



Eye on Acaciawood

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

A Quarterly Report of Acaciawood School and College Preparatory Academy ~ 2005 Spring Quarter

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FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES: MINI-INSTITUTE AT ACACIAWOOD

Last year from May 5 through 7, 2004, Acaciawood faculty received a three-day on-site training in the programs and materials offered by *Facing History and Ourselves*, a nationally recognized premier educational and professional development organization. Their mission is to help teachers and students address issues of racism, hate crimes, violence, and other forms of prejudice in order to produce better informed and responsible citizens of the future. Because their programs reinforced the direction of our NEH project, we were able to use NEH funds for the entire mini-institute. And through a generous arrangement with the *Facing History and*

STATE WINNERS IN CALIFORNIA GO TO NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MARYLAND

For five years in a row, Acaciawood has sent students to the national level of competition for National History Day at the University of Maryland. For four years in a row, Acaciawood students have been winners at the national level! This past June (2004) Acaciawood sent four entries to Nationals. Stephen Barber entered a Senior Individual Exhibit entitled *The Armenian Genocide: A Nation's Struggle for Independence*. Grace Pester, Grace Liau, and Hsiang-En Liu entered a Senior Group Documentary entitled *Poliomyelitis: Overcoming Crippling Encounters and Contagious Exchanges through Scientific Exploration*. Deborah Scatterday, Melissa Jones, and Aletheia Miyake entered a Senior Group Performance entitled *The Zionist Dream: Political Exchanges, Military Encounters, and Exploration into*

Statehood for Israel. Jessy Kim and Angela Lee entered a Senior Group Exhibit entitled "*It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times*": *The Japanese Occupation of Korea 1910-1945*. Stephen, Aletheia, Melissa, and Deborah were finalists in the competition. Jessy and Angela went on to win Third Place at the national level. Phenomenal! We have also recently learned that the poliomyelitis documentary was awarded a Silver Key in the Scholastic Arts Regional Competition, which includes video entries in all artistic formats. Over 700,000 students participate in the National History Day program every year and only a few hundred win at the national level. What hard work and what an honor to have our students win awards at such a high level! We are very proud of all of them! ☺

Ourselves staff, Acaciawood was able to offer this educational seminar to the entire faculty in a way that maximized our time and budget constraints. With the completion of this *Facing History and Ourselves* mini-institute, our faculty now has lifetime privileges to request free materials from their extensive video lending library, instructional materials, and mentoring services. Several students even now are utilizing some of these video resources for their National History Day projects this year. The school also has been given a set of the main *Facing History and Ourselves* textbook, *Holocaust and Human Behavior*, as a support to our history programs.

Keeping abreast of professional development opportunities is often challenging for full and part-time teachers, but it is necessary in order to provide our students with the best and most up-to-date research in education. We are continually looking for opportunities for quality programs for teacher development and training, not only related to specific course subjects, but also related to the general practice of teaching and instruction. We are grateful for the cooperation of Acaciawood's administration, the faculty, the parents who served as substitute teachers during this time, and the *Facing History and Ourselves* organization for making this opportunity happen. ☺

ACACIAWOOD HOOPS

The Acaciawood Golden Eagles basketball team continues to march through the 2004-2005 basketball season. Currently, the team is in first place in the San Joaquin League with a record of 18 wins and only 2 losses. In addition, it is ranked Number 4 among all Division V-A teams in the Southern Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. This is the first year that our team has been ranked in the section-wide Top Ten poll. Many of the boys are having outstanding seasons: Our co-captains, Danny Marks and Michael Mulligan, are among the leaders in all of Orange County in the categories of scoring, rebounds, steals, and assists. Aaron Miller, Andrew Pham, Jake Duddy, and Johnson Wu are close behind. More importantly, all of the players on the team have been able to contribute and learn. At this point, our team is assured of finishing in first place in the San Joaquin League with only 2 games remaining before the playoffs begin. Playoff pairings will be announced on February 13, 2005.



From the start of early morning practices (6:00 AM) during the summer to the final days before we learn who we will face in the playoffs, the players and coaches have looked forward to the playoffs with the goal of advancing further into the playoffs, and setting a new standard of excellence in Acaciawood basketball history. We hope that many parents and students will come out to support the team during our playoff drive. Round 1 of the playoffs will be a home game that will be scheduled for a 7:30 PM start time, so it will be convenient to attend, both in terms of time and travel. Please contact the AWS office, beginning Monday, February 14, for full details. Every playoff game will be intense and involve good competition, so parents and students need to provide victory "assist." Go Golden Eagles! ☐

WW II HERO VISITS ACACIAWOOD

You have just landed in the first wave on Omaha Beach at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, and you can see men dying all around you. You and your men are caught in unrelenting cross-fire. What do you do? Our upper school students were presented with this dilemma during an assembly with Walter Ehlers, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Mr. Ehlers told our students that he knew that his men had to "keep moving or die," and he was very proud of the fact that he did not lose one of his men on D-Day. Mr. Ehlers also shared his faith with the school assembly, including his belief that God's hand was sovereignly with him. He spoke of meeting Presidents and Generals, but when he was asked who was the most impressive person he had ever met, he replied without hesitation that it was his mother because of her love and faith. We are grateful for his visit to our school and thankful for positive roles models who can speak with appreciation and candor about their faith and trust in the Lord. ☐

A STORY OF TOIL AND EFFORT: THE CONSTRUCTION OF "ACACIADOME"

The story of Acaciadome begins in 2002 when a need for an indoor practice facility for Acaciawood sports arose. Our athletic teams wanted to reach a higher level of excellence and the prospect of only practicing outside on asphalt and being at the mercy of the weather was not conducive to this goal. Within a short period of time, we secured a 50 by 100 foot section in a nearby warehouse and "Acaciadome" came into existence. Work to make the space habitable began in March 2002 with one adult and three students. Floors were degreased, walls were power washed, windows were cleaned, and feelings were lifted as the transformation of a 50-year old warehouse into a basketball and volleyball court took place. As enthusiasm for the project grew, different crews of young

people worked days and nights to complete the project by the end of March. Forest green floors with bright yellow trim outlined the concrete court. Two basketball backboards and a volleyball net were installed. For two years the students and staff of Acaciawood enjoyed the use of this facility, but in 2003 the space had to be relinquished and Acaciadome was relocated to another warehouse site, and the same transformation process had to begin all over again, including clearing space, cleaning, and painting. This time, however, an earnest search began for a real hardwood flooring, rather than just green paint and concrete. In July, the basketball coach for Fairmont Prep, Josh Cameron, informed our coach, Jim Duddy, that Fairmont was getting a new gym floor

and that Acaciawood could have their old one. There was only one problem: the entire gym floor had to be cut into over 90 pieces in order to be removed. Still, it was an offer too good to pass up, and our basketball players, students, and coaches loaded and lugged the pieces to the new Acaciadome site. Acaciawood parent, Mike Jones, remembers the re-assembly process, "It was kind of like putting a puzzle together. We just kind of figured it out." With each piece weighing between 250 and 400 pounds, the assembly of this puzzle was not easy. The construction of the floor was a significant accomplishment for our school, and we are grateful for all who participated. A story about the construction project was even published in *The Orange County Register*. ☐

ON THE BALL: A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON FOR THE LADY EAGLES VOLLEYBALL TEAM

This year was a groundbreaking year for the AcaciaWood Volleyball team, consisting of Shenandoah Yang, Grace Cheng, Grace Pester, Melissa Jones, Aletheia Miyake, Deborah Scatterday, Sharon Warden, Grace Liau, Wonju Shon, Isel Lee, Anna Cheung, Rebecca Buntain, Leslie Martinez, Jessy Kim, Angela Lee, Sarah Lyon, Elizabeth Huck, and Mary Fok. They posted an undefeated record of 12-0 in league play and an overall record of 18-2, advancing all the way to the quarter-finals of the CIF (California Intercollegiate Federation) playoffs, farther than they have ever advanced before.

But this year's achievements were not easy to attain. In order to advance so



far, they grew as a team. Sharing a common love for the game and bonding at practice, the team also united in school. With a small campus and student body, they were able to spend much time together and become a team both on and off the court. This strengthened their game and enabled them to pull out victories through solid teamwork.

Not only did the volleyball team battle opponents, but they also met the challenge of daily schoolwork. To remain active on the volleyball team, all players are required to maintain good grades. This requirement forced the

team to not only excel athletically, but also academically. The volleyball team had to balance time between schoolwork, daily practices, and usually two games per a week.

Four players, Shenandoah Yang, Leslie Martinez, Anna Cheung, and Sarah Lyon, were named as first or second team All-Stars in the Express League. Head Coach Huong Nyguen was named Express League Coach of the Year, and team captain Melissa Jones was awarded Express League Most Valuable Player and named to the All-CIF, Division VA, Southern Section Team. Overall, it was a rewarding season. The entire team looks forward to the next year with great anticipation. 📷

NEH GRANT: DIGITALLY PRESERVING ADOLESCENT MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

Between July 2002 and August 2004, AcaciaWood School received a generous grant of nearly \$100,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. We were approved under a program entitled "Schools for the New Millennium." Proposals for this program were required to incorporate new technologies into humanities-related curricula. Our project involved creating a digital archives of oral history in three areas of World War II: the Holocaust, Japanese Internment, and the Home Front. Over the course of the two years, teachers and students received training in oral history skills from two of our major partners, California State University, Long Beach and the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton. Students were directly involved in interviewing, transcribing, cataloguing, and analyzing data from our narrators. In the final phase of the archive, a select group of students took part in an Advanced Computer Applications course offered in the summer of

2004 to create a digital website that will eventually showcase our collection of oral histories. The archives also exist in hard copy in the AcaciaWood Library and are available for check out. Our students are using them now as they prepare for another exciting year of National History Day. The final phase of the project will involve the production of a documentary about the entire process and a packet that will be made available to other schools who are interested in oral history components in their curriculum. We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for their generous funding. Through the grant we have been able to purchase two computers, two cameras that have become indispensable items in our academic programs, an LCD projector, and a set of Dreamweaver website software, among many other books and intangible items. Last year, our students also were able to take an overnight field trip to the Manzanar Historic Site, a former Japanese internment camp. 📷

GUEST SPEAKERS AT ACACIAWOOD

During the 2003-2004 academic year, as a result of the funding from our National Endowment for the Humanities grant, AcaciaWood hosted two prominent guest speakers: Mr. Aaron Friedman, a personal bodyguard of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, spoke on his role in Israel's struggle for nationhood. Before Israel was recognized as a state, he helped displaced Jews enter the land of Palestine, secretly bypassing British coastal patrols. After the formation of the state of Israel, he assisted the new government. Mr. Leon Leyson, the youngest member on Schindler's List, spoke about his experiences in escaping capture and death by the Nazi's and of his relationship with Oskar Schindler. He was a consultant for the movie *Schindler's List*. What an enriching experience of living history for our students! We are grateful to these men and to the NEH for its funding support. 📷



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Acaciawood School and College Preparatory Academy



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 21** No school, President's Day
- Mar. 19** Orange County NHD
- Mar. 28**
- April 1** Spring Break
- May 5--8** State NHD, San Diego
- May 27--30** Memorial Day Holiday
- June 8** Last day of school
- June 9** Graduation, Class of 2005
- June 12--16** National NHD, College Park, MD.

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.

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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IT'S ELEMENTARY: HALF-TIME HUDDLE

Our elementary school has a special 20-minute time in the middle of our morning schedule called Half-Time Huddle, which establishes the uniqueness and morale of each grade as a group; educates and trains our students in school procedures; affords opportunities for leadership training, and inspires the students to become persons of the highest character. Some of the activities during this time include: 1) Character Lessons, including stories and discussions about healthy character traits, 2) Homework Hall of Fame, involving recognition of the student's hard work in turning in homework on time, 3) Announcements by ASB officers to encourage involvement in school wide activities and to build camaraderie, 4) Presentations of long-term student projects, 5) Singing songs to inspire character development, 6) Testimonials to inspire students along life's way, and 6) Reviewing rules and school safety procedures. ☐