



David Buchla Class of 2017

David Buchla graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1957. He was a life member of CSF, ran cross-country as a sophomore, member of FFA for three years, the French Club for two years, and the science club as a senior. He frequently played trumpet with the pep band at home football and basketball games. Outside of school, he was a Boy Scout and attained the rank of Life, one step below Eagle. He also worked after school and weekends from his sophomore year until after graduation at Currier's Feed Store.

Following his graduation from OHS, he earned his BS degree in physical science from Cal Poly in 1961 and continued his technical education in radar and in communication engineering. Later, he studied education at night school and was awarded his teaching credential at Cal State Hayward in 1972. In 1979, he received his MA degree in education from the University of San Francisco.

David began his career as a field engineer in 1961 at Sperry Gyroscope Company in New York. Three years later, he was hired as a physicist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he designed instrumentation systems for nuclear weapons tests and authored numerous technical reports. In 1974, he accepted an offer from Science Applications International Corporation to work as a scientist. There he worked on various technical projects.

In 1976, David began a new phase of his career as a high-school science teacher at Marysville High School where he taught chemistry, physics, computer science, and physical science. In 1979, he wrote a grant that was funded for over \$128,000 for a program integrating computers, math, and science. The grant provided 15 Apple computers for Marysville Union High School District and the program was featured in "Apple Education News" and "The Aerospace Gazette". This was years before anyone had computers in the classroom. In evenings, David was an adjunct instructor at Chapman College and Yuba College. During his time at Marysville High School, he was also the science advisor for three students that won the regional science fair and went on to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

In 1981, Yuba College offered him a full-time faculty position teaching electronics and physical science. At Yuba, he developed new lab experiments in electronics and published his first lab manual of experiments in 1986. Following this, in 1991, he wrote his first textbook, which was on instrumentation systems. ITT schools adopted his lab manuals and later hired him to write their course curriculum for basic electronics, which was used in all ITT schools. Since his first book in 1986, David has authored or co-authored 10 textbooks and 11 lab manuals for college level. His latest textbook, published in 2015, is "Renewable Energy Systems". He continues to write and this year completed an update to his "Electronic Devices" lab manual.

Being active in his community has always been an integral part of David's life. As an adult, he was active with Boy Scouts, having served in roles ranging from Scoutmaster, committee chairman, merit badge counselor, and cubmaster. He has been an active amateur astronomer for over 50 years. He was a founding member and program chairman of the "Valley Viewers" Astronomy Club in Livermore and active in two other clubs over the years.

As a current resident of Grass Valley, he leads an exemplary life of community service, serving as a board member and outreach chairman of the Nevada County Astronomers (NCA), an organization for promoting astronomy to the public. As outreach chairman, he works with local schools, state parks, the Nevada County Fair, and other organizations to promote astronomy education. In a letter of support, John Griffin, president of Nevada County Astronomers writes, ***“One of Dave’s greatest accomplishments for our club has to be the yearly celebration of International Astronomy Day each spring done in conjunction with numerous groups worldwide.”***

David’s hobbies and interests include astronomy, photography, mountain biking, hiking, electronic gadgets, oil painting, and travel – especially eclipse chasing with his wife of 56 years and Oroville HS graduate Lorraine (Laswell) Buchla. They have been to remote parts of the world to view solar eclipses, now totaling 15 total eclipses.

David is the younger brother of Donald Buchla, who is also being inducted into the OUHSD Hall of Fame with the Class of 2017. David and Lorraine reside in Grass Valley, CA.