



Eye on Acaciawood

The Bird's Eye View: Acaciawood Academics, Athletics, and Accomplishments

A Quarterly Report of Acaciawood School and College Preparatory Academy ~ 2002 Fall Quarter

ACACIAWOOD AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, JUNE 9-13, 2002

FEATURED ARTICLES

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Four entries from Acaciawood advanced through the Orange County and California competitions of National History Day and traveled to the University of Maryland to represent California in the national competition. The eight students, all in the Senior Division, were Danielle Allison, Individual Exhibit; Evan Chan, Historical Paper; Miriam Scatterday, Individual Documentary; and Elaine Inoue, Andy Lin, Sheri Lin, Karis Miyake, and Phoebe Park, Group Documentary. Three of the four entries advanced to Finals. Miriam Scatterday went on to win third place for her documentary entitled *Two Faces of Courage:*

The Nisei Reaction to Japanese Internment. The Group Documentary entitled *Vietnam the Uncensored War: Revolutionizing American Public Opinion, Dividing the Nation* took fifth place in the nation. We're so proud of the hard work and the accomplishments of our students!

This year our students are once again hard at work on projects related to the theme "Rights and Responsibilities in History." They will enter the Orange County competition in late March and hopefully advance to the State competition in May and Nationals in June 2003. ☐

ACACIAWOOD WINS SIGNIFICANT GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Our small school is doing great things! Last year, Acaciawood submitted a grant proposal in a nationwide competition for a "Schools for the New Millennium" implementation grant, offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In April, Acaciawood was notified that it had been awarded \$98,987.00 to carry out this grant. The maximum amount awarded for this grant was not to exceed \$100,000.00. We were very thankful to receive this grant.

The project, entitled *Digitally Preserving the Adolescent Memories of World War II: Incorporating Oral History into Humanities Related Curricula* involves a two-year plan to incorporate the teaching of oral history methodologies into our History courses. The project focuses on the col-

lection of oral histories from those who were teenagers during World War II in three major areas of experience: Japanese internment, the Holocaust, and the home front. Teachers and students will receive training from professors at California State University at Long Beach and California State University at Fullerton, as well as from private organizations that support and promote the teaching of history, such as Facing History and Ourselves and the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

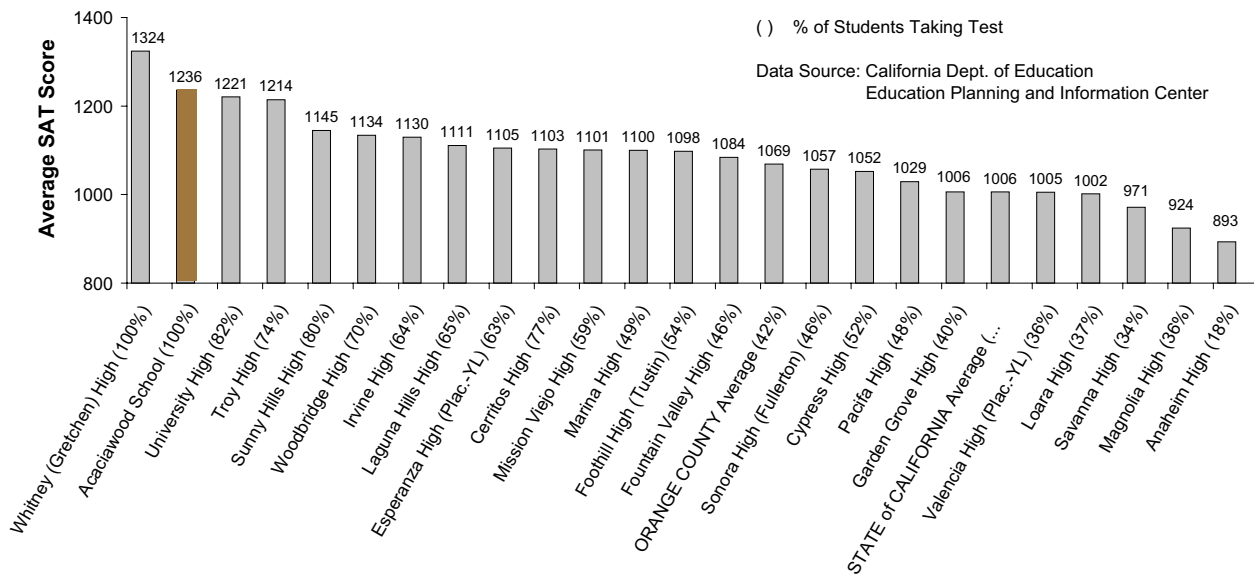
In addition to the teaching and training of our students, Acaciawood will build a digital archive of these oral histories as a permanent record. Part of the grant monies have been used to purchase state of the art electronic equipment including

Canon GL1 and XLS1 digital video cameras, a digital scanner, and two complete high-end, digital workstations, complete with digital editing software. Students will be able to use the cameras and workstations in National History Day projects and other classroom projects that relate to the fulfillment of the grant objectives. Supervision and training will be necessary, but this represents a significant addition to the educational resources available to all of our students.

The teachers will also develop a product that includes a metadocumentary of our teaching and learning process as well as instructions and lesson plans for other schools desiring to incorporate oral history as a means of learning history and making history come alive. ☐

SAT SCORES

Comparison of School SAT Scores 2001-2002 Senior Class



For the second year in a row, Acaciawood has outperformed all public schools in the local area except Gretchen Whitney High School, which has been the top public school in California for over a decade. A look back at our SAT averages shows that our scores on the verbal portion have stayed in the 580 to 590 range for the past five years. However, our math scores have increased from around 580 to 650. Based on the results received so far from this year's graduating class, this trend appears to be continuing. Our cumulative average scores for the past six years (64 students) are: Verbal - 587, Math - 635, for a composite average of 1223.

FACING HISTORY

Hallie Williamson, our Junior High Humanities teacher, attended Facing History and Ourselves, a summer residential institute at Westmont College in Montecito, CA, in July 2002. The institute entitled, *The Role of the Educator in the 21st Century*, explored methodologies for connecting history to the moral questions inherent in the study of violence, racism, anti-semitism, courage, caring and compassion. This week long course was intellectually stimulating and thought provoking. Discussions and lectures focused on themes of intolerance, racism, courage and compassion using case studies related to the Holocaust, the Civil Rights movement, and the L.A. riots. Through collaboration with other teachers in the area and the Facing History staff, many useful classroom resources were

made available to institute participants. This opportunity for professional development was made possible with NEH grant funding. ☐

BASKETBALL UPCOMING

The 2002 boys' basketball season will begin shortly. Formal practices begin on November 16, and two tournaments have been scheduled in early December: the Brethren Christian Basketball Tournament, Dec. 3 through 7, and the Liberty Christian Basketball Tournament, Dec. 9 through 13. This year the Acaciawood Golden Eagles again will be coached by Matt Miller and Jim Duddy. This season will mark the fourth year of the boy's basketball program, and the



third year of competition in a formal CIF 5A division league. Acaciawood will compete in the Express League with five other teams from the Orange County area, including Liberty Christian, Pioneer Baptist, Saddleback Valley Christian (SVC), Southland Christian, and Tarbut V'Torah (TVT). With many returning players and several new faces on the squad, the 2002-2003 season promises to be both exciting and enjoyable as parents and students come out in support of the team. ☐

ON THE BALL: A WINNING SEASON FOR THE LADY EAGLES' VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

In the 2002 volleyball season, the Lady Eagles of Acacia-wood showcased a remarkable turn-around from previous seasons. With a 7-5 season, the Lady Eagles not only posted their first victory, their first winning season, but also advanced to the CIF playoffs for the first time. The Lady Eagles' CIF playoff game is scheduled for Thursday November 14 against Liberty Christian.



Sophomores: Gabby Chavarria, Rebecca Chitica, Kristen Rosa, Shenandoah Yang; Freshman: Melissa Jones, Yvonne Liang, Grace Liau, Aletheia Miyake, Grace Pester, Deborah Scatterday, and Sharon Warden.

The girls' volleyball program at Acacia-wood serves as an effective means to promote teamwork, to test the strength of character in both victory and defeats, and to provide an additional outlet for the creative talents and energies of our students. The level of participation in the program is high, with over 60% of all the girls in high school being involved. The participation level was such that the school also was able to field a Junior Varsity team in addition to the Varsity team. This team also had a winning record of 2-1.

Sixteen members of the volleyball team will be returning next season, which promises to be just as exciting and even more dominating. We appreciate the hard work and devotion of all those who have been associated with this program. ☒

From winning the first match of the season, which was also the first victory in the history of Acacia-wood, the Lady Eagles, under the direction of Coaches Donna Duddy and Huong Nguyen, have provided students and parents with an exciting season of action with both crushing victories and narrow, nail-biting defeats. Thanks for the memorable season.

Members of the Lady Eagles include, Senior: Phoebe Park; Juniors: Lorena Guerrero, Christina Hernandez, Joanna Hodges, Sheri Lin, Karis Miyake;

STUDENTS COMMENDED IN 2003 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Acacia-wood received notice in late September that three seniors scored high enough on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test /National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken last October to gain special recognition. Ryan Pester and Walter Liau were designated Commended Students, among the top five percent of some 1.3 million students that took the PSAT/NMSQT. Only 4125 California seniors attained this honor, which qualifies them for special scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

Andy Miller scored high enough as did 1799 other California seniors to advance to the semi-final round in the Merit Scholarship competition. The pool of semi-finalists represents less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors. Andy is now competing to be named a Finalist and also to receive one of approximately 8,000 Merit Scholarships that will be awarded in February 2003. Finalist awards are based on a personal essay, SAT 1, academic courses and grades, biographical information, and a school recommendation and characterization of the student. Although all students who are named Finalists are exemplary, not all Finalists obtain Merit Scholarship awards. We congratulate these three students for their outstanding achievements! ☒

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION

More than 2,000 student problem solvers from Australia, Canada, Chili, New Zealand, and the United States assembled at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, June 6-9, 2002 to engage in creative future problem solving. Teams and individuals worked on a problem associated with the topic *Virtual Corporations*. The event was the 27th annual Future Problem Solving Program International Conference, and two teams of Future Problem Solvers from Acacia-wood School in Anaheim, CA, were invited to the competition after placing first in the California State Competition.

Coached by Hallie Williamson, the senior division team was composed of four high school students: Jessica Higashi, Andrew Miller, Ryan Pester, and Miriam Scatterday. The intermediate division team was composed of four junior high students: Melissa Jones, Grace Liau, Aletheia Miyake, and Deborah Scatterday. Grace Pester attended as an alternate team member, and Walter Liau represented California in the senior Individual Competition. The senior division team placed 7th in the world in Team Problem Solving, and Grace Pester placed 2nd in the Alternate Team Problem Solving competition! The FPS Program is a year-long educational program in which students are challenged to solve problems related to different topics of global significance. ☒

A PARENT SPEAKS

My child's transfer from public school to Acacia-wood has helped him learn to do his homework on his own. His writing has improved greatly, and Acacia-wood's advanced reading programs have helped him start reading at his level. Most importantly, he has good friends and a good protective environment to guide his growth in the proper direction. Thank you for the opportunity to attend Acacia-wood school. — J.A. ☒



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Acaciawood School and College Preparatory Academy



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 3** Awards Assembly, Elementary Program, 5th—8th Science Fair
- Mar. 10** High School Science Fair
- Mar. 22** National History Day, County
- April 14** Talent Show
- April 26** FPS State Bowl
- April 30** Orange County Science Fair
- May 8** National History Day, State
- May 17** Junior/Senior Banquet
- June 5** Graduation

COME AND VISIT US

Parents who are interested in enrolling their children in Acaciawood School are welcome to come and visit us at any time. Please call and schedule a visit to see our facilities, talk with our faculty, and meet our students. Call 714.995.1800.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR ACACIAWOOD FACULTY**

For the past two years, Sandy Yang has participated in the Claremont International Studies Education Project, a joint effort of the Claremont Colleges and the History Department of Cal Poly Pomona. During one week last summer, five weekends during the 2001-2002 school year, and two weeks this summer, she has worked with college professors and high school World History teachers to develop lesson plans for the relatively new World History curriculum. The project funded lectures and workshops given by professors from Mexico, Zimbabwe, and area specialists. Mrs. Yang feels that the institute was well worth her time, opened up many new ideas for teaching World History, and connected her with professors and teachers who are endeavoring to make history meaningful and alive to students. ☐

Eye on Acaciawood

is published by Acaciawood School, a non-profit, public benefit corporation dedicated to the development of the character, intellect, and physical well-being of children. The corporation is organized to train and educate children through the rigorous promotion of high standards of academic excellence in the essential components of a college preparatory curriculum, both in the arts and sciences. Acaciawood is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and currently offers instruction in grades 2 through 12. For more information, contact us at:

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