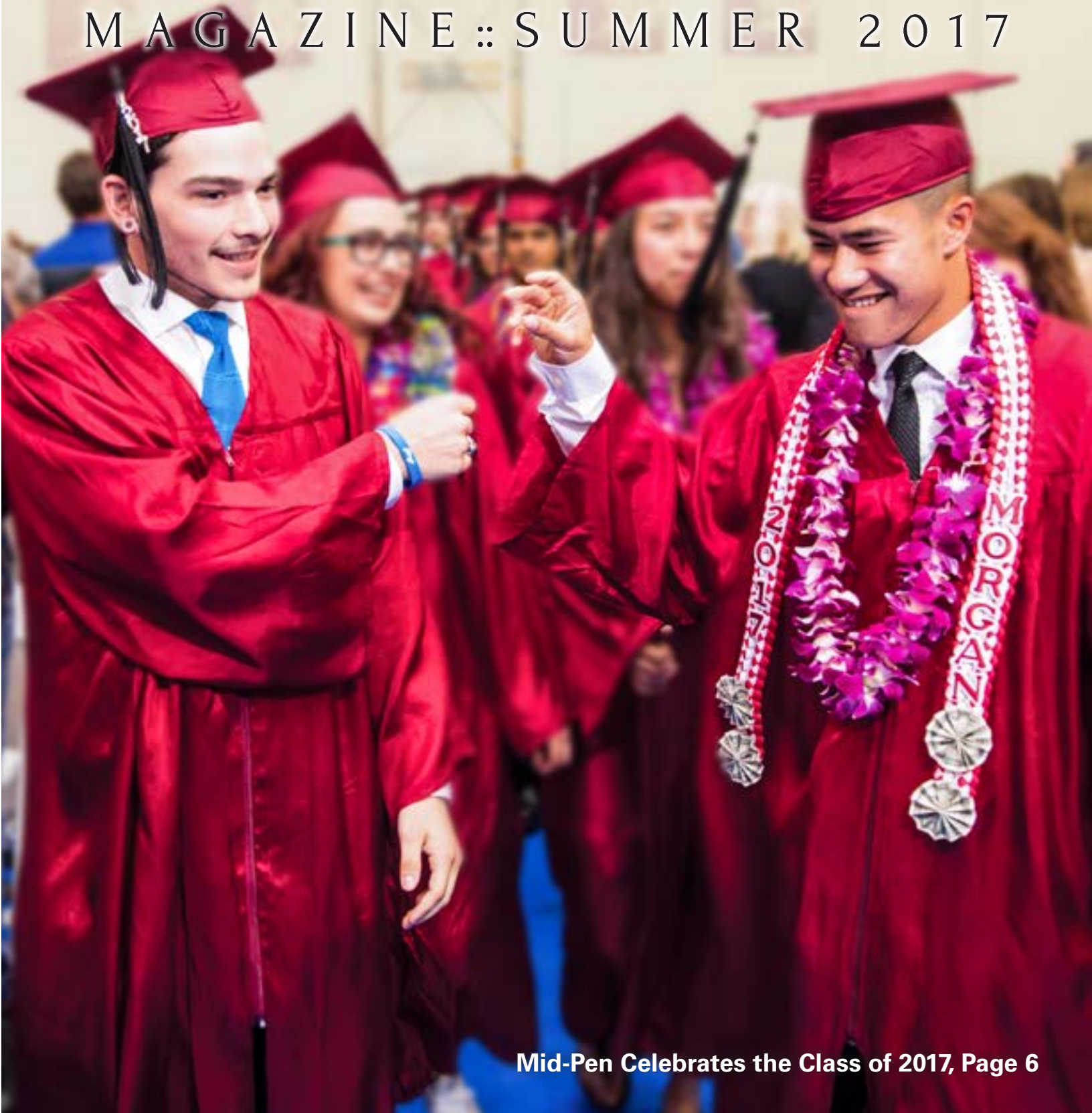


Mid-Peninsula High School

CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE :: SUMMER 2017



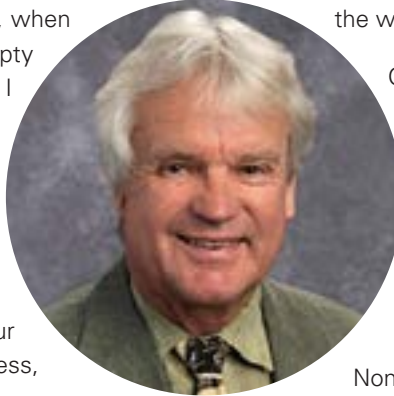
Mid-Pen Celebrates the Class of 2017, Page 6

RESPECT :: KINDNESS :: ACCEPTANCE :: RESPONSIBILITY



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

I know it is cliché, but it just doesn't seem possible that it was a little over 15 years ago when I first set foot in Mid-Pen's then new building and thought, "I need to work here." As it happened, my first visit to the school took place on a Saturday, when I was given a tour of the otherwise empty building. Despite that emptiness, I felt immediately a strong sense of welcome and openness. These qualities were reinforced when I returned for a full-day visit. I could see right away that Mid-Pen was a very unusual community. Unusual especially in the way we honor our Four Values of respect, acceptance, kindness, and responsibility.



Some years ago, a mother brought her son to spend a day at the school as part of the admissions process and warned us that he had hated school since kindergarten and might need to leave before the end of the day. Of course, that didn't happen. When they got home after school, the mom called to tell me that when she asked how his day went, her son had replied, "Great!" More than a little surprised, she asked what made the experience that day so different. "You know, Mom," he said, "what I like about that school is that everyone is different and everyone is like me."

This has always struck me as the most accurate, concise description of the essential nature of Mid-Pen. This community works not because we "recognize," or "value," or "honor" difference in some mechanical, ritual way. It works because difference is the heart of who we are. Because of this, we are committed all the time to the responsibility we each have of respecting, accepting, and being kind to each other.

And we do this so seamlessly that the effort is almost invisible. I experienced this most recently at our prom.

As my wife and I sat watching the students, I found myself constantly telling her what I knew about each one of them. It was urgent to me that she see beyond the uninhibited joy on the dance floor to the incredible complexity of the web of relationships that were playing out.

Obviously I can't share that with you here. But I hope as you peruse these pages, you will pick up some sense of both the joy and the complexity that is the Mid-Pen community. From overnight trips, to musicals, to sports, students have challenged themselves and each other to push to new levels of achievement.

None of it happens by accident, of course. The adults in the community devote boundless energy to ensuring that the students are supported in their efforts to sustain a safe and productive environment. These pages show the results of that devotion.

Finally, I call your attention to the Report on Giving at the back of the magazine. One reason that students thrive here is that we offer them a wide range of experiences. This can't happen without the support of all of you in the community. To all of you who have supported us I offer my deepest gratitude.

As I write this, I am acutely aware that by the time you read it, I will have moved on to new challenges of my own. Someone recently asked me if we were saying "goodbye." I replied that I preferred "farewell." It has been my great privilege for 15 years both to witness and be a part of the extraordinary energy that is Mid-Pen; I don't imagine I will ever really leave it.

So—everyone—farewell. 



Douglas C. Thompson, PhD

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS is published twice yearly, in January and July, for the parents, alumni, faculty, and friends of Mid-Peninsula High School.

Henry Trevor,
Director of Development

Randy Johnson,
Public Outreach Coordinator

Design by Lori Susi

Printed by Bay Area Graphics

Cover: Seniors Nico Linton and Morgan Yee celebrate at Mid-Pen's 36th Graduation Ceremony.

The views expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors.

Mid-Peninsula High School
1340 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.mid-pen.org

To submit alumni news and address changes, please contact alums@mid-pen.org



Night of the Arts Celebrates Student Creativity

On May 19, the Mid-Pen community celebrated student creativity at its annual Night of the Arts. Each year, Night of the Arts showcases the visual art, musical performances, and acting skills of our talented student body. The night is always special because students invest so much of themselves in the work they share.

Shontelle Watkins '17, for example, uses acrylic paint and markers to shed light on "social inequality around the world." In a series of six paintings, Shontelle explores protest language, negative reactions to human rights efforts, and movements that empower women. Shontelle says, "My art gives me a chance to speak out. I see people out protest-



ing and using their voices, and I guess art is my way of using my voice."

Nick Hinson '17 is a veteran of using his voice at Night of the Arts. Nick has been singing on stage regularly throughout his time at Mid-Pen. This year, however, was special because he performed four original songs, which could be a school record. Nick's final song of the evening, which he wrote last spring as a junior, was a reflection on how he missed his many friends who had already graduated. Nick's song was

precisely a year old, but it resonated powerfully because, this year, he and his classmates would be the ones graduating from Mid-Pen in just over two weeks. 🎤

Budding Stars Bloom in New Musical

The time: the early 1960s. The place: Skid Row. The hapless Seymour, a klutzy flower-shop employee, discovers a strange and interesting new plant at a nearby market. Seymour soon becomes an overnight sensation as dozens flock to see his miraculous find. But the plant is not entirely as it seems, and Seymour quickly learns the price of glory. Will he choose a life of fortune, fame, and the girl of his dreams—or will he do what is right?

This spring, Mid-Pen rounded out its second theatrical season with the crowd-pleasing musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed by English and Drama teacher Caitlin Berka. Just like the school's athletic teams, theatre at Mid-Pen is an inclusive endeavor. "Everyone who auditioned got cast, which is something I am generally committed to," said Caitlin. "We want to make theatre a place where everyone can be involved in any way they want to."

Featuring our most ambitious costumes, sets, and lighting to date—all designed and created by students—along with our first student pit musicians, the show was a macabre tour de force. It was also a bittersweet finale for seniors Julia Gold (in the role of Audrey), Nick Hinson (Seymour), and Malcolm Willig (the hilariously depraved Orin Scrivello, DDS). Each was a part of our first-ever full

production, last year's *Ruthless! The Musical*, and each helped to shape the direction of the school's fledgling drama program.

"I am proud that we have had so many students really blossom on stage," Caitlin reflected, "even some who didn't really feel they had a place in school until they found the theatre."

We're excited to see who will fill the gaps left by these three talented performers. The Mid-Pen drama program is a place to experiment, try new things, and make lasting friendships. And as it turns out, stretching your boundaries with new friends can result in great stage art. 🎭



From left, Jeanessa Lurie '19, Nathan Cooper '19, and Emma Marek '20 in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Remembering Mid-Pen Founder Herman Ohme

Herman Ohme, who along with Phil Bliss founded Mid-Peninsula High School in 1979, died peacefully on December 14, 2016, one month shy of his 92nd birthday.

Mid-Peninsula High School began with the closing of Cubberley High School in 1979. Herman, the former Cubberley principal, and Phil, a Palo Alto teacher and counselor, saw a need for student services that were not being met in the post Proposition 13 world. Many families at the time were looking for an alternative to the public school system. To meet this need, Herman and Phil began working as advocates for families with students who were experiencing difficulty and dissatisfaction in the public school system or those who had undiagnosed learning differences.



As is typical of Silicon Valley start-ups, Herman began schooling the first three Mid-Pen students in his living room. This was the humble beginning of Mid-Peninsula High School. In early 1980, Herman and Phil leased space at the now closed Cubberley High School in Palo Alto. By the end of the 1979-1980 academic year, the school had 40 students and one graduate. Mid-Pen continued to grow throughout the years thanks to the early work of Herman and Phil.

Herman Ohme was born on January 12, 1925, in Pittsburgh, PA, to Esther and Harry Steinberg. His given last name was also Steinberg, but he changed it to Ohme after experiencing anti-Semitism in the army.

After graduation from high school, he earned a scholarship to attend Penn State, but World War II had started, and the call to enlist was a call to adventure. Herman lied about his age and enlisted in the army when he was 17. Trained as a medic, he was sent to Normandy only days after the invasion in June 1944.

In a letter home that August, he relayed a story that affected him profoundly. Searching for a place to wash his clothes in a small French village, he happened upon a woman and her son, who were unpacking a crate. The crate contained a collection of family valuables,

buried and hidden from the Germans who had occupied their home.

Eager to practice his French, Herman began a conversation with the young man and learned that he was a resistance fighter.

He was touched to learn that the man was neither bitter nor vengeful toward the Germans. Instead, with the tide of the war turning against Germany, this man was determined that when the war ended, his former enemies must be treated with dignity and respect. As Herman wrote, this "was a truly great man – a man who has learned the secret of eternal brotherhood."

When he returned from the war, Herman moved west and used the GI bill to attend UCLA, where he continued to study French. Soon he was teaching at UCLA, and his childhood best friend's sister, Jean Magidson, turned up in his class. Their romance blossomed instantly, and they married in 1951, eventually having three children, Rhonda, Karen and Steven. In addition to his wife and children, Herman is survived by a son, Denys, from a previous marriage, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A passionate educator, Herman brought creativity, innovation, and compassion to a lifelong career in education. Starting as a French teacher at Fairfax High School in Los Angeles, he secured his first administrative position as vice principal of Culver City High School, where, on the first day of school in September, he was confronted with a stack of detention slips he was supposed to "deal with."

He was flabbergasted to learn that the stack had been carefully preserved and carried forward from the previous school year. Students who hadn't served their detentions were apparently punished with more, causing Herman to wonder how these students would ever succeed if they started out so far behind on the first day of school. His first act as Vice Principal was to drop every last detention slip in the circular file and declare "amnesty for all."

After earning his Doctorate in Education from USC, Herman moved to Palo Alto to serve as Principal of



A PASSIONATE EDUCATOR, HERMAN BROUGHT CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND COMPASSION TO A LIFELONG CAREER IN EDUCATION.

Cubberley High School. There he inherited a school that had experienced a tumultuous decade in the 1960s and was searching for new footing. With his love of learning and excitement to be in a community that revered education as much as he did, he accomplished great things at Cubberley, including starting an alternative school on the Cubberley campus to accommodate students who loved learning but needed a different approach. When Cubberley closed in 1979, he teamed with Phil Bliss to establish Mid-Peninsula High School.

"Herman had what many of the people who worked with him called his idea du jour," recalled Mid-Pen administrator Dave Richardson, who first met Herman in the summer of 1980. "He had a new and profound idea every day. However, one learned very early to not react immediately when Herman had one his daily great ideas because it was guaranteed that he would have a least one other good idea the next day."

After his retirement, Herman continued to write articles and books about education and worked with his wife, Jean, in their tutoring business. In addition to Mid-Pen, he contributed to the growth of other schools, including Palo Alto Prep and the School for Independent Learners.

Over the years, Herman often counseled students who had all but given up on school. When he met with students and their parents, he asked probing questions and quickly found their gifts. Within just a few minutes, he could make almost every kid feel smart and valued. He showed students how to get back on track and gave them the opportunity to learn at their own pace, to repeat failing grades, and to become confident learners again. For Herman, there was no greater joy than to help students rekindle their hopes and dreams with a fresh start in school. 🐉

Dave Richardson, right, confers with Herman Ohme in a photo from the early 1980s.





From Catalina Island to the Emerald Isle

At Mid-Pen, we believe in experiential education that deeply immerses students in their studies and actively broadens intellectual and social horizons. This year, Mid-Pen students have travelled to Portland, Seattle, Catalina Island, Atlanta, and Ireland, with a trip to Ecuador still to come this summer.

In April, Julia Longnecker's Advanced Biology class once again traveled to Catalina Island, where much of what they had been learning about in the classroom literally came to life. The Catalina Island Marine Institute customized an entire program that meshed perfectly with the biology curriculum, which focuses on life in the Pacific Ocean.

Just after hearing from their guide about how rare it is to spot an octopus off Catalina, the students encountered a beautiful specimen during an ocean kayak excursion. The kids absolutely lit up as they lined up their kayaks to observe and touch the cephalopod. The excited looks on their faces and the focused questions they asked from their kayaks palpably drove home the power of experiential learning.

Over spring break, 14 students in Alan Cameron's British History spent 10 days traveling across Ireland from Dublin in the east to the windswept island of Inishmore in the west. Along the way, they visited an ancient

monastery in Glendalough, confronted the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, and walked in the footsteps of Irish history spanning thousands of years, from the ancient Celts to the Irish revolutionaries of the early 20th century.

Aside from the castles, cathedrals, and museums that stood as testament to the historical moments and people they had read about in class, the students engaged with a culture far removed from their Silicon Valley lives, including receiving lessons on herding sheep from a working shepherd who still employs traditional methods.

Living a biology lesson in the Pacific Ocean and braving cold, Irish rain to explore a thousand-year-old Celtic fortress have obvious educational benefits. But beyond enriching student learning, travel brings greater depth and meaning to students' relationships with each other, which enriches the entire school community. The world also becomes somehow larger and more connected in our students' eyes. We know that when they return home, they bring new knowledge and wisdom back into their classes, perhaps inspiring their peers to take their own journeys. 🐉



Students snorkel off the coast of Catalina Island, above, and hike the hills of Ireland's west country.



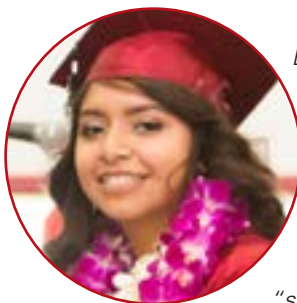


Congratulations to the Class of 2017

As teachers, friends, and family members looked on with a mixture of tears and cheers, the 32 members of the Class of 2017 received their diplomas at the school's 36th Commencement Ceremony on June 3. The entire Mid-Pen community celebrated their achievements and joins in wishing them success and happiness in their futures after Mid-Pen.

GRADUATION SPEAKERS REFLECT DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

Student speakers at Mid-Pen's graduation aren't selected by the class or the faculty on the basis of grades, popularity, or extra-curriculars. Instead, it is a Mid-Pen tradition that any senior who wants to may speak at graduation. As a result, the range of speakers reflects the diversity of the class, and the topics are often very personal.



By the time I reached middle school, I had attended seven different schools and lived in eight different houses, constantly moving because of our financial situation. I had to be the "second mother" in our home, helping to manage my siblings and our household, while my father worked hazardous jobs 130 miles away. In spite of these challenges, I grew up in a household where college was my parents' dream for me and my siblings. When I didn't believe in myself, my mother would always remind me of the value of education, since that would be my ticket to success. And then she found Mid-Pen.

– Lizbeth Magana '17



Mid-Pen's encouragement to try new things without anxiety results in graduates who are successful in their individual ways, as they got to individualize their curriculum and extracurriculars.... Mid-Pen knows that all of us have our own individual stories that need unique attention. Once you have experienced this special kind of community, it is unlikely that you can accept anything less in life.

– Rachel Kirkwood '17



I wasn't always like this, happy and full of enthusiasm. Mid-Peninsula changed me, but it took a few years to kick in. In the beginning I was a horrible student. I neglected the teachers, tore up homework assignments, played bully towards a few of the faculty members, and never, ever turned in work or complied with the rules of school.... The funny thing about it all is that no one ever looked at me like, "I don't see a future in you." Instead they looked at me like, "I see someone inside of Cooper, and he's going to turn into someone special." And, finally, I started to believe those words.

– Cooper Loundy '17



Mid-Pen. Ain't nothing like it. There's an accepting atmosphere here that I find wonderful. This atmosphere is understanding what people go through and that people here actually care when they ask you, "Are you doing okay?" Here we just want you to be comfortable, and I feel comfortable here. Not like the La-Z-Boy recliners where you sit your butt down and don't get up for half a day. Not that kind of comfortable, but a kind of active comfortable.

– Malcolm Willig '17



I'm 36 and have plenty more failures coming. But you graduates will have even more. So celebrate days like today, but then go out and find some big nasty challenges, those with a high risk of failure, and know that you will sometimes fail miserably. And in your darkest moments, when you feel like a zero-point-zero, remember that you earned that zero-point-zero, and that the act of failing might actually be your first step toward creating something awesome for yourself.

– Quin Garcia '99





STUDENT AWARDS

The **Founder's Award**, the school's highest honor, is given to the senior who best exemplifies the founding principles of Mid-Peninsula High School, including growth and change, achievement, determination, and character. The only prize awarded at graduation, this year it was given to Malcolm Willig '17.

Additional awards were presented at an all-school ceremony the week before graduation.

Nathan Suppes '17 and Cynthia Zamora '17 were the first recipients of a new award established this year, the **Douglas C. Thompson Award for Inspired Growth**, given to one or more seniors who have achieved the greatest personal and/or academic growth during their time at Mid-Pen.

The **Leonard W. Ely Community Award**, presented to one or more seniors who have made the greatest contribution to the well-being of the school and/or outside community, was given to Julia Gold '17 and Cooper Loundy '17.

The **Harvard Book Award** for excellence in scholarship and high character with achievement in other fields was presented to Aidan Lloyd-Tucker '18.



Keaton Berkes '19 and Jeannessa Lurie '19 received the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto's **Andy Anderson Award** for the most improved GPA between freshman and sophomore years.

Grade Level Awards are given to one or more students in each grade for high achievement in academics. This year winners were Emma Marek '20, Alfredo Moran '20, Elliot Schena '19, Schuyler Zandbergen '18, and Nick Hinson '17.

Two special sports awards were also presented. This year's **Student-Athletes** were Nick Hinson '17 and Hana Dvorak '17, while Alex Koeppen '17 and Shontelle Watkins '17 were named **Athletes of the Year**.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Colleges in bold are those that students will be attending in the fall.

Allegheny College
American University
Bennington College
Cal Lutheran University
Cal Poly Pomona
California College of the Arts
Chapman University
Concordia University Irvine
CSU Chico
CSU East Bay
CSU Monterey Bay
DePaul University
Dominican University
Furman University
Hampshire College
Hawaii Pacific University
Holy Names University
Humboldt State University
Ithaca College
Juniata College

Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University New Orleans
Marquette University
Marymount California University
Montana State University
Oregon State University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University
Pepperdine University
Regis College
Rocky Mountain College
Rollins College
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Simmons College
Sonoma State University
St. Edwards University
St. Mary's College

Stetson University
Tulane University
UC Merced
UC Riverside
UC Santa Cruz
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Colorado
University of Denver
University of Hawaii
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of Seattle
University of the Pacific
Whittier College
Willamette University



Mid-Pen Bids Farewell to Doug Thompson

In honor of Douglas C. Thompson's retirement after 15 years as head of school, Mid-Peninsula High School threw a party on May 21 for more than 200 of the school's closest friends.

Former students, colleagues, and trustees spoke about how Doug had influenced their lives, while a taco truck and a seemingly never ending supply of ice cream sundaes provided emotional support to a community adjusting to the idea of Mid-Pen without Doug.

Doug arrived at Mid-Pen in July 2002, just 10 months after the 9/11 attacks and during an economic recession. As Tim Biglow, co-chair of the Board of Trustees, remarked, "Those were very anxious times for pretty much everybody, and competent, reassuring leaders were extremely important. Mid-Pen certainly got one in Doug Thompson."

Among Doug's many accomplishments over the last 15 years, Tim noted several of the most significant: establishing Mid-Pen's music program; elevating the profile of the school's athletics program, which now teems with student participation; raising funds to purchase a modular stage, lighting, and audio equipment

to support and enhance the performing arts; supporting the establishment of a vibrant theater program; and "making Mid-Pen the high school oasis and nurturing, educational gem that it has become under his guidance."

The entire Mid-Pen community is grateful to Doug for his leadership and vision and wishes him much happiness in his retirement.



Top, Doug accepts a motorboard from the Class of 2017 at Graduation, making him an honorary alumnus. Above, party-goers sign a giant farewell card for Doug.



“As educators, we have been supported by Doug. He trusts us and gives us autonomy in our teaching. If teachers want to introduce and teach a new class, he stands behind us and supports us. At staff meetings, Doug often presents heavy matters to the wisdom of the group in order to hear all of our opinions before he makes a final decision. We know that he may make a decision that we don't agree with, but we always know we were heard and given a voice.”

– Laurie Miller, English Teacher

“For all your exertion, focus, imagination, determination, optimism, affection, and 'kindness, acceptance, respect, and responsibility,' the Board of Trustees offers our very, very sincere thanks. Thank you for coming to Mid-Pen, Doug Thompson, and for helping the school make such a positive difference in so many lives. We will miss you greatly: your calm, your confidence, and your crazy neckties.”

**– Tim Biglow,
Board of Trustees Co-Chair**

Throughout his years as head, Doug always brought a sense of spirit and fun to school. Clockwise from top: enduring the Back to School BBQ dunk tank, dressing up for Halloween, and at DragonFest with his wife, Barbara.





“When I was a junior and the Thanksgiving talent show was approaching, several people were encouraging me to sing. I remember sitting in Doug’s office talking about my stage fright, and telling him that I would feel so much better if someone were up there with me. I knew Doug could play a song or two on guitar, so I asked if he would be interested in playing with me. I’m sure his first thought was, ‘Nope!’ But he generously offered to anyway. But that’s Doug—always putting the students first and offering to help in any way he can.”

– Annie Bergquist ‘07



ALUMNI RETURN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO DOUG

Among the more than 200 attending Doug’s party were the following alumni:

Michelle Behling ‘89
Heidi Vitlacial ‘91
Quin Garcia ‘99
Annie Bergquist ‘07
Michaela Johnson ‘08
Leticia Cardiel ‘08
Kyle deQuant ‘08
Rebecca Taub ‘09
Gustavo Mendoza ‘12
Raven Anson ‘13
Matt Durbin ‘13
Brian Schiffrin ‘13
Paul Cleary ‘13
Marilyn Calderon ‘14
Mark Frederick ‘14
Vanessa Cuevas ‘15
Stacie Foreman ‘15
Alyssa Taylor ‘15
Elina Smith-Leitch ‘15
Quinten Suppes ‘15
Casey Schaefer ‘16
Manuel Argueta ‘16
Kieran Rege ‘16
Victor Steele ‘16
Yasmeen Magana ‘16

Thanks for coming. It was great to seeing you all there, and please be sure to stay in touch!



By Kurt Lange, Athletic Director

There were victories of all kinds during our winter and spring sports seasons, but seeing roughly 60% of our student body participate in at least one sport over the course of the year is perhaps the victory we cherish most. This high level of participation and school spirit is a testament to our students' willingness to take on challenges, expand their boundaries, and represent our community through competition.

Boys' Varsity Basketball Extends CCS Tournament Run

After two years of not having a girls' basketball team, we were able to field a squad last year that played a limited, non-league schedule. This year, we ambitiously entered league play with a full schedule of games, although our initial team lineup consisted of only nine girls. We entered most games with just seven players on the roster, and yet we managed to win two league games and stay competitive in three others. Playing an entire game with seven players requires a lot of stamina, but the girls rose to the challenge in large part thanks to the emphasis on conditioning by coach Jasmine Thomas '12, which paid dividends as the season progressed.

We want to highlight seniors Shontelle Watkins, Hana Dvorak, and Lizbeth Magana for their dedication and hard work. I look forward to working with returning players

Alyna Vilchez '19, Val Rendon '20, Elena Meraz-Baca '20, and Cassandra Magana '18.

The goal for our Boys' Varsity Basketball team was to qualify for the CCS Tournament, an accomplishment the team had achieved every year since 2012. In order to qualify, teams must have a .500 record in league play or a .500 record in their combined pre-season/league schedule.

Taking on a tough pre-season schedule, our boys' team went 3-5 in our first eight games. One of those wins, however, was against Pescadero High School, a team that had beaten us 10 days earlier in their own tournament, which gave the Mid-Pen boys momentum as they transitioned into league play. Perhaps the most exciting game of the regular season was a 54-53 overtime victory against Summit, punctuated by a last-second, clutch three-point shot by Nate Smith '18 that tied the score and forced overtime. The boys then won their final two games against SF Christian and Kehillah, giving us a 6-6 league record and a CCS berth!

Special mention goes to seniors Nick Hinson, captain Michael Bennett, Nick Balladares, and Alex Koeppen for all of their great contributions. Next year's team looks promising, with returning honorable mention and second-team all-league recipients Ryan Burton '18 and Ben Aguiar '18, along with Nate Smith '18, Miguel Najar '18, Will Patterson '19, Clarence Jackson '18, Isaac Hart-Skaife '18, and Dawson Kinnamon '20,

The Boys' JV Basketball team also had a good season, led by first-year coach Troy Henderson. The JV team finished with a respectable 3-5 record and were competitive in all of their games. Ben Chen '19, Ryan Shee '20, Kirk Young '20, and Conner Leal '20 were joined occasionally by varsity players who dropped down to gain more game experience. It will be exciting to see some of these JV players vie for a spot on the varsity roster next year. 🐉





Four Baseball Players Earn All-League Honors

Last year was the first time in 26 years that Mid-Pen did not field a baseball team. This year, we were thrilled to bring baseball back. The year had its challenges, many of which were outside of our control. The biggest challenge was heavy spring rains, which ultimately meant that we were forced to cancel our entire pre-season schedule. Moreover, when the rain spilled over into our regular season, we were forced to reschedule games on our practice days. The result was just one real practice on a diamond for the entire season, and even then we had to share the field with another team.

Despite these challenges, the team remained dedicated and generally played good baseball with high effort. In league play, the Dragons went 4-9. Our two road wins against Alma Heights and Kehillah, along with a come-from-behind, extra-inning victory over visiting KIPP Academy, were highlights of the season.

Congratulations go to pitcher Ryan Burton '18, who was selected first team, all-league. Ben Aguiar '18 and Morgan Yee '17 earned second-team, all-league honors as

catcher and short stop, respectively. Alex Koeppen '17 received honorable mention as an outfielder.

With only three players graduating and moving on, we have big expectations for an even stronger performance next season. 🐉



Tennis Finishes Season With Winning Record

This year marked the third year of our co-ed tennis program, which started at the request of a Mid-Pen student who simply asked our Head of School, "Why not tennis?" Flash forward three years and tennis is now our most popular sport. This season we had 17 players and played six matches, up from four last year and three the inaugural year. We beat Jewish Community and earned two wins against Kehillah and a tie against Nueva for an overall record of 3-2-1.

This year's seniors were Nick Hinson, Lizbeth Magana, Stephanie Sacor, Harry Sell, Erik Shelton, Shontelle Watkins, and Malcolm Willig. We owe these players particular gratitude for helping to make tennis a reality at Mid-Pen. Next year we'll return a strong set of players, including Beau Andre '20, Dequan Cai '19, Christian Hamilton '20, Allyson Huelsenkamp '18, Hannah Lee '19, Emma Marek '20, Alfredo Moran '20, Ryan Shee '20, and Ernesto Valencia '19. We'd like to thank coaches Bryan Jeong '06 and Raul Salazar, who also coaches soccer for Mid-Pen, for another exciting and successful season. 🐉

Left, Clarence Jackson '18 goes for a layup. Right, Erik Shelton '17 powers through a serve. Above, Ryan Burton '18 controls the mound during a game this spring.





Rick Daley '91 and his wife, **Jill Zaccamy-Daley '95**, have been married since 1999 and live in Auburn, CA, with their two children, Devon (12) and Shealyn (14). Jill is a homemaker and president of the local Little League, and Rick owns a plumbing contracting business, which brings him to the Peninsula a couple of times a week. In early June, he stopped by the school on his way back to Auburn and toured the "new" building.

Ryan Michaels (Freed) '95 recently signed a record deal with Sony/ATV Music Publishing and its Hickory Records label. He and his wife, Shannon Haley, who perform as the duo Haley and Michaels, were dubbed Artists to Watch in 2016 by the *Huffington Post* after a breakthrough year as new artists. The pair, whose genre-blending music combines "country music delivered with a certain amount of power pop," has accumulated over 10 million streams on Spotify. They have twice appeared on NBC's *Today* and have also taken their music on the road, opening for Sam Hunt, Brett Eldredge, Chris Young, and Old Dominion.

Jen Klein '06 "lives in downtown San Francisco in her own apartment and walks to work each day at a tech company," writes her mother, Cynthia. "She is in Sales Operations and is often recruited, which is how she found her last two jobs. We know that Mid-Peninsula is the reason she made it to college and beyond."

Jordan Ballard '13 is studying art at Cañada College in Redwood City. His passion for the subject is "directly attributable to the influence of Mid-Pen's art program," according to his mom..

Peter Lenichuk '15 stopped by during Night of the Arts and said hello to math teacher Nicola Willits. He is finishing up at Foothill College and will be starting at University of Oregon in the fall.

Alyssa Taylor '15 stopped by to visit her former teachers this spring. She has just wrapped up her sophomore year at Tuskegee University.

Victor Steele '16 received a special certificate and letter from the dean of business and economics at Sonoma State University that he made the Dean's List for the fall 2016 semester, placing him in the top 10% of his class.

Mid-Pen Creates Johnston Society to Honor Legacy Donors

Mid-Pen is pleased to announce the creation of the Lawrence P. Johnston Society, a new way to honor those donors who have taken the special step of including Mid-Peninsula High School in their long-term plans through a bequest or other planned giving arrangement. The society is named in memory of science teacher Larry Johnston, who bequeathed a generous gift to the school when he died in December 2015.



A beloved teacher, colleague, friend, and mentor, Larry dedicated more than 35 years to assisting in Mid-Pen's growth and development, joining the school in the fall of 1981 and teaching almost right up until his death. Over the years, he inspired hundreds of Mid-Pen students, who enjoyed imitating his distinctive teaching style, especially the way he rocked back and forth from his heels to his toes, sometimes holding an empty pipe while speaking.

Larry loved his Mid-Pen students and he loved to travel. He visited every country in Europe and traveled throughout Africa, South and Central America, and the United States. He took his time and never rushed, often traveling by train, sometimes by foot, always stopping to spend time with local people. When he died, he left a gift to Mid-Pen that combined his two loves: a bequest to ensure that all students, regardless of financial need, are able to participate in the Mid-Pen travel program, which takes students to places as far afield as Ecuador to learn Spanish or Great Britain to study British history.

Larry's bequest was the first planned gift in Mid-Pen's history. It is in his memory that we will recognize others who make similar planned gifts as members of the Lawrence P. Johnston Society. Like Larry, these donors express their commitment to the school by including Mid-Pen in their estate plans and, in doing so, help to secure the future of the school.

Membership in the Lawrence P. Johnston Society involves no dues, obligations, or solicitations, but it will allow us to thank donors for the plans they have made and to recognize them publicly, which we hope will inspire generosity in others. Of course donors may remain anonymous if they prefer. Benefits include invitations to special school events and activities, but the most important benefit of joining the Lawrence P. Johnston Society is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to Mid-Peninsula High School's long-term prosperity. 🐉



Thanks to the incredible generosity of more than 250 donors throughout the school community, including 100% of the Board of Trustees and the faculty and staff, Mid-Peninsula High School raised over \$517,000 in restricted and unrestricted donations during the 2015-2016 school year.

The centerpiece of the school's fundraising efforts, the Annual Fund, brought in \$282,000, including contributions from approximately 72% of current Mid-Pen families. Many thanks to Annual Fund co-chairs Maurisa Sommerfield P '16 and Shandon Lloyd P'18 and the half dozen parents who volunteered during our fall and spring phonathons.

In honor of his retirement after 15 years as head of school, the Board of Trustees established a special fund in honor of Doug Thompson to help support two school programs close to Doug's heart: financial aid and class trips. Acting as a special savings account for the school, the fund has raised more than \$180,000 to provide financial assistance to students to participate in the school's expanding travel program.

The pictures on the following pages provide a glimpse of the fun and excitement at this year's DragonFest, held in February at the Pullman San Francisco Bay Hotel in Redwood City. Evoking the 1940's and 1950's heyday of Playland at the Beach, San Francisco's version of Coney Island, the event featured carnival games and an ol'time photo booth, in addition to the usual silent and live auctions. In all, the event netted \$72,000 to support Mid-Pen's education and scholarship programs.

We are grateful to following donors for their loyalty and support. Your generosity is a tangible show of support for Mid-Peninsula High School, its students and teachers. 🐉

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Daniel & Terry Aguiar
Bart Andre
Kendall Anderson '12
Mark Anson & Mary Hayes
Franchina & Peter Aschenbrenner
Jon Austin
Joe & Julie Belarde
Brian Bennett & Lisa de Avila
Elizabeth Bennett
Kim Bennicas
Caitlin Berka
Jeffrey Berkes & Meg Lacy
Tim & Carolyn Biglow
Michelle Boire
Steve & Gabriella Bowling
Lisa & Detlef Braun
Gordon Brown
Jennifer & Ken Burton
Alan Cameron
Timothy & Marie Camenzind
Ornette Chrisman '93
Gillian & C. Wesley Christensen
Dean & Wilma Chu
Mindie Cohen & Jim Faulkner
Craig & Georgina Cooper
Janel & Ryan Coughran
Richard Daley '91 &
Jill Zacamy-Daley '95
Liana Ahloy Dallaire
Anil & Sirisha Dasu
Joe De Primo
Jim & Susanne Dern
John DeTreville &
Laurie Shaw-DeTreville
Thomas & Maureen Dollente

Richard & Jean Duda
Robert Dvorak &
Maurisa Sommerfield
Timothy & Julie Dyson
Maureen & Phil Ekedahl
Shirley Ely
Craig & Denise Fawcett
Steve & Janice Fischer
Russell Fong & Sarah Caplan
Cathleen & Michael Foster
Mike & KT Foust
Paul Freiburger &
Jeanne Loveland Freiburger
Max Freiburger '13
Ken & Kia Friedman
Pam Gallant
Andrew & Patricia Galligan
Ryan Galligan '12
Frances & Ted Geballe
Daniel & Kathryn Goff
Jeffrey Gold
Teresa Gomez
Eric & Brooke Grafstrom
Jeffrey & Pamela Hagenah
H. Edward Hall & Gail Ishimatsu
Merrilee Harris
William Harris '15
Janet & Daryl Hatano
Andrea Henderson & Andre Cotton
Troy Henderson, Jr
Paula Higashi
Gabriele Hilberg
Andre & Chris Hill
James & Mary Hinson
Philip & Kelly Hirschberg
John & Carol Honingford
David & Marleen Hood
Elli Howe & Frederick Furtek
Stan & Mindy Huelsenkamp
Cory Huttenga
Earl Jackson
Huaying Jiang
Edwin Johnson
Paul Jones
Greg Kelner
Shaun & Lia Kennett
Anisa King
Robert & Kimberly Kirkwood
Barbara & Scott Knaster
Kurt & Judy Koeppen
Marshall Lambertson
Alfred & Maureen Lane
Kurt Lange
Mary & Robert Lazarus



Kevin & Kimberly Leal
Soo Mee Lee
Leslie Leland
Lucinda & Rob Lenicheck
Sam & Yvonne Linton
Jane Liu & Yufeng Qin
Kathi Lohmann
Julia & Matt Longnecker
Veronica Louie & Tamm Lee
Mark Loundy & Patti Wolf
Kevin & Jeanna Lurie
Thomas & Shirley Lyons
Alejandro Magana &
Araceli Marcial
Lisa Maloney
Niall Maloney
Rosemary Malouf
Anthony David Marek
Kathleen Marek
Grace & Michael McAlister
Stephanie Steele Messina
Laurie Miller & Van Whitis
Elizabeth Moore
Ryan Moriguchi '91
Gary Mulleneaux & Amy Christen
Gladye & Stacy Myers
Steve & Rosita Newman
Leigh Noble '97
Martha & PJ Nora
J.D. Northway
William & Linda Northway
Suzanne Meade Ochrach '86
David Oliver
Lisa Olson
Joy & Larry O'Rourke
Miguel Orta & Martha Talavera

Raj & Susan Patel
Dolly Patterson & Bruce Bingham
Dr. Paul Pitlick & Janet St. Peter
Harold Poskanzer &
Marjorie Wechsler
Gregorio Prieto &
Maria Hernandez
David Pritchard
Anne & Jim Quaranta
Krish & Padma Ramakrishnan
Vivianne Ratnoff
Tim & Lorinda Reichert
Felix & Pamela Reliford
Edwin & Patricia Rendon
Dave & Sandra Richardson
Doug Robbin '00
Giovanni & Eden Rodriguez
Jon & Jennifer Rodriguez
Noah Rubinstein '92
Celestino Sacor & Maria Montoya
Barbara & Bob Sanner
Jennifer Satterfield
Antoine Savelli '14
Cindi & Jean-Dominique Savelli
Anne Marie & Brian Schar
Heidi Schiessler
Jamie Schiessler
Lisa & Ellis Schoichet
John & Carrie Schwettman
Linda & Kenneth Sell
Lisa Sharp
Denis Sheahan & Brigid Madden
Andrew & Carol Shelton
Patrick M. & Janet Shinn
Jonathon Shultis & Deborah Baker
ConnieKay Smith

David Smith & Sheri Simmons
Greg & Anna Maria Smitherman
Teri & Garry Spanner
Alexander W. Stahl '96
Lisa & Bruce Steinback
Tara Stein
Courtney & Suzanne Suppes
Jameson Swanagon
Elizabeth & Walter Taina
Tad & Dianne Taube
Tara Theobald-Anderson
Douglas C. Thompson, PhD, &
Barbara Demartinis
Sandra Trembley
Henry Trevor
Andrew Tucker & Shandon Lloyd
Candice Uytengsu-Hamilton
Cammie & Tim Vail
Alicia Valadez
William Valencia
Debbie Vielbaum
Philip & Ann Vogel
Ethan Weker
Wendi Wells
Keith & Shelley Willig
Richard & Nicola Willits
Theresa & Timothy Wilson
Roni & Andrew Wolfe
Maria Woodworth &
Jorge Meraz Baca
Bob & Elizabeth Yapp
Emily York
Stan & Donna Young
Alan & Judy Zafran
Russ Zandbergen

The Lone Pine Foundation
Microsoft, Inc.
Morgan Stanley Global Impact
Funding Trust
Novartis US Foundation
Schwab Charitable
Silicon Valley Community
Foundation
United Technologies

DESIGNATED GIFTS

The following donors requested that a portion of their gifts be designated for specific purposes.

Financial Aid

Eucalyptus Foundation
Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trusts
Krish and Padma Ramakrishnan

Annual Student Musical

Ethan Weker
Jon & Jennifer Rodriguez

Student Diversity Leadership Conference

Keith & Shelley Willig

Student Reading Room

Kurt Lange

Faculty Room Supplies

The Board of Trustees

RESTRICTED GIFTS

The following donors requested that their gifts be restricted for specific purposes.

Theater Department

Andrew Tucker & Shandon Lloyd
Anthony David Marek

Student Trips

Lisa and Detlef Braun

Facilities and Physical Plant

The estate of Lawrence P. Johnson

Board of Trustees Expenses

Anonymous

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND MATCHING GIFTS

Apple Inc.
Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Clarence E. Heller
Charitable Foundation
The Coins and Crosses
Charitable Fund
The Eucalyptus Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Genetech
Google, Inc.
The Helms Foundation
The Hurlbut-Johnson
Charitable Trusts





HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Larry Johnston

Alexander W. Stahl '96
Coins and Crosses Charitable Trust
Doug Robbin '00
Leigh Noble '97
Merrilee Harris
Noah Rubinstein '92
Richard Daley '91 &
Jill Zacamy-Daley '95
Ryan Galligan '12
Suzanne Meade Ochrach '86
William Harris '15

John and Lisa Northway

William & Linda Northway
J.D. Northway

Kurt Lange

Brian Bennett & Lisa de Avila

Rebecca Newman '19

Steve & Rosita Newman

Nick Hinson '17

James & Mary Hinson

Doug Thompson

Tim & Carolyn Biglow



The list of donors includes gifts received between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this report. We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. Please contact the Development Office at 650-321-1991 with any corrections.

THE DOUGLAS C. THOMPSON FUND

Established by the Board of Trustees to honor Doug Thompson upon his retirement in June as Head of School, the Douglas C. Thompson Fund will provide financial assistance to students who cannot otherwise afford to participate in the school's expanding travel program.

Started many years ago with a single science trip, the travel program at Mid-Pen has grown significantly under Doug's leadership to include four distinctly different trips that are outside the school's usual curriculum. Approximately 50 students each year participate in these week-long trips.

Such trips represent an important part of the Mid-Pen student experience, but for some students, they are something more: life changing. For some, these trips may be their first trip out of the country, the first time on a plane, or even their first time away from home.

The following generous donors have made gifts or pledges totaling more than \$184,000, which will help to fund well-deserving students for many years to come.



Anonymous (3)
Mark Anson & Mary Hayes
The Baker Shultis Family
Gary & Jacquie Bechtel
Tim & Carolyn Biglow
Steve & Gabriella Bowling
Lisa & Detlef Braun
Gillian & C. Wesley Christensen
Robert Dvorak & Maurisa Sommerfield
Cathleen & Michael Foster
Mike & KT Foust
Ken & Kia Friedman
Max Freiburger '13
Paul Freiburger &
Jeanne Loveland Freiburger

Eli Feuerman
Andrew & Patricia Galligan
Teresa Gomez
Alicia & Michael Hildreth
James & Mary Hinson
Victoria Johnson
The Estate of Lawrence P. Johnston
Anne & Matthew Lynde
Yasmeen Magaña '16
Bill Mogensen
The Mulleneaux Family
Steve & Rosita Newman
Joy & Larry O'Rourke
Dolly Patterson & Bruce Bingham
Gregorio Prieto & Maria Hernandez

Gina & Mike Rayfield
Ojas & Jill Rege
Jennifer & Brian Rodrigues
Casey Schaefer
Dayna Schiessler
Jamie Schiessler
Jackie Schmidt-Posner, Ph. D.
Andrew & Carol Shelton
Tad & Dianne Taube
Andrea & Charles Thurber
Debbie Vielbaum
Wells Wadleigh & Elizabeth Tsuji
Keith & Shelley Willig
Alan & Judy Zafran



Mid-Peninsula
High School

1340 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
MENLO PARK, CA
PERMIT NO. 736

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents of Alumni: If your son or daughter no longer maintains a permanent residence at your home, please notify the Development Office at 650-321-1991 or alums@mid-pen.org. Thank you for helping us keep our alumni records current.



FOLLOW US! @mphsdragons



LIKE US!



FOLLOW US! @midpendragons

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 4, 7:00 P.M.
MID-PEN WELCOMES
NEW HEAD PHIL GUTIERREZ

