



# school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 8, 2003

## Jordan Grad Wins U.S. Medal of Freedom

Legendary basketball coach John Wooden, master chef Julia Child and Dr. James Q. Wilson, a famous graduate of Jordan High School in Long Beach, have one great accomplishment they share. Each accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom recently in Washington, D.C.

A brilliant Harvard and UCLA professor, social commentator and prolific writer, Wilson received the nation's highest civilian honor from President George W. Bush. The Jordan grad has come a long way from rebuilding carburetors in his dad's north Long Beach shop.

"Professor James Q. Wilson may be the most influential political scientist in America since the White House was home to Professor Woodrow Wilson," President Bush said during the award ceremony.

"Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the best virtues of the academic profession. His theories and ideas are drawn from actual human experience, and therefore have great practical value in addressing social problems. He writes with authority on a range of subjects, from the workings of government to the causes and prevention of crime," said Bush.

"Whatever his subject, James Q. Wilson writes with intellectual rigor, with moral clarity, to the appreciation of a wide and growing audience. And it is my honor to congratulate Professor James Q. Wilson."

Established in 1945 by President Harry S. Truman, the Presidential Medal of Freedom originally recognized notable service in the war. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy reintroduced it as an honor for distinguished civilian service in peacetime.

Since the beginning of his distinguished career as a professor of government at Harvard University in the 1960s, Wilson has earned a reputation as an astute criminologist, economist and political analyst. He joined the faculty of The Anderson School at UCLA in 1984 and was soon after appointed holder of the James A. Collins Chair in Management, a title he holds today in emeritus status. He also held a joint faculty appointment in UCLA's political science department.

Prolific in the popular press, Wilson has written nearly 100 articles on such subjects as crime, bureaucracy, urban affairs, politics, criminal justice and economic regulation in such respected publications as *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *The New York Times*.

Wilson chaired the White House Task Force on Crime and the National Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse Prevention. He was a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime.



Wilson

He received the James Madison Award for distinguished scholarship from the American Political Science Association and served as its national president.

Wilson grew up in north Long Beach, attended Lindbergh and graduated as valedictorian from Jordan in 1948. He attended University of Redlands, earned a degree in political science and joined the United States Navy, serving as a lieutenant in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and on the USS Tarawa. He continued his education at the University of Chicago, earning his Ph.D. in political science in 1959. A nationally respected scholar, researcher and author at Harvard and UCLA, he has been awarded honorary degrees from six universities.

He was honored as the Long Beach Unified School District's Public Schools Week Distinguished Graduate Award winner in 1977. He credits two of his Jordan High School teachers for helping to launch his stellar half century in higher education.

"I had two teachers who touched me deeply," said Wilson. "Walter Smith taught me mathematics. Other people tried; Walter Smith succeeded. Why did he succeed? Not by force of terror but by force of example. I wanted to please him. I thought he was a fine man. He seemed to know something that was worth knowing. He could explain to me things that I didn't realize I wanted to know the answer to until he tried to tell me what the problem was. And by revealing the problem and explaining how you answered it, he enabled me to discover a bit of myself--the ability to do something independently."

"Another man, Robert Crossan, my speech teacher and English teacher, found me sweeping out a store the summer I was supposed to be going to college and asked me what my plans were. He talked me into going to the University of Redlands. I had no idea what college was. If he hadn't cared to come to a store on a hot summer afternoon where I was sweeping out the floors, I would probably still be sweeping out the floors."

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## State Budget Cuts Bring Lean Year

After weeks of delay, political wrangling and a partisan stalemate, a new state budget has finally been adopted. Despite more state cuts in education, the Long Beach Unified School District hopes to survive the new school year without major damage to classroom instruction.

One of the key reasons that may be possible is because the district has already achieved more than \$40 million in budget savings during the past few years.

"Our classified hiring freeze and other belt-tightening measures along the way have been extremely helpful in averting more serious cuts and layoffs," said Superintendent Chris Steinhauer. "Thanks to careful planning, we're in somewhat better fiscal condition than many other large urban school districts. But we're not out of the woods yet. The bad news is that even with borrowing and budget cuts the state still faces a massive \$10 billion deficit for 2004-05."

One fact is certain: costs here will exceed revenue this year. The only question is how much. To make ends meet, the district may be forced to use up to half of its reserves this year. The recently approved state budget cuts affect funding for summer school, textbooks, deferred maintenance and several state categorical programs. School districts also face skyrocketing health care costs and workers' compensation costs which are not funded by the state.

The bottom line: California school districts must survive this fiscal year with less than a zero cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Local school district budgets must address a negative state revenue limit adjustment of minus 1.2 percent. This state funding cut amounts to about \$6 million for the Long Beach Unified School District. To make matters worse, the district expects another \$5 million budget shortfall this year as a result of higher workers' compensation and health care costs. These unfunded costs will eat up millions in reserves.

By using reserves and controlling costs, the  
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## L.B. Schools Lead State in Title I Excellence

"The recent announcement naming 115 Title I Achieving Schools in California revealed the successes of at least four districts that have a high proportion of impoverished students: Alhambra City Elementary, Garden Grove Unified, Long Beach Unified and the small Enterprise Elementary district in Shasta County.

"The criteria to be among the 2003 Title I Achieving Schools in California include a 2002 school year Academic Performance Index score of 675 or higher, a poverty indicator of at least 50 percent, achievement of the school's API growth targets in 2000, 2001 and 2002 years and double the API growth target for

both the total school population and the socio-economically disadvantaged sub-group for two of the three years.

"Long Beach Unified, which is the third largest district in the state, had seven schools that were among the top 115, giving it an achievement proportion well ahead of other large districts in the state. San Diego, number two in size at 141,600, had three schools on the list; Fresno Unified, fourth largest with 81,000 students, had no schools on the list, and Santa Ana Unified, fifth largest with 61,900 students, had no schools that qualified."

--from the *Education Beat* Newsletter, Sacramento

## Run Honors Coach

Wilson High School will present the First Annual Jim Arquilla 5K Run at 8 a.m. Saturday, August 23, at the high school, 4400 E. 10th St.

The run honors Arquilla, a Wilson cross country coach since 1986 who died from melanoma cancer in May. The money raised will go to the American Cancer Society, the Jim Arquilla Scholarship Fund, a memorial bench in Arquilla's honor and the Wilson cross country program. One of Arquilla's final wishes was to create an annual scholarship fund for a male and female cross country runner at Wilson.

The entry fee is \$5 for high school runners and \$10 for all others. Each participant will receive a T-shirt. For more information, call 421-5860.

## Logged On Lately?

More than 700 people each day this summer visited [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) to find the latest news and information about the Long Beach Unified School District. Several district departments have added many new and useful web pages. Using the alphabetical index on the screen is one of the quickest ways to find any school, office, service or topic. A search engine powered by Google allows exhaustive word searches and rapid access to information.

Students, parents and others will find sections designed just for them. Students can get homework help, college entrance requirements and request school transcripts. Parents will find daily tips on helping their children to be successful, healthy and safe. Enrollment policies and child immunization facts are just a click away. A section for the community offers several ways to get involved in local schools.

News about schools is updated frequently. Articles are archived by year, date and headline. The School Finder page offers rapid ways to locate a school, including by clicking on a map of the school district. Prospective homebuyers and renters can find their closest elementary, middle and high schools immediately.

## Names in the News

**Matt Saldana**, principal on special assignment, ROP/Career/Technical Education, was appointed recently to the Greater Long Beach Workforce Development Board by Mayor **Beverly O'Neill**.

## Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
John Green	September 19	Jenny Thomas ext. 8022

## In Memoriam

**Joan Ross**  
teacher, Tincher  
July 11, 2003

**Marie Lewallen**  
former teacher  
July 14, 2003

## • Presidential Medal

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"He said, 'I told the University of Redlands that Yale was interested in you, but if they moved quickly they could get you.' And I looked at him and said, 'What's Yale?'"

Professor Wilson became a gifted and highly respected teacher. In 1986, he won the Executive MBA Program Teaching Award at UCLA. He taught at The Anderson School and in UCLA's political science department.

In addition to writing dozens of academic journal articles and editing and contributing to scores of books on urban problems, government regulation of business and delinquency prevention, Prof. Wilson authored or co-authored 12 books including, "The Moral Sense," "American Government," "Drugs and Crime," "Crime and Human Nature," "Thinking About Crime," "Political Organizations," and "Varieties of Police Behavior."

"I'm overwhelmed by it," said Wilson about winning the award. "I'm still walking about one foot above the carpet in my house."

## The Job Board

• Do you have expertise in turning around at-risk students? Soaring Eagles Academy elementary alternative education program is seeking teachers highly motivated in working with alternative education students. Would you like to take a one-year "sabbatical" to explore a rewarding and challenging opportunity? Teachers interested in this one-year assignment in primary or intermediate multiage classrooms should contact **Damita Myers-Miller**, SEA administrator, at ext. 8187.

• **Barton Elementary School** is seeking applicants for a fifth grade Excel teacher. For information, contact **Debra Ecung**, principal, at [decung@lbusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:decung@lbusd.k12.ca.us).

• **Stevenson Elementary** is looking for a highly qualified literacy teacher for a 4/5 literacy class. Experienced teachers are invited to apply. For more information, contact **Gonzalo Moraga**, principal, at ext. 5660.

• **Lincoln Elementary School** is hiring a 70 percent science specialist to work with fourth and fifth grade students. If you are interested, call **Bob Williams**, principal, at 599-5005, or e-mail him at [rwilliams@lbusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:rwilliams@lbusd.k12.ca.us).

• **Bret Harte STARR Magnet School** is seeking a retired reading teacher to provide interventions for fifth graders in an 80 percent assignment. Call **Diane Brown**, principal, at 428-0333 or ext. 2620.

## SCHOOL BULLETIN

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**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**BOBBIE SMITH**, President  
**MARY STANTON**, Vice President  
**JAMES CHOURA**, Member  
**SUJA LOWENTHAL**, Member  
**JON MEYER**, Member  
**ANTONIO ARELLANO**, Student Member

## Summer Enrollment

Thousands of local students were learning at schools this summer in the Long Beach Unified School District. Total summer enrollment was 42,434.

• Year-round schools reported July enrollment of 25,079.

• Summer school programs enrolled 17,355, with 7,566 in elementary schools, 1,600 in middle schools and 8,189 in high schools.

## • Lean Budget Year

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district hopes to protect classroom instruction, reduced class size and continue to avert layoffs--real cuts now facing other California school districts.

The district expects to lose about 15 percent of its state-funded school improvement program for local schools. Some of these state categorical funds are used by schools to employ classroom teacher aides. In addition, the recent \$1.3 million cut in state textbook funding means that there will be sufficient state money to buy new language arts textbooks only for middle schools this year.

"The challenge for us during these lean times is to preserve classroom instruction, to adhere strictly to staffing ratios, to avoid spending beyond revenue whenever possible and to live within our means," said **Steinhauser**. "At the same time, we're attempting to do more with less. Our goal is to have all of our schools meet or exceed their Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets."

"This will be a very challenging year. Fortunately, we have shown that we can improve student achievement even during lean times."

## High AP Pass Rate

The national pass rate for Advanced Placement exams hovers around 60 percent. Poly's pass rate this year was 75 percent.

"This is extraordinary in that more than 580 Poly students took 1,083 exams in 22 content areas," said **Dick Garretson**, PACE coordinator.

Many students from Poly enter college as sophomores by passing so many AP exams. Parents can save thousands of dollars when these students finish college in only three years instead of four. Some of Poly's best scores came in calculus, where 95 percent of teacher **Pam Zerby's** 105 students passed, and psychology where 92 percent of teacher **Dave Burns's** 96 students passed.

## Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

**Kaopoo Chao**, senior payroll accounting technician, Payroll;

**Lindsey Evans**, Kids Club supervisor III, Kids Club--Cubberley;

**Maria Gonzalez**, Head Start family worker, Head Start;

**Donna Lozano**, instructional aide--deaf/hard of hearing, Lakewood;

**Samuel Pham**, senior accounting assistant, Accounting;

**Edmundo Sebastian**, accounting technician, Medi-Cal.