



# GUAJOME TIMES

*The Guajome Park Academy Foundation & Alumni Newsletter*

## Welcome Alumni

by Superintendent, Kevin Humphrey

I hope all is well and your new year is off to a great start! I am happy to announce that we at Guajome are going to be taking a more active role in reaching out to our Alumni and helping to reconnect you to your alma mater. One of the first steps that we are going to take is to develop an Alumni Newsletter to help keep you informed about what is happening here at Guajome, while also sharing information about some of the amazing things happening with our Alumni. On your end, if you can take the initial step to share this newsletter with your fellow graduates and encourage them to visit our updated alumni page and then fill out the [alumni survey](#) which will help us learn more about what you have been up to.

The next step we are working on is putting together a group of alumni to help us plan a handful of events throughout the year. These events will include on and off-campus get-togethers that will bring stakeholders together to reminisce about Guajome's past and to help plan for its future. If you are interested in being a part of this group, then please reach out to me at [humphreyke@guajome.net](mailto:humphreyke@guajome.net) and we can put together a team that will help us all to reconnect.

Later issues of this newsletter will also include Alumni updates, an Alumni In Memoriam section, an events calendar, job openings, and other opportunities to share information about what is going on.

Lastly, It has been truly amazing reading through all of your responses to our alumni survey. So many of you are making some tremendous contributions to society. We have doctors, homemakers, lawyers, teachers, designers, scientists, students, and business owners, just to name a few professions, who have gone on to do some great things. The Guajome staff is so incredibly proud of you and the way that you have taken what you have learned at Guajome and applied those skills moving forward. Guajome truly is a special place made up of special people, and we are excited to learn more about all of the amazing things that you continue to do.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10-12  
High School Drama Performance

February 24  
Guajome Day Parade

April 20  
Spring Concert

April 29  
Campus Beautification Day

May 13  
Stakeholder's Day

[Guajome Events Calendar](#)

[Stay Connected - GPA Alumni](#)

[Get Involved - GPA Foundation](#)

## LUCY DAVIS



CLASS OF 2014

### What was your favorite part of attending Guajome Park Academy?

I moved to the area before high school after attending middle school at a large, traditional public school. Coming to Guajome was a completely different experience and I immediately felt accepted. I didn't feel like I was going to be lost in the shuffle and I felt like I was a part of a family. In the end, I felt "seen" and I did not feel like that before while in a school setting.

### What was your fondest memory while attending Guajome?

It had to be "Senior Sunrise". We all got up super early and went to Denny's. We then went to the parking lot at Guajome and set out inflatable couches, sat in the beds of our trucks, played music, and watched the sunrise. It was at the end of our senior year and it was an opportunity to bond as a class one more time before graduation. I also remember the drama productions in Mr. Canaletti's class and helping to

organize the first homecoming dance that was held in the amphitheater area. Those memories stand out as well.

### How did your time at Guajome prepare you for success after you graduated?

I was naturally shy coming into Guajome and my experience here helped bring me out of my shell. Completing the senior project and being asked to present in my classes helped me to feel comfortable in front of groups and to feel less shy. Also, my positive experience at Guajome further encouraged me to go into the field of education.

### What did you do after you graduated from Guajome?

I left Guajome with the initial intent of becoming a veterinarian. After one science class, I decided that wasn't for me and I decided to change my major to education. I graduated with a degree in education, but I became interested in becoming a librarian. I finished a one-year library science program and then learned about the opening at Guajome. The timing was perfect and I have been the librarian at Guajome for the past two years!

### What is one thing that you would share with future graduates?

I would remind them to realize that they have a special opportunity that doesn't happen at other schools to make life-long bonds and friendships because of how special and different Guajome is.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to participate in our Alumni Spotlight, please send an email to [humphreyke@guajome.net](mailto:humphreyke@guajome.net).





*One of the things that makes Guajome a special place is the bond that staff and students have and the relationships they build with each other as they attend Guajome. We sat down with the one and only Mr. Paul Canaletti and talked about Guajome...*

## **How long have you been working here and what have you taught?**

This is my 24th year of teaching at Guajome. I have taught all levels of drama from set design to stage production and all grade levels as well. What many people are unaware of is that I have taught English and Honors English as well because I have an English credential. I have also taught a Film Appreciation class.

## **What is your fondest memory of Guajome?**

I don't have one memory that stands out. Instead, my mind immediately goes to some of the relationships I have developed and some of the productions that we have put together. Some of the productions like *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Little Shop of Horrors* shifted the way that we conducted drama class here at Guajome as well as some of the original pieces created and produced by students. It's fun and amazing to think about some of the things these students have gone on to accomplish. Additionally, I have developed strong bonds with people I have taught and worked with like Mr. and Mrs. Duffy and Kathy Hamamoto just to name a few. I do have a few sad memories as well because of some of the students we have lost and those who struggled along the way, but Guajome is a special place to me.

## **What is your favorite thing about working here?**

Again, I have to go back to the relationships that have been made. I have seen this school evolve and change, but the ability to build strong relationships with my peers and students has always remained.

## **What would you like to share with our alumni?**

This is going to sound cheesy, but stay connected with each other. I was just telling someone a story about a friend that I am still in contact with whom I met when I was four. It is these friendships that were created in our younger years that we can go back to and help us reconnect with our roots because those bonds remain surprisingly strong. Additionally, we have so many things going on, it is important to remain focused on what matters and not sweat the small stuff.

PAUL CANALETTI



STAGECRAFT TEACHER

