



May 30, 2003

Class of 2003 May Be One of the Best Ever

The Class of 2003 at Wilson Classical High School is considered by many to be one of the top graduating classes ever to attend Wilson.

The distinguished scholars so far have amassed nearly \$3 million in academic scholarships. Twelve Wilson valedictorians each have unweighted "perfect" grade point averages of 4.0. Two students are National Merit Finalists. Three students are receiving appointments to U.S. military academies.

Wilson seniors have won acceptances to Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, Dartmouth, Northwestern and Yale, all eight UC campuses and 16 of the 23 CSU campuses.

Other top universities will welcome Wilson grads this fall: Boston University, Bucknell, Fordham, Gonzaga, Indiana, New York, Northeastern, Occidental, Pepperdine, Pitzer, Pomona, Reed, Rensselaer, Scripps, Smith, SMU, Tulane, U.S. Air Force Academy, West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, San Francisco, Washington, USC, Villanova and Whittier.

Each of Wilson's 12 valedictorians has shown remarkable achievement:

- Brett Agatep will attend the United States Air Force Academy. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction.

- Allison Dillon, a Presidential Scholar, will attend San Jose State University. She is a First Team All-CIF volleyball player and was involved in Advanced Dance throughout high school.

- Kourash Esmaili participated in the Long Beach City College Honors Program while at Wilson.

- Thon Ly has taken seven additional math classes at LBCC and CSULB during the past three years, earning all A's. An AP Scholar With Honors, Thon will attend UCLA.

- Jane Ma was accepted at Yale University, but will attend UCLA.

- Tessa Petrich, with a perfect 800 score on the SAT2 Writing test, will attend Harvard University. She was a Bank of America award winner, CSULB Presidential Scholar and AP Scholar With Distinction.

- Matthew Royal, a National Merit Finalist, will attend UC Berkeley with a Chancellor's Scholarship. He is a CSULB Presidential Scholar and an AP Scholar.

- Nicole Skovgard, an AP Scholar and section editor of the school yearbook, will attend Indiana University.

- Ouddam Serei, the second member of his family to graduate from Wilson with a perfect 4.0 average, will attend CSULB.

- Jennifer Tangtiphaiboonatana placed second in the U.S. National Junior Golf Championships. The Long Beach Athlete of the Year will attend Stanford University.

- Mirla Urzua, a National Hispanic Scholar, was elected ASB president and will attend Harvard.

- Casey Weaver, a CSULB Presidential Scholar and AP Scholar, will attend UCLA.

Wilson, Poly Among Newsweek's Top Schools

Newsweek's June 2 ranking of "America's Best High Schools" lists Wilson Classical High School and Polytechnic High School among the top 4 percent of U.S. high schools.

Schools ranked by Newsweek have the greatest number of students taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests, compared to the number of graduating seniors.



Graduates of these high schools save millions of dollars in college tuition each year by earning college credit on the difficult AP exams. Each school on the list performed among the top four percent, or 737, of all American high schools measured this way.

"It's a great honor for two of our outstanding high schools to win this national recognition," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, superintendent of schools. "The quality of our schools just keeps getting better and better."

The highly ranked Long Beach schools surpassed prestigious high schools in neighboring Orange County, including nearby Los Alamitos High School. The top 737 U.S. schools included Wilson at 506, Poly at 612 and Los Alamitos at 674. Newsweek's June 2 cover story and school rankings are available at msnbc.com and Newsweek.com, along with Newsweek's "web-exclusive" extended list of the nation's top high schools.

"Some experts think AP is growing so fast and spreading so far it could eventually supplant the SAT and the ACT as America's most

influential test," the cover story says. "At Harvard -- the dream school for many high-performing seniors -- the dean of admissions says AP is already a better predictor of college grades than the SAT."

Newsweek's list of top high schools has been compared to U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" list.

Newsweek ranks public schools according to a ratio called the Challenge Index--the number of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students at a school in 2002 divided by the number of graduating seniors. The schools on the list have the strongest AP or IB programs in the nation.

More than 2,000 LBUSD students passed Advanced Placement college preparation tests last year, an increase of 59 percent since 1999. Poly also now ranks among the best public and private high schools in the U.S. on the number of Advanced Placement tests taken and passed.

The latest national ranking from the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey places Poly High School 36th among 22,991 U.S. high schools -- higher than 99,839 percent of the high schools in the nation. On the Newsweek list, both schools rank above 96 percent of American high schools.

Districtwide, rigorous AP courses now prepare high school students to take and pass more than 20 different exams to earn advanced college academic credit while still in high school. Top local high school graduates often enter college as sophomores because they have already earned a full year of AP college credits.

More than 60 percent of AP students graduate from college in four years or less. Nationally, only 38 percent of students graduate from college in four years or less. The faster college completion rate for local AP scholars saves their families millions of dollars.

VALEDICTORIANS--
Perfect 4.0 GPA seniors in Wilson Classical High School's Class of 2003 are headed for the nation's best universities. The top scholars include (back row from left) Jane Ma, Casey Weaver, Nicole Skovgard, Tessa Petrich, Kourash Esmaili, Allison Dillon, Jennifer Tangtiphaiboonatana, Brett Agatep; (front row from left) Mirla Urzua, Ouddam Serei, Thon Ly, Matthew Royal.



CAHPERD Honors Ulmer, Van Blom

At the recent California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance regional awards dinner, two LBUSD employees received top awards.

Lisa Ulmer, physical education teacher at Jordan, was honored as CAHPERD Regional Outstanding High School Physical Education



Ulmer



Van Blom

Teacher. Joan Van Blom, curriculum leader, was named CAHPERD Regional Outstanding Physical Education Administrator.

Ulmer's teaching includes work to align Jordan's physical education curriculum with the district standards and state framework. Ulmer's students learn lifetime movement skills including dance and golf. They also learn to assess and design personal fitness plans and to use heart rate monitors to monitor and adjust their training. Ulmer is a leader and model for both new and experienced teachers. She welcomes future teachers to observe her teaching. She led Jordan to earn the CAHPERD Outstanding Physical Education Program award two years ago.

Ulmer has also served as coach, athletic director, department chair, and as a basketball official at the local, state and national level.

Van Blom chaired the committee to develop the district's Physical Education Content Standards, Curriculum Objectives and Course Outlines, which many districts use as a model.

She co-authored the district's PEP grant, a \$400,000 federal grant for physical education, one of only 17 awarded nationwide the first year of the grant. Van Blom coordinates grant activities, which provide training and equipment for more than 850 district elementary teachers, and all district middle and high school physical education departments. She works with Purchasing to add developmentally appropriate physical education equipment to the district's stock catalog.

Van Blom was one of only eight California physical education teachers to earn national Board Certification the first year certification was available. She encourages and helps other teachers to pursue national certification.

Van Blom, who competes in age-group rowing, won this year's World Indoor Rowing Championships in the Lightweight category.

In Memoriam

Norman Meredith
former teacher
May 10, 2003

Evelyn Howell
intermediate office assistant, The Willows
May 18, 2003

June Graduations Planned for 5,223 Seniors

A total of 5,223 local high school seniors are scheduled to receive their diplomas.

CAMS' 141 seniors will hold graduation on Thursday, June 5. Poly/PAAL, 946/174, and Renaissance Career Center, 26, will award

Employee of the Year

One of 10 finalists will be named as Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year at the Board of Education meeting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3. Finalists were announced at the recent Western Roundup Barbecue during Classified Employee Week.

Finalists include: Lori Betschel, elementary school office supervisor, Tucker; John Bosley, school safety officer, Marshall; Kim Eckert, staff secretary, Math Curriculum Office; Patrisha Fertig, high school office supervisor, Avalon; Sylvia Flood, school community worker, Henry; Hortensia Isas, instructional aide, Madison; Ricardo Mora, purchasing warehouse materials processor who died last month; Catherine Moran, senior office assistant, Avalon; Maria Nunez, school community worker, Burnett; and Deborah Wright, instructional aide, Monroe.

Kettering Strings

Kettering Classical Elementary School is hosting "Divine Strings for Kettering," a benefit concert featuring fifth grader Aishu Venkataraman. The brilliant violin virtuoso will help to raise funds to support Kettering's enrichment programs in visual and performing arts, science and physical education.

The concert will be held Saturday, May 31, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Cal State Long Beach University Theatre. Donations are welcome. For information, call 598-9486.

Dates to Remember

June	
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv, Channel 8
8	Race Unity Day
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Independence Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv Channel 8
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
13	Spring Semester Ends
14	Flag Day

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOBBIE SMITH, President
MARY STANTON, Vice President
JAMES CHOURA, Member
EDWARD EVELAND, Member 1992-2003
SUJA LOWENTHAL, Member
RUTH WEEMS, Student Member

diplomas on Wednesday, June 11. Avalon, 54, Cabrillo, 270, Jordan, 673, Lakewood, 875, Millikan, 900, and Wilson, 796, will conduct ceremonies Thursday, June 12. EPHS, 144, will hold graduation on Friday, June 13, and School for Adults, 224, will award diplomas Tuesday, June 17.

Dignitaries presenting diplomas include:

Avalon--State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Casino Theater; **Cabrillo**--Board of Education President Bobbie Smith, 6 p.m., Cabrillo Jaguar Stadium; **CAMS**--Board of Education Member Jim Choura, 6 p.m., Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center; **EPHS**--Board of Education Vice President Mary Stanton, 10 a.m., Lakewood High School Auditorium; **Jordan**--Board of Education Vice President Mary Stanton, 5:30 p.m., Jordan Memorial Stadium; **Lakewood**--Board of Education Member Jim Choura, 5:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium; **Long Beach School for Adults**--Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 7:30 p.m., Wilson High School Auditorium; **Millikan**--Board of Education Member Suja Lowenthal, 5:30 p.m., Millikan Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**--Board of Education President Bobbie Smith, 6 p.m., Veterans Memorial Stadium; **Renaissance**--Board of Education Member Suja Lowenthal, 6 p.m., Scottish Rite Auditorium; **Wilson**--Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 5:30 p.m., Stephens Field.

Names in the News

Peter Jarzomb, Cubberley's Geography Bee winner, is their first student to qualify for and compete in the state Geography Bee in Sacramento.

Lynda Muenzer, computer teacher at Kettering; **Matthew Hogan**, Wilson junior; and **Liane Yomogida**, Poly junior; will spend three weeks this summer representing the City of Long Beach as Goodwill Ambassadors in Long Beach's Sister City, Yokkaichi, Japan.

Long Beach School Nurse Association recently named **Sue Miller**, nurse at Hill, as its Nurse of the Year. The Council for Exceptional Children honored her for outstanding service to special education students in 1997. She was the first coordinator between CSULB and LBUSD for providing student nurses with clinical experience during their community nursing rotations.

Long Beach ROP recently honored 39 high school and adult school students with certificates and stipends. Top medallion winners were: Gold (\$300)--**Joe Basuelto**, Lakewood, retail fashion merchandising; Silver (\$150)--**Jessica Rivera**, Millikan, Careers with Children.

Learn CPR Sunday

CPR Sunday, an easy, quick way to learn lifesaving skills, will be held at Long Beach City College, 4901 E. Carson St. on June 1.

Registration for the \$5 three-hour classes is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the last classes ending by 4 p.m.

Nutrition educators from the Food and Nutrition Services Branch and the Health/Physical Education Office will share facts on heart healthy eating and give free apples to participants.

For information, call 595-6341.