, and the boys wore dark pants.

Millie, who is 91, was born and raised in Danville. Her first home, located at 439 Hartz Avenue, is still there only it is now a hair salon called Danville Hairlines. When Millie was two, her family purchased a farm one mile out of town, located west of Camino Tassajara Road and north of Sycamore Valley Road. Today, Millie lives on Freitas Road, which is located on her family's former property.

In high school, Millie played tennis and her favorite subjects were History and P.E. Her mother drove her to school daily and picked her up immediately after school so she could get home and perform chores. Millie's family farm raised cattle, rabbits and chickens. They also farmed grain and hay.

"Danville was very rural back then and there was not a lot of socializing after school, but we did attend football games and track meets when we could," she says. "In addition, each class had it's own dance. There was the freshman reception dance, the sophomore Hop, the Junior Prom and the Senior Ball."

Students attended SRVHS from Walnut Creek, Alamo, Diablo, Danville and San Ramon - up to the Alameda Contra Costa county line in Dublin. The high school football team was small with approximately 20 players while Millie was in high school, and their rivals were Amador, Pittsburgh, Half Moon Bay, Diablo and Alhambra. There were 32 students in the school band who played at home football and basketball games, and there was the first Boy's and Girl's Glee Club.

The town of Danville was quiet during the 1930's. Elliot's Bar was Elliot's Soda Fountain due to Prohibition, and the town was barely two blocks long. Millie remembers a fun high school event in spring called "Old Clothes Day," which she compared to today's Homecoming. They would dress in old clothing from the early part of the century and Millie and her friends came to school in a horse drawn carriage with a fringe on top.

When Millie graduated in 1936, President Roosevelt had been re-elected to office, Babe Ruth was elected to the Hall of Fame, and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened to traffic. Her graduating class totaled 32 students, 18 boys and 14 girls. In Danville, the Valley Medlyn's Fountain & Coffee Shop was established on Hartz Avenue and it was a very popular teenage spot. Billie Holiday was often heard on the radio, and typical teenage slang words included "swell" and "super." Danville was still a small town, but the high school was growing and becoming more prosperous.

After graduation, Millie attended business school in Oakland, which she describes as very much like today's junior college. She stayed in Danville until the beginning of World War II, when she moved to Monterey with her husband and worked for the Red



Millie Freitas, 91, San Ramon Valley High School's Grand Marshall, Homecoming 2010.



Cross. After the war, she came back to Danville and later began working for the Pleasanton school district, where she was employed for 25 years.

Millie has lived in Danville for 86 years and she is still very involved with the high school and community. She set up the Noia Freitas Scholarship for girls who are graduates of SRVHS with a B grade point average.

"I loved San Ramon Valley High School and I still do," she says. "In fact, I ask the potential scholarship candidates every year how they feel about our high school. I want them to appreciate their high school as much as I did."

In October 2010, Millie was the Grand Marshall of the homecoming parade. She has also donated several antique items from her family farm to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in the Depot. She is often spotted in town at a few of her favorite restaurants including Mountain Mikes Pizza, Uncle Wangs and Country Waffles.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## AIMEE MCKIRDY BLASE / CLASS OF '93

A TWO-WEEK  
VACATION IN TRUCKEE  
TURNED INTO A PIVOTAL,  
YEARLONG ADVENTURE

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."* Mark Twain.

These are words that aptly describe San Ramon Valley High School graduate, Aimee McKirdy Blase, who has taken not one, but two vacations that have profoundly impacted her life. After graduating from high school in 1993, Aimee attended Fresno State, earning a degree in Graphic Design. Her first job out of college was with MJR Associates in Fresno, where she was hired as a graphic designer. The firm was relatively small when she joined, but it grew by 250 percent over the three years she worked there.

Aimee met Mark Blase while working in Fresno, and they began seeing each other. Her long-term career plans were to leave Fresno and head to San Francisco so she could work for a larger advertising agency. The two decided to take a vacation in Truckee, California, first before the big move to the city. Two weeks turned into a year. They snowboarded during the day and waited tables at night.

"I had this great career going and instead Mark and I chose to wait tables and snowboard at Sugar Bowl," says Aimee. "We both traded these 60-hour work weeks for riding 90 days a year, and it was pretty awesome. It was the biggest turning point in my life. I realized that life could be anything I wanted it to be."

At the end of the year, they married and traveled to Southeast Asia for their honeymoon. Upon return, they moved into a home on Donner Lake and founded Blase Design. They built their business up in Truckee doing work for resort developers and local businesses including restaurants, boutique shops, real estate brokers and ski resorts.

In 2005, Aimee and Marc vacationed in Austin for a long weekend and they fell in love with the area. By the end of the weekend, they were the new homeowners of a downtown loft. They began splitting their time between Austin and Truckee, and today they carry a full load of clients in Texas, California and throughout the rest of the country.

Blase Design creates graphic communication in the form of logos, brochures, advertising and websites. They have had the honor of working with The Ritz Carlton, Lance Armstrong and Old Greenwood in Truckee. In addition, the San Ramon Valley High School Wolf Foundation has Blase Design to thank for its logo, website and collateral materials.

Today, Aimee no longer rides 90 days out of the year, but she does spend a lot of time on the rink, where she recently became a Texas Rollergirl, playing for Austin's flat track roller derby league.

Business is good and life is complete. Aimee and Marc have a two-and-a-half year-old son named Harrison. In fact, Austin's economy is rebounding faster than the rest of the nation, so once again; they chose the right place to be.

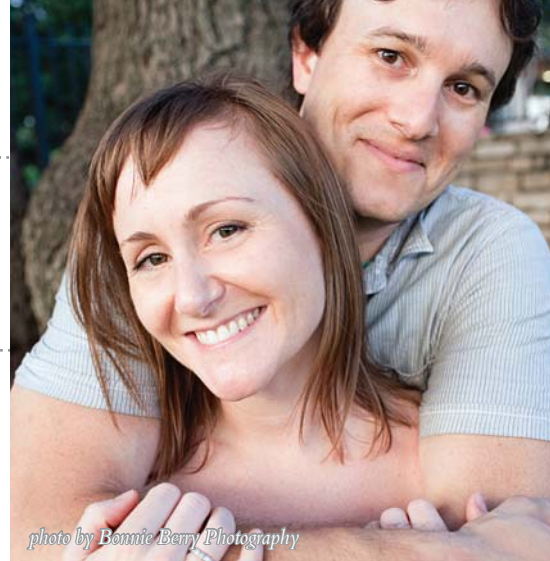


photo by Bonnie Berry Photography

## FUN FACTS &amp; MEMORIES:

**Most influential teacher at SRVHS?** Mrs. Condon was the most influential teacher for me. I was in her senior English class. Her unique assignments really taught me to think differently. It was the class that best prepared me for college, but more than that, she sparked in me a desire to learn more. She was an inspiration and I think back on that class often.

**Most embarrassing moment?** The real question is, what WASN'T funny and embarrassing about high school?

**Where did you hang out on campus during breaks?** Oh goodness, where did the band-nerds hang out? Because that's where I was.

**Major Awards, Accomplishments?** Our past work has been published in various design books and won awards, but the highest honor I have received was for "Mentor of the Year" last year at an Austin high school - for mentoring a semester-long magazine publishing course for freshmen. It was an incredibly rewarding experience.

**Advice for SRVHS students today?** High school can be really fun. It is a great place to learn and start to figure out who you are. Try not to take the social aspects of high school too seriously though. There is an entire world out there beyond those four years and for us late-bloomers, I assure you, there is more to life than high school.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# PATRICK CONCEPCIÓN / CLASS OF '98

### FUN FACTS & MEMORIES:

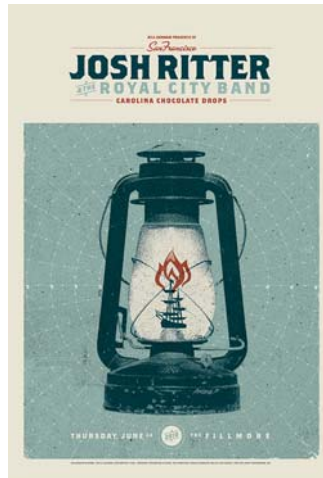
**Most influential teacher at SRVHS?** I would have to say Mr. T. influenced my art and general creativity the most. Mr. Hoover influenced me in regards to being a free spirit and enjoying life. Mr. Busboom taught me how to be a good person, and Coach Raynor taught me work ethic.

**Most embarrassing moment?** The one that sticks out the most was a freshman rally. I had to get in a sleeping bag headfirst and race against upperclassmen, or so I thought. Essentially, there was just one sleeping bag in the middle of the gym packed with 1600+ people watching it wiggle its way across the court.

**Favorite Dance?** It has to be a tie between ALL of THEM!

**Favorite Memories?** Cheering my heart out with three of my best friends, while watching two other best friends play basketball against Monte Vista. It was semi-finals of NCS. The Wolves were down 24-5, but ended up mounting one of the greatest comebacks we had ever seen. I can still see Coach Raynor turning toward the student section in the closing moments of the game shouting, "WE ARE S.R.!" The stands exploded in reply.

**Advice for SRVHS students today?** For the art students specifically, explore as many different styles and mediums of art as possible. My advice for all students is to have as much fun as possible and don't stress too much.



### YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU'LL MEET ON SOUTHWEST

Word's of Wisdom by Conan O'Brien - "If you work hard and be kind, amazing things will happen." These are words Patrick Concepción has lived by and amazing things have happened to him.

After graduating from San Ramon Valley High School in 1998, Patrick went to study art and design at Cal Poly, with aspirations of becoming an artist. After a few quarters of art classes, reality set in he says. "I realized I didn't want to become a starving artist, so I started taking graphic design classes instead and it was a perfect fit for me."

Patrick majored in Art & Design with a concentration in Graphic Design. He graduated with top honors from Cal Poly, where he was named Designer of the Year.

"I knew I wanted to design for the entertainment industry, so shortly after graduation I headed to Austin, Texas to attend the SXSW festival, where you can meet people in the music and design industry," he explains. "As fate would have it, I ended up on a Southwest flight sitting next to the vice president of artist relations for one of the largest music merchandising firms in the world - Bravado International Group - with my portfolio in hand."

Two weeks later, Patrick moved to Los Angeles and began working for Bravado as the Art Director. His roster included the likes of Led Zeppelin, Paul McCartney, Katy Perry, Michael Jackson and MUSE. During his first year in business, he pitched an entire tour line to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, after watching a private concert in their Los Angeles mansion. The group signed with Bravado that evening.

Patrick left Bravado after two years to start his own graphic design business in Philadelphia. Today, Concepción Studios is in its eighth year of operation, and has relocated to San Jose, California. Patrick and his team continue to design for the entertainment industry.

"One of my favorite projects was designing for Conan O'Brien's "Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television" tour," says Patrick. "I met him backstage after his San Jose show, and I don't think I've ever met a more gracious, classy, humble, and of course, funny person in my life."

Recently, Patrick was asked to have his work appear in a book featuring the top 101 rock poster designers in the world. "By and far, this is one of my proudest achievements to date - to be published alongside my own personal design heroes, and some of the most respected contemporary designers of our generation.

"This career choice has led me down the most challenging career path in the design field; designing for musicians and other artists allows for more creative freedom than any other branch in graphic design," he says. "Because of this, albums and concert posters frequently set the benchmark for contemporary graphic design."

Patrick works with some of today's most influential musicians in the world, and they are using his art as a vehicle to visually represent their own art. "What I do for a living is truly fulfilling," he adds.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# NATE SCHIERHOLTZ / CLASS OF '02

### BIG PLAYS STARTED AT AGE TWO FOR NATE SCHIERHOLTZ

For Nate Schierholtz, his most embarrassing moment in high school occurred during a 15-minute break when an egg was launched over one of the buildings and landed on him. The egg splattered and he went to class wearing it. Wearing egg builds good character, something Nate Schierholtz routinely exhibits in public life.

Nate graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 2002. His path to major league baseball, the 2008 Olympics and the 2010 World Series really began when he could swing a bat at the age of two. Nate began playing T-ball for Danville Little League in 1990.

"I always wanted to be a baseball player," says Nate. "I never really had a back up plan because my main, and really my only goal, was to play ball."

During his senior year, Nate signed a letter of intent accepting a full-ride scholarship to the University of Utah. Later in his senior year however, he decided to attend Chabot Junior College because he felt it offered a better path to college on the west coast in addition to improving his chances of getting drafted into the Majors. Before the season started, he was offered a full-ride to Long Beach State, which he accepted. Shortly thereafter, the San Francisco Giants drafted him in the second round of the 2003 MLB Draft into the Giant's farm system. Nate spent four years in the minor league system until he was called up to the major leagues in 2007.

"I was on the bus coming back from a game in Las Vegas headed to Fresno, where I was currently playing," says Nate. "My coach came back to me on the bus and told me I had been called up and to be ready to play the next night. The next morning I was taken by town car to San Francisco.

"The entire drive up and before my debut, I was so nervous I couldn't eat. Once I stepped foot on the field, the nervous feeling went away. I went in to replace Barry Bonds in the 9th and the first ball was a fly ball at me. I caught it, and the next day I made the starting lineup and got a hit my first at bat."

Other milestone moments include playing on the 2008 USA Olympic Baseball Team, where he played both centerfield and rightfield. Most recently, Nate's World Series experience has him feeling very proud. Not only did he make the team roster for the World Series, he started in Game 4.

"I was shocked because I had no idea I was starting, which I found out the day of at 2:00pm," he says. "I was excited and ready to play - this was my dream come true. Another great memory from the World Series was the pinch hit, which led to an RBI single in the second game. And of course, the best moments of all were the last three outs of Game 5. I fought back tears of joy and sprinted to the mound."

Nate appeared in 11 of San Francisco's 15 playoff games, accumulating 13 plate appearances and recording an RBI in Game 1 of the series against the Texas Rangers. The World Series Champion pride can still be felt throughout the Bay Area, and locally, Danville residents are enamored with their hometown player.



Nate Schierholtz, 2010 World Series



Nate Schierholtz and Tim Lincecum, 2010 World Series

### FUN FACTS & MEMORIES:

#### Most influential teacher at SRVHS?

Sam Caldwell was my PE teacher and also the assistant baseball coach. He was very influential in my decision to attend Chabot College. In addition, Coach Rick Stein. He was an excellent coach and he taught us the fundamentals and how to work hard. My favorite memory is wearing the gold sweats during practice.

#### Where did you hang out on campus during breaks?

In the Quad, or off campus because the "no off campus rule" wasn't in place yet.

#### Favorite "off campus" place for lunch your senior year?

Lotsa Pasta.

**High School Awards?** I was MVP on the freshman, JV and varsity teams I played for. I was captain of the varsity baseball team. I was also inducted into the SRVHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

**Advice for SRVHS students today?** If you are an athlete in school today, academics are still the most important thing and should be your first priority. Even if you have success as an athlete, you must have the academics to fall back on.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# ALEC TAPPIN / CLASS OF '05

### FUN FACTS & MEMORIES:

**Most influential teacher at SRVHS?** I would have to say the person who had the most influence on me in high school was John Raynor, the athletic director and my basketball coach. He taught all of us life lessons that we still use today about overcoming adversity and being a man of your word.

**Most embarrassing moment?** During my sophomore year, I was playing varsity basketball and the first time I tried to dunk in a game (it was against Northgate), I hit the front of the rim and fell over backwards...and no it didn't go in, but my teammate got the rebound and put it in.

**Favorite Dance?** That would have to be Sadie Hawkins because I didn't have to ask anyone.

**Where did you hang out on campus during breaks?** My friends and I hung out in the main quad area on the tables next to C Hall.

**Favorite "off campus" place for lunch your senior year?** Kane Sushi

**High School Awards?** I was named "Player of the Week for California High School Sports" and I was also named "First Team All League" for basketball my senior year.

**Advice for SRVHS students today?** Instead of playing computer games or watching TV, I would advise them to get outside and give back to their community as much as they can. Not only will they learn about other people, but they will learn about themselves as well.



## HOOKED AFTER HIS FIRST HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ENDEAVOR

After graduating from San Ramon Valley High School in 2005, Alec Tappin attended St. Mary's College of California in Moraga, where he pursued a degree in communication and was introduced to the world of non-profit humanitarian aid.

In his junior year at St. Mary's, he was one of 25 students invited to join the highly coveted Jan Term class offering service trips during the month of January. Led by Shawny Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Dean for the School of Liberal Arts, the class teamed up with Habitat for Humanity and traveled to New Orleans in 2008 to build homes for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"I went to New Orleans right after my 21st birthday, and it was the first time I stepped outside of my comfort zone and saw the world beyond Contra Costa County," says Alec. "This was two years after Katrina and it was still horrible in terms of destruction and homelessness. During the month we were there, we worked with Habitat and helped with the major construction of five different houses."

It is from this trip Alec realized the enormity and need for humanitarian aid in the world. "The passion I have for philanthropy today can be traced back to my first experience with Habitat in New Orleans," he says. "I feel so fortunate to have been given the opportunities in life that I have. Now it is my turn to give back."

In January 2009, Alec traveled to Brazil with Dr. Anderson and 20 other students. The group volunteered in an after-school care program in the town of Santarêm. They worked with children between the ages of five and 13, teaching them English, the basics in personal hygiene, and how to recycle and compost. Later in 2009, Alec traveled again with Dr. Anderson to Tanzania, where they attended an international education conference designed to help improve education throughout the country. They also met with the Deputy Minister of Education to establish relations for future study-abroad programs throughout Tanzania.

Today, Alec works as the community relations coordinator for Kids' Country, a non-profit organization offering childcare programs before and after school within the SRVUSD. In addition, he is a board member for the Ken Tappin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year a scholarship is given to two SRVHS student athletes who excel in the classroom as well as in his/her sport. Alec is also a contributing writer for both *Danville* and *Alamo Today*.

Because of his contributions, The American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter recently named Alec one of Contra Costa's Heroes, an honor he shares with Captain Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger and other local heroes. Specifically, the Red Cross presented Alec with the "Act of Kindness and Philanthropy Hero" award at its annual Heroes Recognition Ceremony.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Raising the Walls of the Auxiliary Gym - March 2007



Demolition of Large Gym August 2008



New Scoreboard



Steel frame going up for new Main Gym - December 09

San Ramon Valley high School has been lucky enough to reap the benefits of local bond measures. Over the past 10 years, we have replaced many of our older buildings with brand-new facilities, and we recently completed a seven-year build-out through Measure A funds. Highlights of changes over the past 10 years include:

1. Replacing the front and dirt parking lot on the corner of Danville Boulevard and Love Lane with a new state-of-the-art theater - what we refer to as our Performing Arts Center or PAC.
2. The old wood shop and auto shop building has been replaced with a new career technical education building (CTE). This building currently houses our robotics program, engineering program and our auto shop.
3. The old "R" Building, which included a mini cafeteria and pie shaped classrooms, has now been replaced by our Commons Building. The Commons is a two-story building that houses the library upstairs and the cafeteria downstairs. Attached to this building is our video classroom.
4. Our old library and part of the "D" wing was demolished in order to put in a new two-story classroom building. This building houses 17 classrooms and two computer classrooms.
5. Our old Small Gym, formally known as the Girl's Gym, has been replaced with our Auxiliary Gym. This gym is now connected to our newest addition, and our last edition - the Main Gymnasium.

Future construction projects include a new snack shack restroom building in the stadium, new bleachers for our stadium, a new pool complex, and new two-story classroom buildings.

New Main Gymnasium





*SRVHS Hall of Fame Class of 2009. Left to right:  
Rick McMillen, 1956, Lettered 12 times in 6 sports;  
Jim Scannella, 1979, Track & Football;  
Melissa Cartmell-Larson, 1997, Track & Soccer;  
Nate Schierholtz, 2002, Baseball;  
Bill McMillen, 1957, Lettered 14 times in 5 sports.*

## SRVHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

BY DAN CHEVEZ

*Athletic Hall of Fame Chairman*

*SRVHS Class of 1978 / Assistant Track Coach*

In February of 2000, San Ramon Valley High School entered its first group of worthy alumni into the newly formed SRVHS Athletic Hall of Fame. The inaugural class of 2000 included three athletes from the 1930's: Eldred "Murph" Ramos '34 - Football, Track and Field (State Pole Vault Champion); Robert Frick '35 - Football, Track and Field (Current school record holder in the 100 and 200 Meter dash); and Leland Ferreira '36 - Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Track and Field.

The class of 2000 also included: Timothy Torchiana '79 - Water Polo; Paul Ellis '87- Baseball; Ashley Scharff '92 - Soccer, Track and Field, Volleyball; and the ever-popular, multi-sport coach, Bob Vincent.

The goal of the SRVHS Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor Exemplary Alumni/Citizens and to use their outstanding athletic careers as a positive example for current and future SRVHS student

athletes. Each nominee must have graduated five years or more prior to nomination. And, of course, each (non coach) nominee must have attended San Ramon Valley High School. Athletes are nominated by coaches, peers, family, friends, or just about anyone who knew the athlete. One athlete was even nominated by someone from another school who competed against him in high school.

Since 2000, 20 more athletes and coaches have been inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame. At each induction ceremony dinner, athletes are first introduced by someone that they have chosen to speak on their behalf about their athletic and personal accomplishments. Then the athletes get their chance to speak to an audience of friends, family, and the public. Notable inductees over the years include: Renowned De La Salle Football Coach, Bob Ladouceur '72; retired NBA Basketball player, Mark Madsen '94; Major League Baseball Player,

Randy Winn '92; longtime Baseball Coach, Rick Steen; former Olympic Volleyball player, Rob Heidger '97; our current Athletic Director and Basketball coach, John Raynor; retired NFL linebacker, Jeff Kopp '90; and current San Francisco Giant and Olympic Bronze Medalist, Nate Schierholtz '02. It is the hope of the Athletic Hall of Fame to create a permanent display in the brand new gymnasium to honor these great athletes and all of the future athletes who will be inducted in the years to come.

# ALUMNI UPDATE FROM MARILYN BAILEY, *President, SRVHS Alumni Association*

Our Wolf Tracks newsletter has now become part of the Wolf Foundation's new alumni magazine. The Alumni Association was asked if the Wolf Foundation could use the name "Wolf Tracks" for the magazine and we decided this was appropriate, as it will be mailed to all alumni.

The SRVHS Alumni Association Board is a small, hard working group....a few of us are original members from 1997. We will continue to sponsor scholarships, the Athletic Hall of Fame and be a direct interface for alumni, but we will now operate under the Wolf Foundation as an independent committee.

The school principal, Joe Ianora, has worked very hard to make the Wolf Foundation a reality and I hope you will support it. There are two upcoming big events for alumni in March: an open house celebrating the grand opening of the new gym on March 18th, and a benefit auction at the Blackhawk Museum, Saturday, March 19th. These should be two very exciting events.

The BIG news on campus is that the new gym finally opened the first week in January. It's quite beautiful and I hear the men's varsity basketball team is highly rated this year. So come out and see some great basketball in our sparkling new gym!

Please feel free to contact me with any alumni news, concerns or suggestions at [marilyn@mphb.net](mailto:marilyn@mphb.net)



## ALUMNI! *What Are You Up To?*

MAIL TO: Alumni Coordinator, SRVHS Wolf Foundation  
PO Box 2, Danville, CA 94526.  
You can also email your news to [info@srvhswolffoundation.org](mailto:info@srvhswolffoundation.org)

Your fellow alumni are interested in reading about what you've been up to since you left SRVHS. Please send us updates that we can highlight regarding career moves, publications, additions to your family, awards, etc. If you know of other alumni not receiving this magazine, please enter their contact information below so we can add them to our mailing list.

Full Name: .....

Maiden Name: ..... Class Year: .....

Home Address: .....

Home Phone: ..... Email: .....

Employer: ..... Occupation: .....

College Attended: ..... Degree Earned: .....

Children: ..... Spouse's Name: .....

Other SRVHS Alumni We Should Connect With (Name, Email & Phone Number)  
.....

What's Your News?

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 18, 2011**

New Gym Grand Opening  
3:30-5:00pm

**March 19, 2011**

SRV 100-Year Gala at The Blackhawk Museum  
7pm - midnight  
*(black tie optional)*  
Doors open at 6:30pm

**March 26, 2011** - Junior Prom

**April 4-8, 2011** - Spring Break Recess

**April 23, 2011** - Sophomore Cruise

**May 14, 2011** - Senior Ball

**May 24, 2011** - Senior Awards Night

**May 31, 2011** - Wolfie Awards

**June 4, 2011** - Aloha Rally and Dance

**June 5, 2011** - Baccalaureate

**June 6-9, 2011** - Final Exam Week

**June 10, 2011** - Graduation and Grad Night

