

# PH Spirit

FALL 2015



*A PUBLICATION FOR  
THE COMMUNITY OF  
PARACLETE HIGH SCHOOL*

*The Catholic High School of the Antelope Valley*





# PHSpirit

FALL 2015

PHSpirit is published biannually by the Office of Institutional Advancement at Paraclete High School for alumni, parents, and friends.

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### On the Cover:

2015 Paraclete grads celebrate at Paraclete's 49th Commencement Exercises at "The Hangar."  
From left: Andre Badilla, Gabrielle Blanco, and Jennie-Marie Britton



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# Class of 2015

*Words from our new alumni...*

## Most memorable or positive experience?

“...being able to influence the underclassmen to enjoy and cherish their high school.”

-Alexander S. Williams

“My most positive experience was the Lip Dub video! It was cool watching the entire school come together as a family/team.”

-Kaci Krause

“...having everyone be so welcoming when I transferred second semester of my sophomore year. Paraclete really is a family.”

-Danika Lesniak

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“...expanding my knowledge and breaking out of my shell.”  
-Franklin Tieu

“There are far too many to count – all I can say is that I wouldn’t trade these four years for the world!”

-James Horney

“...growing closer with my faith and my class family.”

-Jennifer Littlejohn

“...receiving flowers from the underclassmen at my last all-school Mass for being a ‘spiritual leader’ to them.”

-Alisabeth Rogers

“...gathering as a Paraclete Family for Mass.”

-Addyson Williams

## *Congratulations*

2015 Paraclete graduates!

Information available as of 8-3-2015

109 plan to attend 4-year universities.

46 plan to attend 2-year colleges (community college in or out of state).

2 students plan to attend vocational school.

2 students have proudly entered the military.

99% plan to continue education beyond high school.



2015 grads singing Alma Mater



Senior Class 2015

Photos: Karen Hernandez

2015 Baccalaureate Mass



Grads processing in at "The Hangar"



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Valedictorians and Salutatorians



Happy grads from left: Cash Kearns, Jennie-Marie Britton, Brennan Bryant, Nicolas Lasalle, Aaron Lederer, and Isaiah Eruaga

ALUMNI – Paraclete is still the same great school! Consider a charitable gift to your alma mater to help a student with tuition. Contact Vicki Novelli at [VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:VNovelli@ParacleteHS.org) or (661) 943-3255 ext. 128 for more information on how to help. Stay connected and email your news to [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org).



*Celebration on the field*



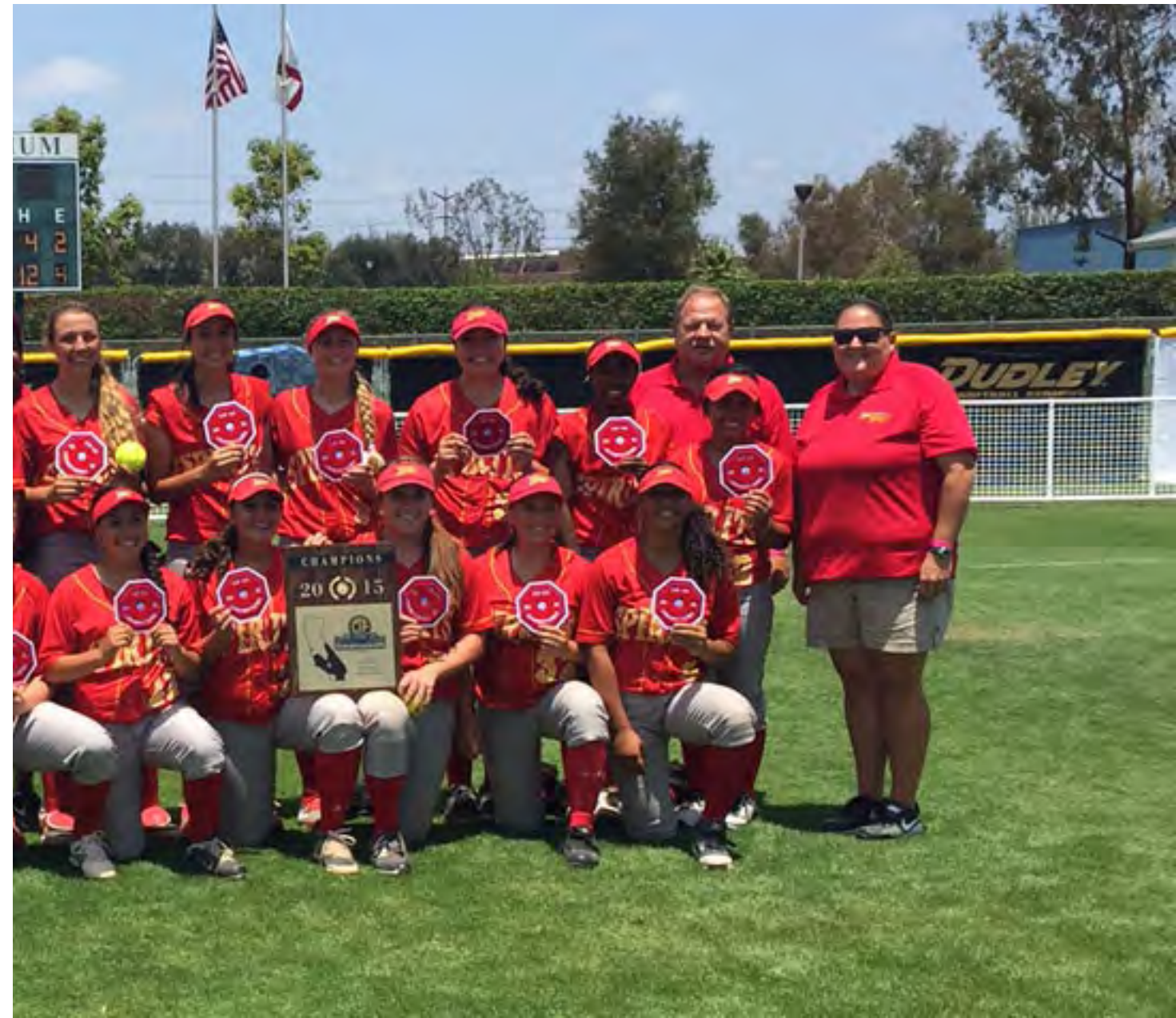
*Softball CIF Championship Team*

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*“There’s forty-five messages on my phone right now,” Coach Neill said, almost in disbelief. “Probably a lot of alumni and former players. This win is for all of them. It’s for all the kids who played here and all the coaches who have coached with me.”*

## Spirits Sparkle on the Diamond! *Pitching Up Championship Softball!*

A 9-2 victory on June 6th over Savanna High School of Anaheim gave Paraclete High School its first CIF-Southern Section Championship in eight title game appearances dating back to 1981. A deep lineup was the trademark for the Spirits all season and it was on display in the Division 6 Championship Game in Irvine. Congratulations to the Lady Spirits and Coach Margaret Neill! The win isn’t just for Neill, the current players and Paraclete, but also for everyone who ever played on the Paraclete softball team. “This was definitely a program win. An encompassing win,” shared Neill.



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*We DO love softball!*



# Summer Honors Biology

## *Huge Success*

July 23rd was their last day of class...yes, in just five weeks of summer school, they had done the whole year of Biology Honors! The twenty-four new ninth graders worked from 8:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. each day under the guidance of Mrs. Marlene McShea and Ms. Nora King. Four students (rising seniors) assisted as lab techs.

Paraclete High School is answering the demand for more science, math and technology. This summer course for ninth grade honors students will provide options for more electives and AP courses in the future.

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### *From a Parent:*

“I am amazed at the growth I have seen in my son these last five weeks. What a great transition to high school!”

### *From a Student:*

“I learned that in science, when you are looking for an answer it leads to more questions!”

### *From Mrs. McShea and Ms. King:*

“These are wonderfully smart and curious students!”

“It was so much fun. I am so glad I was a part of it!”

### *From the Lab Techs:*

*Advice as the ninth graders begin their freshman year:*

“Don’t procrastinate.”

“Keep working hard; you’ll be fine!”

These talented freshmen will tackle Religion, Spanish or French, World History Honors, Pre-AP English, Geometry Honors, and PE/Health in the fall.

# Career Days *at PHS*

The Alumni Office and the College Counseling Office are partnering to bring Career Day back to the school for the junior and senior classes. We will welcome alumni and parents to share their expertise in a variety of careers on April 6th and 13th of 2016.

Guest speakers are lining up, but we still have room available for more! If you are interested in participating, please contact the Alumni Office at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or 661.943.3255 ext. 111.



# What Is a CyberPatriot?

*Paraclete will have a CyberPatriot team for the 2015-2016 school year!*

*News Release from June 16, 2015:*

Paraclete High School to compete in National Youth Cyber Defense Competition!

Lancaster, CA- Paraclete High School announced today its participation in the eighth season of CyberPatriot's National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. Beginning in October 2015, students from the high school division out of Lancaster, CA will compete in the Open Division against similar teams across the country. This is the first year Paraclete will be competing.



CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association to inspire high school and middle school students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. The program features an annual competition, in which teams across the United States and Canada, as well as from Department of Defense Dependent Schools abroad, compete in a series of online rounds for a chance to earn an all-expenses-paid trip to the in-person CyberPatriot National Finals Competition in Baltimore, MD in the spring. There, students have the opportunity to win scholarships and network with industry leaders.

“Paraclete has always been a STEM school, and our technology program has seen tremendous growth in the last few years. The addition of the Cyber Patriot program allows our students to jump into a new realm of skills. This unique program emphasizing cyber security is only offered at one other school in the Antelope Valley – Desert High School at Edwards Air Force Base. It is a great complement to our lineup - robotics, computer science, and 1:1 iPads for students,” said Deb Stevens, Technology Director.

CyberPatriot greatly benefits from the support and technical expertise of its presenting sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Other sponsors include Cyber Diamond sponsors: AT&T Federal and the AT&T Foundation, Cisco, Microsoft, USA Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Cyber Gold sponsors: Facebook, Riverside Research, Splunk, and Symantec; and Cyber Silver sponsors: the Air Force Reserve, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Leidos, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and University of Maryland University College. More information is available at [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org)

The Air Force Association is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Our mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage.

# Key Club News

April 11, 2015 was the last Key Club Divisional Council Meeting for 2014-2015. Awards were given to the various schools and the Division Officers were selected. Paraclete received a plaque for "Most Improved Club" and PHS student Michael Loria received the Distinguished Secretary trophy. Representing Paraclete at the event were Katherine Heflin (incoming President), Michael Loria (incoming co-Vice President), and Christine Mendoza (member). Congratulations to Paraclete Key Club for their continued service to the community! We are proud of our students!



Key Club Division award.

## Museum of Art and History (MOAH)



Oil painting by PHS junior Anna Guillermo

Thank you to PHS parent Ben Maish for securing an invitation for Paraclete at the 30th Annual High School Exhibition at the Museum of Art and History (MOAH) in Lancaster. Prior to 2015, the event was open only to the high schools within the Antelope Valley Union High School District. Ben, local U.S. Bank Manager and treasurer for the Lancaster Museum & Public Art Foundation, thought that all local high schools should be included, and the board agreed. PHS junior Anna Guillermo submitted some of her oil paintings for the event. To view a video that includes Anna's work go to <http://www.lancastermoah.org/exhibition.php?id=275>. We look forward to greater participation in the 2016 exhibition!

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### In Memoriam...

Almighty God, we remember before You today Your faithful servants – the Paraclete Family members who have passed on; and we pray that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, You will receive them more and more into Your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served You in the past, they may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy, one God.

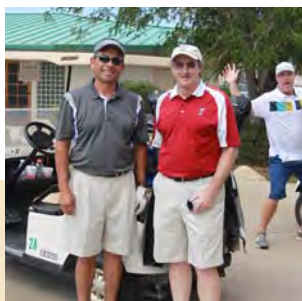
*Joe Slavin*, former teacher, coach, dean, athletic director, vice-principal, and driver's education instructor passed away on April 19, 2015. Alums from the early days might recall that Coach and Mrs. Slavin cooked the best burgers ever for lunch from the lunch room windows!

*Mike McGuire*, teacher, coach and vice-principal, passed in December 2014.

*Mike Rice*, Class of '67



# Annual Golf Tournament



*Dave Gutierrez '77 with PHS parent David Baughman*



*Father Doug Walker '80 and PHS teacher and Director of Football Operations Bill Prinz*



*Dave Gutierrez '77 and Ron Hier '77*



*Standing: Ron Hier '77 and PHS Athletic Director Margaret Neill '73, sitting: assistant girls soccer coach Shawna Saitta and PHS soccer coach Tracey Hill*



*Teacher, dean, and coach Mike Kelley and Director of Admissions Greg Burnias*

Thank you to everyone that helped with (and participated in) the Paraclete High School Booster Club Annual Golf Tournament that was held on June 12, 2015. This fundraiser was held at the beautiful Antelope Valley Country Club in Palmdale. Along with the help of the Country Club's staff, we had a fantastic turnout and another successful event. We had close to sixty golfers (some from out of state) and a great time was had by all. The Golf Tournament was capped off with a delicious tri-tip dinner, awards ceremony, and a spectacular array of raffle prizes.

A special thank you goes out to the two superstars that were the backbone of this event: Natalie Handy Klucz and Sarah Shields.

Thank you again for your support of the PHS Booster Club Golf Tournament.

Ron Hier '77  
Committee Chair

# Celebrations!



Mary Pat Reilly (class of '71), Bishop Ryan, and Trish Whidden Cronin (former PHS staff member)



Bishop Ryan, center, at the Mass celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Bishop

Bishop Sylvester Ryan, Bishop of Monterey, retired, (former Paraclete director and principal from 1968-1971) celebrated the 25th anniversary of his installation as bishop on June 1, 2015. Mass was celebrated at Madonna Del Sasso Catholic Church in Salinas, California. Our best wishes to Bishop Ryan on continued blessings!

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Monsignor Douglas Saunders (Paraclete principal from 1974-1980) celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood on May 2nd at St. Maria Goretti Church in Long Beach. Blessings to Monsignor Saunders for his dedicated service to several Catholic communities.



Laurie Lee ('81), Linda Lee ('73), Monsignor Saunders, Janet (Godde) Bower ('74), and Dona (Berry) Ufert ('75) celebrating the anniversary.

# Reunions

## *Class of 1995 Reunion!*

Twenty years? No way!!!

Let's have a great time! The 20th reunion will be held Friday, October 23rd, and Saturday, October 24th. See the Facebook page for additional details at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/792481824127768/>

## *Class of 1985 Reunion!*

After thirty years, it's time to reconnect. Stay tuned for details.

## *Class of 2005 Reunion!*

Save the date! Saturday, September 26 from 4 to 7 PM in the Antelope Valley. More details to come.

Please contact Christina Garcia at [christina1111@gmail.com](mailto:christina1111@gmail.com) for additional information. See also the Facebook page for the Paraclete High School Class of 2005 Reunion:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/743403082364305/>



# Visit to the Air Force Research Lab

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In February, forty-two students from the Physics Honors and AP Calculus classes visited the Air Force Research Lab. The day included tours of the Heritage Museum, the Fabrication Shop, and the Electric Propulsion Lab. There was also a demonstration of resistive coating at the Chem Laboratory. Students came away with aspirations of becoming aerospace engineers like those they met during the tours!

Thanks to the PPO (Paraclete Parent Organization) for providing the bus that made the day possible!

*Aeronautical Field Trip!*



# Principal Thoughts



Dear Friends,

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It is an exciting time to be a Spirit!! The start of the school year is such a wonderful time, as everything is new. The classrooms and campus have been given a new shine, the students have their new schedules, and everyone is filled with the hope of straight A's. I am sure our alumni can remember the excitement of seeing old friends and the challenges that come with the start of the school year. It is truly the best time of the year!

As this is a beginning of the year edition, it is probably a good time to focus on the importance of our alumni and patrons in the long term good of the school. At the end of last school year, I went to each senior class and reminded them that their success was not just a reflection on them, but on each of their families and the alumni who came before them. Their success is built on the shoulders of those who came before. I reminded them that now, as alumni, they share in the responsibility of doing good things the right way in our community. It is now their responsibility to continue to lay the foundation of success for the graduates

that follow them. They are pieces of an over 5,800 piece puzzle whose responsibility is to make sure Paraclete continues to be seen as the premier high school in the Antelope Valley. To our alumni: your success is our success and our success is yours. When the Spirits softball team won its first CIF championship this June, that championship belonged to each of us. When we celebrate Mass here at school, we remember all of our alumni in our intentions. We truly are a community of faith, strengthened by God.

I am sure many of you remember coming to Paraclete and the sacrifices your family made to send you here. Many of you benefitted from the weekly bingo sessions in the gym, the hard work many of your parents did in and around the campus, and the sacrifices your parents made at home. One of the most rewarding moments for me is seeing the smiling faces of the students whose parents I worked so closely with financially to make sure they made it to graduation. Every year we send our annual appeal and every year we average about a 5% return rate. This year, when you receive the appeal, I ask you to consider helping one of our struggling Paraclete families continue to experience a Paraclete education. An annual gift is a most meaningful way to ensure that happens. Thank you for your consideration.

The school and its students are only as strong as our alumni base, and the loving support of parents and other patrons. You make a difference to the students here today and I thank you. I thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

As always, I am yours in Christ,

*John Anson*  
Principal

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Each year, alumni, parents, past parents, and friends support Paraclete High School by contributing to PHS' fundraising efforts. The Paraclete Annual Fund and other fundraising programs allow us to continue to make PHS an outstanding school. Our sincerest appreciation goes to all those listed below for their meaningful endorsement of the mission of Paraclete High School. The list below encompasses the fiscal year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

*In reports of this nature, mistakes are inevitable. If your gift was omitted or improperly noted, please accept our apology. If you have notice such an error, please notify the Advancement Office at 661-943-3255 ext. 128, so we can correct our records.*

*Following the names are graduating years for alumni members of the family listed, when known.*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 24 Hour Fitness  | Bex Bar and Grill                                  | Mr. & Mrs. John and Linda Ciuffo '07, '09            |
| 4 Points Swap Meet                                     | Big 5  | Sheri Ciuffo '09                                     |
| ACI  | Birdies Driving Range                              | City of Lancaster                                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Abaya                                | BJ's Brewhouse                                     | City of Palmdale                                     |
| Absolute Bail Bonds                                    | Black Angus  | Claim Jumper   |
| Mrs. Seres Sosnowski Abueg '90                         | Mr. Kenneth Blair                                  | Mr. Joe Clark  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Alberto and Maria Acosta-Vigo               | Mr. & Mrs. Augusto Blanco                          | Clearview Optometry                                  |
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| Mr. Danny Addison                                      | Mr. & Mrs. Rusty and Ramona Blanski                | The Coffee Bean                                      |
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| Albertson's  | Mrs. Josie Jean Bonorris                           | Mr. & Mrs. Kevin and Kathleen Coleman '15            |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Brian Alessi                                | Boulevard Flooring Emporium                        | Mr. & Mrs. James Conway '14                          |
| All Crete Inc.   | Mr. & Mrs. Jeff and Janet Bower '74, '75           | Mr. & Mrs. Leroy and Sandra Coon                     |
| All Valley Surveying                                   | Mr. & Mrs. Kyle and Karlyn Bower '00               | Mr. John Costanza in honor of Dr Bacchus             |
| Mr. & Mrs. Frank Allen                                 | Dr. Boyd   | Costco   |
| Allied Physical Medicine                               | Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Karen Bozigian '76             | Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso Covarrubias '12, '13              |
| Mr. Victor Allstead                                    | Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Bozigian                          | Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Craig '10, '14                     |
| Mr. & Mrs. John and Barbara Ament '96, '98, & '01      | Ms. Laura Bradford '13                             | Critical Car Care                                    |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Merwyn Anesetti                             | Brener Zwikel and Assoc. Inc.                      | Mr. Noel Cruz  |
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| Ms. Catherine Anson '06                                | Mr. & Mrs. Willie Brown                            | Mr. Zac Cullen                                       |
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| Antelope Valley Community College                      | Broken Bit   | Daoust Family '81, '83, '94                          |
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| Antelope Valley Florist                                | Mr. & Mrs. David Buck                              | Mr. & Mrs. Craig and Lynda Davidson '14              |
| Antelope Valley Ford Lincoln                           | Dr. & Mrs. Timothy Buckley '13                     | Davidson Family                                      |
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| AV Bingo Supply  | Mr. John Caffrey                                   | Mr. Gayland Devers                                   |
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| Aven's   | Ms. Victoria Camacho                               | Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Debbie Dill '67                 |
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| Ms. Barbara Ballman                                    | Mr. & Mrs. David and Julie Carlile                 | Dobbin Family  |
| Bandziulis Family '09, '11, '11                        | Carpeteria   | Ms. Lorraine Dobbins                                 |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Barela                              | Mr. & Mrs. Shelton Carter                          | Mr. Steve Dombrowski '95                             |
| Ms. Annette Keeler Barfield '72                        | Casa Bella   | Don Juan Mexican and Seafood                         |
| Barnes and Noble                                       | Casa Gutierrez                                     | Double D's Cupcakes                                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Dana Barnhart '11, '14           | Cash Family  | Drytown Water Park                                   |
| Ms. Caroline Bartolotta                                | Ms. Maria Caspers                                  | Mr. & Mrs. John Duster                               |
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Fireside Catholic Publishing  
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Mr. Jonathan Galier '75, '77, & '82  
M T & Charlene Gallagher  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and Michelle Garvey '75  
Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Gates  
Mr. & Mrs. David and Deborah Gatling '08  
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Mr. David Gutierrez '77  
Mr. Edward Haering  
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Haller  
Harley Davidson  
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Ms. Dena Kendrick  
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Lancaster Honda  
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Leandro Family  
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Mr. John Edward Moro '04  
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Ms. Melody Mundy  
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Yaroslaski Family '83, '85, '88, '91  
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# Faculty & Staff News

## *Retiring from the Paraclete Family*

**Mary Ruth Farrell** began her career in education (teaching just about everything from kindergarten to high school) in 1963, adding up to fifty-two years! She joined Paraclete in 1986 and served as the chairperson for the English and Math departments, as well as teacher, and librarian. Mrs. Farrell's son, Andrew, graduated from Paraclete in 1990. She continues to learn and is taking online courses. Mrs. Farrell looks forward to gardening with her husband, Gerald, on their half acre they call home. God bless Mary Ruth for her dedication to education!

**Janice Wiskerson** retired after thirty-nine years in education. She taught multiple subjects including those in Social Studies, English, Health, and the Arts, and has served as the Head Academic Counselor as well as Art Club Moderator. She started the SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers) Chapter at Paraclete High School. Jan has worn many hats in her thirty-five years at Paraclete and will be sorely missed!

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**Lee Laferriere** retired from Paraclete High School after teaching for twenty-six years. He has served as a teacher, basketball and football coach, and class moderator; chaired the Religion Department, and tackled the position of Boys Dean for many years. He started the Academic Decathlon Team at Paraclete. As a man who will continue to minister to others, Lee will not be an idle man in his retirement. May God continue to guide Lee with His love as he continues his ministry.



*From left, Principal John Anson with retirees Jan Wiskerson, Mary Ruth Farrell, and Lee Laferriere.*

## Faculty Updates



**Albert Landa**, Senior Religion, Counseling – “However I have been called to serve the students of Paraclete over the years, it has been a privilege and a pleasure. I taught senior religion for ten years, then I was the College and Career counselor for ten and now I am combining the two (for now). I am also now a part-time counselor at AVC, which has helped me tremendously in my ability to guide our students who choose to attend a community college. My three “children” who graduated from Paraclete are now college grads (Will '08, Felicity '09, Sarah '11). I have a son, Joel, who is a sophomore at Paraclete now, and Jacob will be here in two years. I always enjoy seeing graduates in the community and hearing from you as well: [alanda@paracletehs.org](mailto:alanda@paracletehs.org).”

**Michelle Erickson**, Math Chairwoman-The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium recognized Paraclete teacher Michelle Erickson in May with the “Teacher of Excellence” award for her commitment to promoting awareness and positive change through environmental education in and out of the classroom. In addition to a beautiful plaque, Michelle received a monetary award, a laminator, and a large selection of office supplies. Congratulations to Mrs. Erickson for making our Paraclete community proud!

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**Andy Gavel**, Social Studies Chairman, teacher – “Hello to all members of the Paraclete family. I just completed my thirtieth year at Paraclete, and, of course, change has become inevitable. When I started here in 1982, our Social Studies classes were held in Freshman Hall. This year we are welcoming freshmen into our Honors World History classes. We used to do the Stock Market game with newspapers and listing stock prices on blackboards. We have evolved from desktop computers to personal iPads which allow every Econ student the opportunity to work on that simulation daily. We still offer AP US History (APUSH) and AP Government & Politics (APGOPO), but know that I have been an AP reader for the GOPO exam the last three years, which has been the most challenging and rewarding experience in my teaching career. However, some things never really change, as the Social Studies Department has remained one of the most stable departments at Paraclete with Mrs. Keever (formerly Ms. Dela Vina, third year with us), Mr. Fulmer, Mr. Keever, Mr. McGuire, and myself still roaming hallways and classrooms, happy to see you any time you are on campus.”

## Alumni in the Military

Please send an email to [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) if you have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military. Simply let us know which branch. If you'd like, share any news about you, your family, and/or your service. We appreciate your service and dedication to our great country. Thank you!

# Making a Difference

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).*

Gabby Ruiz from the Class of 2014 volunteered for the GIVE program (Growth International Volunteer Excursions). A letter from Gabby:

"It was a phenomenal two weeks I spent in Northern Thailand (the Chiang Mai region). In our first volunteer excursion, we visited a Lahu Hill tribe, where we worked on building a school made entirely from a wooden frame, cement, and 1.25 liter bottles filled to the maximum capacity of dirt which makes them so solid they are as sturdy as bricks! While in this tribe, we got the chance to not only learn about its peoples' culture, but we were able to interact with the adults and children. We even learned a tad of their language: Abu-yah means hello, thank you, and goodbye. Once we had to leave the village after our second day of work, we headed back to our main headquarters in a Karen Hill tribe. It was here where we got to hike to caves in which we explored and learned more about the nature of Thailand. From Monday June 8-Friday June 12, we were on a working schedule where we could either pick to work on a construction project of building a nine foot water tank to provide water for 55 families that are without it during dry season, or we could teach in the local schools. Our entire goal as an organization is to promote sustainability. In our construction projects, we worked with the people so that in any future need, they know how we built the projects, so they themselves can replicate the design. In using the plastic bottles, we not only recycled and disposed of waste, but we cleaned their air and land because in these regions, trash is disposed of by either throwing it anywhere on the floor of the jungles, or by burning the plastic. Personally, I split my time evenly between construction and teaching. On Monday I taught the entire day. It was during the afternoon session where I came across my own very special student. His name is Tor, pronounced (Tho), and when I arrived at the school, he was simply wandering around the campus while everyone else was in class. He is the school's only special needs student, and unfortunately, there are no programs available to fit his needs. I

was able to take him aside and in one day he had learned his ABC's! He was phenomenal. The schools asked us to come and teach English, because they currently already have English programs in their schools, but no native English speakers to teach them, which is where we come in. On Tuesday, I worked construction in the morning, and in the afternoon returned to the school to again teach Tor. The more I began to teach him one on one, the more I learned from him. He is highly intelligent when it comes to learning, he just needed someone to help him without the distractions of a class room. He identified some colors, and taught me so much in return. Even without me teaching him, he was able to reciprocate many lessons himself. The next day, Wednesday, I worked on the construction project all day because we were not going to be teaching Tor's age group. On the project, we focused on packing the bottles, making cement, and putting the tank together with these two ingredients. Thursday was a little different. Everyone had to do construction on this day for two reasons: one because the schools did not have school, and two because we were working on a different project which required us all to help. We had to drive about 45 minutes away up the mountain in order to build a dam which would trap the water that would be used in the filtered tank we were building on the side. This was a phenomenal project that we executed within a couple of hours. It was great to see how we used all the resources available to us in order to build it. All we brought were some shovels, buckets, and bags of cement. We used the water and the dirt of the area to mix the cement and we used the rocks around us as the building blocks. Again, we worked with the locals on this project which is such a beautiful experience. Although there is a language barrier, there is no barrier when working together for a common cause. On Friday we went back to our schedule. I did construction again in the morning and taught on the last class session with Tor. In seeing Tor from Monday to Friday, I saw such an immediate change and growth in him. When I first met him on Monday, he was shy and quiet, but by Friday he was running up to

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me to hug me and blabbering away telling me everything he could (whether I could understand or not). He was truly such a blessing to work with on this trip, and it broke my heart when I had to leave Tor. He is forever a great impact on my life.

“Saturday morning we woke up and hiked to the same location where we built the dam. Here we boarded man-made bamboo rafts in order to get to some villages so remote that this was the only way to them. We arrived this same day in another Karen village, known as the “Elephant Village.” Here we again immersed ourselves in their culture, interacted with the wonderful people, and learned some of their language: Da Blu means hello, thank you, and goodbye in Karen. On a side note, all of the villages we met spoke their own languages and some barely spoke any Thai. On Sunday morning while still in this village, we hiked to find some local elephant friends. We went with their Mahoot (the elephant keeper) and we were able to find them in the jungle and lead them to a river to bathe and feed them. Being so close to such a massive creature was not only humbling, but inspiring. They are the most loving and gentle creatures I have ever encountered. This rare opportunity truly teaches the power and love of God. His creations inspire me to look beyond myself and into the world He created. After this beautiful, early morning experience, we boarded the rafts again to visit our final village for the trip. The last village we visited was a Lisu Hill tribe, deep in the Northern Thailand Jungle. Here we again interacted with the locals, learned about and viewed their culture, and stayed the night in a wooden hut. The next morning we parted ways with our last village and rafted down the river. We arrived at a stop where the river becomes too treacherous. We white water rafted the remainder of the way until we arrived at a stop where trucks picked us up to take us back to Chiang Mai for one last night in the city. The next day everyone parted ways at different times, depending when our flights were departing. Leaving this experience was the hardest thing I had ever had to do. I learned so much and am already dying to go back and experience even more. Thailand empowered me to crave the adventure, laughter, and love that I experienced from all the people I came into contact with. I wish for everyone to be able to experience something like this, no matter what obstacles are in the way.

*Cap Khun Kah (thank you in Thai),  
Gabby Ruiz*

P.S. I also was able to visit temples, teach adults English, visit churches, and enjoy arts and crafts and cooking lessons with the locals!”

+ + + +

Thank you to our alums for the great work you are doing in your communities and around the world! Each and every volunteer makes an impact and our goal is to showcase that. To share your volunteer experience, contact Janet Bower '74, Alumni Coordinator, at [JBower@ParacleteHS.org](mailto:JBower@ParacleteHS.org) or 661.943.3255 ext. 111.

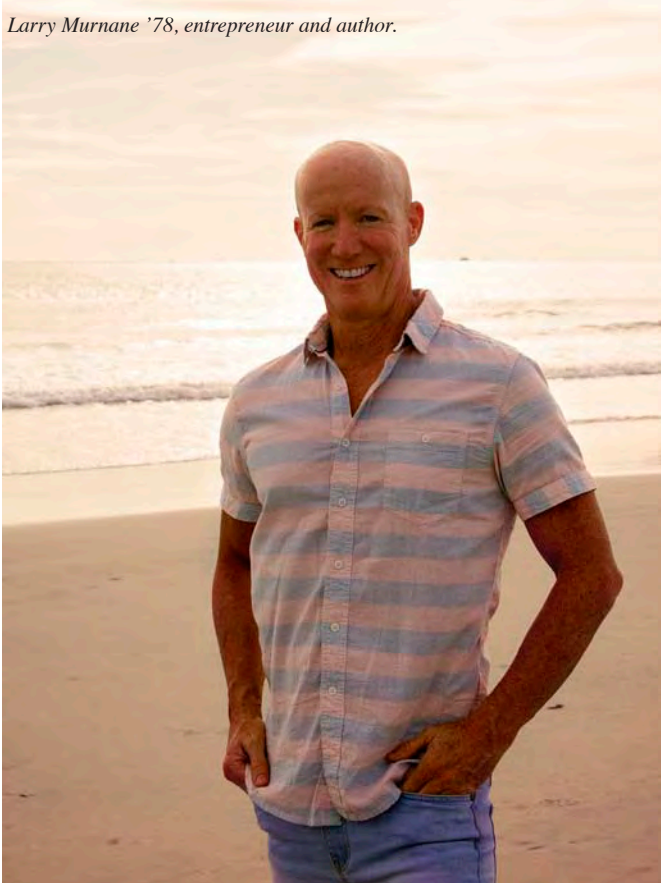


*Gabby's Adventure in Thailand!*

# Alumni Profile

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve on another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).*

Larry Murnane '78, entrepreneur and author.



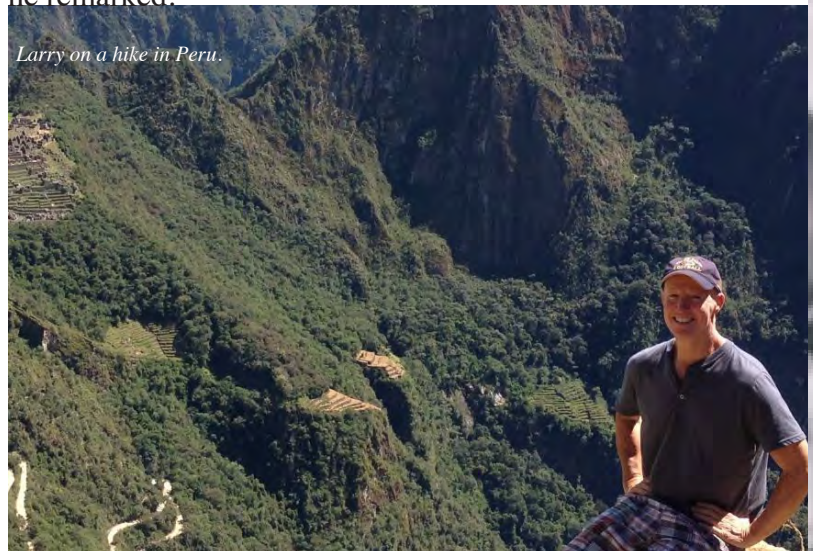
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Larry Murnane graduated from Paraclete in 1978, having lettered in 4 sports. He recently published a book, *LIMITLESS: How to Be, Have, Do and Accomplish Anything* - for which he donates 50% of all proceeds to charities benefiting underprivileged children ([www.LimitlessAchievement.com](http://www.LimitlessAchievement.com) or [www.Facebook.com/LimitlessAchievement](http://www.Facebook.com/LimitlessAchievement)). "Inspired by the positive response I received from players and fellow coaches, after designing and teaching a course to disadvantaged high school student-athletes for success on and off the field, I decided to write a book with hope the content and proceeds would help others," said Murnane. Readers' Favorite awarded the book 5 Stars, and early reviews have been overwhelmingly positive. As an unexpected offshoot, various companies, teams, and professional groups have begun hiring Larry to give motivational talks.

Larry has proven his achievement methods work by his own life accomplishments. Relatively diminutive in size, he played as a quarterback, defensive back, and special teams player at Paraclete High School and Santa Clara University. He graduated cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law. Overcoming a fear of public speaking, he won the vast majority of his cases as a trial lawyer before becoming a highly successful real estate lawyer, broker, and investor - handling over \$1 billion in transactions. Larry is the principal and founder of Regal Properties, a California real estate services corporation which donates 10% of its fees and commissions to charities ([www.RegalProperties.Net](http://www.RegalProperties.Net)).

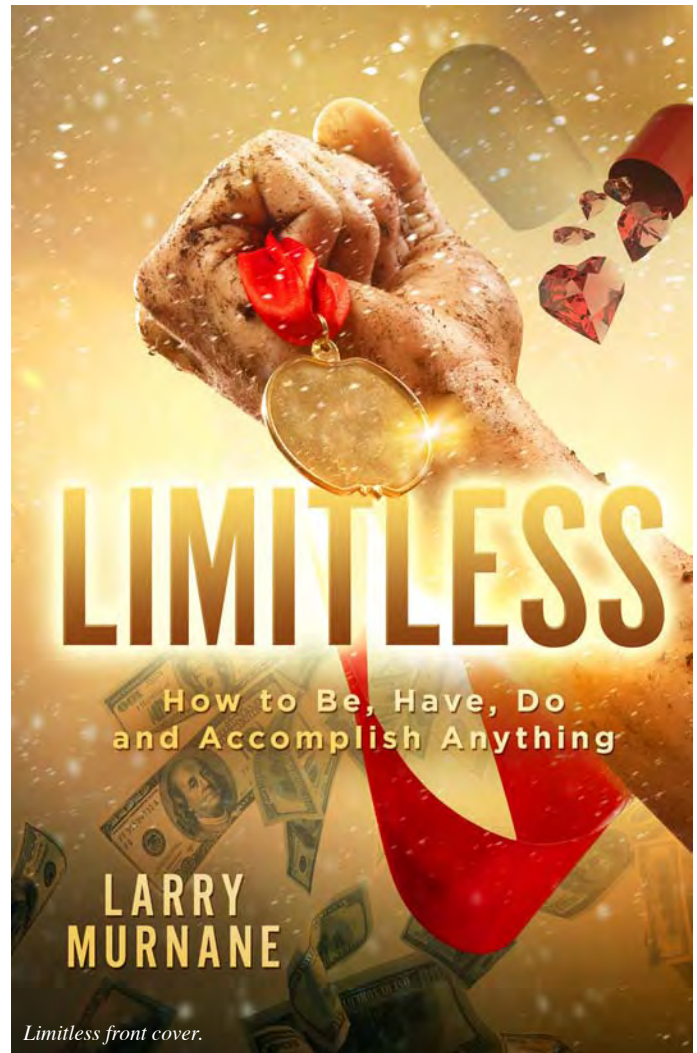
Larry's other accomplishments include studying at the prestigious London School of Economics, serving as a Judge Pro Tem and Arbitrator for the San Diego Superior Court, serving on various boards and panels for private companies, public agencies, and universities; founding the Angel Mentor Group as a business consulting and financial resource for emerging growth companies; teaching as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego; and receiving the Pro Bono Publico Distinguished Service Award as prevailing legal counsel in a class action lawsuit on behalf of San Diego's homeless population. "I attended Catholic schools from first grade through law school, and I have been well served by the guiding principal that the more I give of myself to others, the more I receive and the happier I am," he remarked.

Larry on a hike in Peru.



Larry has also traveled extensively in the United States and abroad, including Europe, Asia, Australia; and South, Central, and North America. He is currently studying to obtain a private pilot's license. As an offensive coordinator, he has coached American football in the Italian Football League, in Bologna and Catania, and at several San Diego high schools. He currently resides on Coronado Island in San Diego County, California, where he enjoys surfing, biking, guitar, and beach frisbee with his dog, Piper. Larry says his proudest accomplishments are his "two beautiful grown children, Shiloh and Conor, with families of their own - happily pursuing their life passions." Later this summer, Larry will marry his sweetheart and co-adventurer, Vanessa, before traveling to French Polynesia for their honeymoon.

When asked if he had any specific advice or success strategy to share with current Paraclete students, Larry replied: "Keep your thoughts, words, actions, and emotions laser-focused on the things you want in life, and off the things you don't want. This simple formula is key to success, achievement, happiness, and personal growth. Go Spirits!"



*Limitless front cover.*

*PHS football with Larry as quarterback.*



# It's a Beautiful Day for a Ball Game!

*Paraclete Baseball on the air!*

Paraclete grads Mylz Jones ('12) and Tyler Carvalho ('13) were selected in this year's Major League Baseball draft. Mylz, a Cal State Bakersfield shortstop, was taken in the 13th round by the Colorado Rockies, and Tyler, a Mesa Community College right-hander, was selected in the 25th round (but given 13th round money) by the Kansas City Royals. Both have signed with their respective teams.

A three-time All-Gold Coast League selection, Mylz said, "It's an all-time goal to make it to the majors and here's an opportunity for me to go out there and do it. I was watching (the draft) on my laptop and I actually saw my name pop up and then like 15 seconds later the Rockies were calling to congratulate me. It was pretty exciting." As a freshman at Bakersfield, Mylz was a member of the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American Team in 2013.

A hard-throwing right-hander who throws a fastball, slider, curveball, and change-up, Tyler's future was an unknown due

*Mylz Jones '12*



*Tyler Carvalho '13*

to different scouts telling him different possibilities. "After the 15th round I figured I'd be turning it down because it wasn't going to be a lot of money," said Tyler, who was a first team All-American as a freshman on a Mesa team that won a national championship last year, and went 7-2 with a 0.90 ERA and six complete games. "Then I got a call in the 25th round from the Royals and they were offering me around 13th round money and they're going to pay for the rest of my school."

With the Colorado Rockies Single A team in Modesto (the Modesto Nuts), we might be treated to a local Jethawks game versus the Nuts in Lancaster starring Mylz Jones! Wouldn't that be great?! Best of luck to our baseball stars!

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# Huge Turnout for Davis Camp

Todd Davis ('10), Outside Linebacker for the Denver Bronco Hosts 1st Football Camp

By Brian Golden, A V Press Sportswriter



Todd Davis '10 — a Denver Bronco!

PALMDALE - John Bankhead is a renowned football coach who personally tutors Drew Brees.

He's put on football camps for as many as 600 kids in San Diego with Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton.

A camp with future Hall of Famer Larry Fitzgerald in April in San Diego attracted 100 kids.

So imagine Bankhead's reaction when the inaugural Todd Davis Football Camp checked in with 151 campers Saturday.

"Incredible," said Bankhead, whose Temecula-based Bankhead Sports Academy has been at this for six years. "And this is only Todd's first camp."

Well, this will be the former Paraclete star's first training camp with the Denver Broncos in a couple of weeks, too.

From community and corporate in-

volvement, to a turnout that required the partition of the day into two segments, to 78 degree weather, Davis couldn't have scripted a better day for his first football camp.

"We were a little worried we might run out of T-shirts for everyone," the Denver Broncos inside linebacker said during the lunch break catered by his mother Karen's employer, Famous Dave's Barbecue. "God has blessed us today.

"It's not me," Davis said when it was suggested his personal character was the reason for such a remarkable outpouring of support. "It's him."

With proud parents looking on from the grandstands at Highland High School's Wilda Andrejcek Field, Bankhead and his staff of NFL and college instructors put campers between the ages of 5 and 18 through sophisticated drills.

"The lessons today weren't just about football," Bankhead said.

"We wanted to get across to these kids that dedication and perseverance are just as important as 40 times and bench press totals.

"There are a lot of guys, Todd will tell you this, who have more physical talent than he does. But why is he in the NFL and they're not? Character. Perseverance. Dedication."

Nearly 30 Rosamond Youth Football players participated in Saturday's morning session. It may be closer to 60 at Camp Davis II next

summer.

"I will definitely tell all my friends about this camp," said Austin Garrett, 10, who attends Tropic School. "The drills, some of them were hard. But they were all helpful. I'm going to keep doing them because I know they will make me a better football player."

Bankhead and Davis emphasized to their young campers to continue the drills they were taught in the weeks and months ahead.

It wasn't all X's and O's Bankhead, 50, a standout at Cal Lutheran in his college days, tried to get across to the campers.

"We all love this game of football as players and coaches," Bankhead said. "But it uses us up, with all the time away from our families that's needed to succeed in it. So I tell the kids, don't just get used up by football. Use football.

"My son Greyson will be a freshman on football scholarship at Cal this fall. He's going to get a world-class education because football. All of these kids can use football in the same way."

The campers weren't the only ones amped for future football endeavors.

"This is going to give me extra fuel going into training camp," Davis said. "This kind of turnout and community support is really humbling.

"So many of these kids look up to me now. I'm not going to let them down."

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Ryan Davis '12, former PHS and current UCLA football player helps out at the camp.

# Staying Connected

**1967 Charmaine Routhier Anderson.** “I graduated from Paraclete High School in the first graduating class in 1967. My brothers Jim Routhier (1970), Richard Routhier (1972), John Routhier (1983), and my sister, Michelle Routhier Studnicki (1985), also graduated from Paraclete. In 1971, I married my husband Rob. We have two children, Danielle Anderson Trumbo (Class of 1990), and Christian Anderson (Class of 1992). In May 2015, our granddaughter Kylee Trumbo graduated from Paraclete, and we also have a granddaughter, Kassidy Trumbo, class of 2017. I recently retired from the Los Angeles County Superior Court after forty-two years, and am still living in Lancaster.”

To the Routhier/Anderson/Trumbo Families – thank you for being such a great part of the Paraclete Family!

**1974 Bob (Garcia) Siqueiros** retired from the Southern Nevada Water Authority after thirty-one years, and also retired as the president of the Water Employees Association of Nevada (five years as president, and twenty-five years as a board member) - not an easy job in an area that gets around four inches of rain per year. Bob now gets to be entertained by his eight grandchildren, all involved in sports.



**1987 Tania Johnston Issa** visited PHS recently and reminisced with teacher Andy Gavel.

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**1995 Jason Godde** married **Amy Horn** in June and honeymooned up the coast of California. Jason and Amy are teachers at Endeavour Middle School in Lancaster. Congratulations to the newlyweds!



**2007 Alexander Copeland** and **2007 Taylor Wright** announced their engagement to be married in October 2015. They are both employed at LM Co. here in Palmdale. They have purchased a home in Acton and adopted a German Shepherd, Gunther. Alex is in the Master's program at UCLA and plans to graduate in 2016.



**1996 Paul Nickell** shares: After high school graduation, “I immediately joined the Navy. I graduated from Auburn University, BS Discrete Mathematics, and flew P-3s and am learning to fly the P-8. I’m a Lieutenant Commander, and in my Aviation Department Head tour. I live in Jacksonville, Florida with my wife of nearly seventeen years, Jennifer, and my three children - Liam (14), Garrett (12), and Lilly (8). It’s a wonderful life - God Bless!



**1996 Steve Zimmerman's** mother proudly shares a photo of Steve and his wife, Aurora, and children Alex and Angie. He is in the Air Force, stationed in Germany, and will be transferred in February to an undetermined location. Steve is close to obtaining his master's degree, so his life is busy with family, college, and work.

**2008 Travis Copeland** graduated from Fresno State and is working at Travis Mathew, Inc., in Huntington Beach. He passed the CPA exam and is working towards the necessary hours for his certification.

**2011 Sarah Larrabee** visited Paraclete recently and shared her news: “I graduated from University of Portland on May 3rd with a Bachelors of Business Administration with an emphasis in Operations and Technology Management. After graduation, I did a bit of traveling with my college roommate and saw parts of Greece and Italy. Upon returning, I moved to Orlando, FL, and will be starting my career with Lockheed Martin mid-July. I was accepted into the Operations Leadership Development Program at Lockheed at the corporate level. While in the program, I will have four six-month rotations; three rotations will be within Lockheed’s Operations, Supply Chain, and Quality business units and the last rotation will be up for me to choose. My first rotation is a Quality Engineer role for one of the missile programs within Lockheed. I am really excited to launch my career! To top everything else off, I was also recently engaged to Daniel Anton. We met during my sophomore year at Paraclete when I attended the National Young Leader’s Conference per recommendation from Miss Betty Behen (my former PE teacher at Paraclete).” Sarah is eager to start her career and plan her wedding!

**2011 Ensign Christian Sveiven** graduated at the top of his class from the University of Florida and received the Stephen C. O’Connell award for having highly distinguished himself through exceptional public service. He is off to Pensacola for flight school!



**2009 Adriana Perez** has played softball for Team Mexico for three years and competed for the World Cup of Softball X in July, taking 6th place. Prior to the tournament, Adriana shared, “I’m really excited! It’s my second year going into the World Cup and I’m more blessed, to be honest with you, just to be playing at the international level and representing my town. I’m the only one from my town representing Team Mexico, so I’m pretty honored to be doing that.”



**2011 Kelly Lane** graduated from CSUN in May 2015 with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics.

**2013 Logan Lamb**’s dad is proud and emailed this news. Logan is stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona. Logan loves being a Marine, and it just so happens, that he is also a third-generation Marine. “I was a Marine, and so was my father, and both of his brothers,” Lamb shared. Logan works at the Air Station as an Aviation Ordinance Specialist. He is preparing to be deployed to the Gulf region in November with his unit. Our thanks to Logan and the Lamb family for their dedicated service to our blessed country. Godspeed, Logan!

**2013 Sterling Scott** misses Paraclete and hopes to visit soon. He shares, “Since last fall I have been in a program that takes its students to Africa in order to document the World Economic Forum on Africa.” Sterling plans on coming back to Paraclete to talk to the current student body, in order to get them excited for college and the endless opportunities they will have.



# Upcoming Events:

PHS news is published by Paraclete High School. Its contents are made possible by members of PHS staff, faculty, students, and parents. Any comments about this newsletter, or if you need to update your address information, or if you would like to submit articles, please contact:  
Janet (Godde) Bower  
jbower@paracletehs.org

### *Grandparent Day*

Thursday, September 10, 2015  
A pleasant day for Grandparents and the PHS Grandkids!

### *Fall Drama Production*

Check the school website for more information

### *Vegas Night*

Saturday, October 17, 2015  
7 – 11 PM in the Godde Gym  
Brought to you by the PPO

### *Homecoming 2015*

Spirit Night  
Thursday, October 22, 2015  
Competition among the classes!

### *Homecoming Pep Rally*

Friday, October 23, 2015  
Godde Gym, time TBD

### *Homecoming Alumni Gathering*

Friday, October 23, 2015  
Informal gathering at Schooner's in Lancaster after the football game.

### *Homecoming Dance*

Saturday, October 24, 2015  
8 to 11 PM

### *Open House*

Saturday, November 14, 2015  
Saturday, January 9, 2016  
Do you know a young person who is looking for a great high school experience? Bring them to our Open House and show them all Paraclete has to offer!

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Parents: If this newsletter is coming to your daughter or son who no longer lives at home, please help update our records by calling or sending the new address to the Alumni Office.

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