SDHS Alumni Association

a 501(c) 3 Organization

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preserving Our History While Building Our Future

Where do I start? From the beginning.

As President of the San Diego High School Alumni Association, I am proud to see our school entering another exciting chapter in its remarkable history. The modernization at San Diego High School is transforming our campus for today's students and generations to come. At the same time, it reminds us of an equally important responsibility: as we build for the future, we must preserve our past.

We all know SDHS's story began in 1882 with the opening of the Russ School. Today, 144 years later, San Diego High continues to educate students on its historic site. SDHS is the second-oldest public high school in the State of California and the oldest California public school still on its original site. That is an extraordinary distinction and something every Caver should be proud of.

144 Years of History

Few schools can point to a history as long and rich as SDHS.Generations of students have walked this campus. The buildings have changed, San Diego has grown from a small community into one of America's largest cities, and education has changed dramatically. Nevertheless,SDHS has remained.

The Russ School was followed by the magnificent Grey Castle, which opened in 1907 and became one of San Diego's most recognizable landmarks. Its ivy-covered walls became part of our school's identity until the old buildings were eventually demolished to meet earthquake-safety requirements. Today, we are witnessing another transformation.

Following the renewal of the school's 99-year lease in 2021, construction on the Whole Site Modernization began in early 2022. The project includes a new student services and classroom facility, modernization of the lower and central quads, classroom renovations, and a new Engineering Design Lab. The new student services and classroom facility officially opened, marking another milestone for our 144-year-old campus. What I especially appreciate about the modernization is that we are finding ways to bring our history into our new facilities. The historic wooden doors from the former Grey Castle have been preserved inside the new building, along with framed photographs showing SDHS throughout the years. That is what modernization should represent.

Why We Need an Alumni Association

The **SDHS Foundation** does outstanding and important work for our school, particularly through

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued

its efforts to provide scholarships and educational opportunities for current SDHS students. Helping students pursue higher education and achieve their goals is something we should all support and appreciate.At the same time, the SDHS Alumni Association has a different and uniquely important responsibility:preserving and protecting the history, traditions, memories, and identity of San Diego High School. The Foundation's work helps provide opportunities for today's students. At the same time, the Alumni Association has the unique responsibility of connecting the past, present, and future of SDHS; two organizations, two important missions.

That is also why a strong, active SDHS Alumni Association matters.An Alumni Association is more than an organization that plans reunions and social events. We are the connection between the generations.Our responsibility is to help preserve the photographs, yearbooks, documents, trophies, memorabilia, traditions, athletic accomplishments, and, most importantly, the stories and memories of the people who made San Diego High School what it is today.

The Alumni Association has served this mission since 1975. Every graduating class becomes another chapter in the SDHS story. Every student who walks across the graduation stage becomes part of a history that reaches back more than a century.Without people actively working to preserve that history, pieces of it can disappear.A photograph can be thrown away.A yearbook can be lost.A trophy can disappear.A story known by one generation may never be told to the next.Once those pieces of history are gone, we may never get them back.That is why the work of your Alumni Association matters.

Blue, White and Now Gray

Preserving our history also means preserving our traditions.For generations, **Blue and White** have represented San Diego High School. Today, we also embraceGray, recognizing one of the most famous symbols in our school's history, the Old Grey Castle.The Grey Castle stood on our campus for more than 60 years, and its ivy-covered walls remain one of the most memorable images in SDHS history.

For me, **Blue, White and Gray** are not simply colors.They represent who we are.They represent the students who came before us.They represent our athletes, coaches, teachers and administrators.They represent the Old Grey Castle.They represent 144 years of Caver tradition. Furthermore, they represent today's students who are creating the next chapter of SDHS history. When you see **Blue, White, and Gray**, you should know immediately:those are SDHS colors.As our campus continues to modernize, we must protect these traditions. Buildings may change, but SDHS's identity and traditions should continue from one generation to the next.

Your Membership Is Important

None of the work of the Alumni Association can continue without you, our alumni, members, supporters, and friends. Your membership matters.When you join or renew your membership

in the San Diego High School Alumni Association, you are doing more than becoming a member of an organization. You are helping us preserve the history of your school.Your membership helps us maintain the connection between past and present Cavers. It strengthens our ability to preserve historical materials, support our History Center, recognize outstanding alumni, communicate with our graduates, and continue supporting the students and programs of SDHS.There is strength in numbers.

The larger and stronger our Alumni Association becomes, the better we can protect the traditions and history that make SDHS special.I encourage every graduate to become a member and remain active in the Alumni Association.

Your Donations Keep Our History Alive

Your donations are equally important. Preserving 144 years of history takes resources. Historical photographs need protection and display. Documents and yearbooks need preservation. Memorabilia must be cataloged and stored properly. Our History Center must continue to grow so future students, alumni, and visitors can understand what San Diego High School has meant to this community.A donation does not have to be large to make a difference.If hundreds or thousands of Cavers each contribute what they can, together we can accomplish something significant.

Your donations also allow the Alumni Association to continue supporting today's students, organizations, activities, and athletic programs while protecting the history and traditions that belong to all of us.Every membership and every donation is an investment in the past, present, and future of SDHS.

The History Belongs to All of Us

The San Diego High School Alumni Association does not own this history.We are its caretakers. It belongs to the student who graduated decades ago.It belongs to the student sitting in a classroom today. Moreover, it belongs to the child who may become a Caver years from now.We inherited this history from those who came before us, and we have a responsibility to pass it on.The modernization of San Diego High School demonstrates that an institution can embrace the future while honoring its past. Our new facilities will serve generations of students, but those modern buildings must always include reminders of the generations who built the Foundation on which today's school stands.That is the mission I believe the Alumni Association must continue to embrace.

Once a Caver, Always a Caver

I am asking every Caver to help us.Join the Alumni Association. Renew your membership. Encourage your classmates to join. Attend our events. Volunteer. Share your photographs, yearbooks, and stories. Moreover, when you are able, please consider donating.

We are the caretakers of 144 years of San Diego High School history.The students attending SDHS today are making history that future Alumni Association members will someday be responsible for preserving.Together, we can make sure the memories of the Russ School, the Old Grey Castle, Balboa Stadium, our classrooms, our teachers and coaches, our championship teams, our distinguished alumni, and generations of ordinary Cavers who proudly walked this campus are never forgotten.Our campus is changing.Our school is moving forward. Nevertheless, our history must always travel with us.

Let us continue to proudly protect the **Blue, White, and Gray** and everything those colors represent.Let us preserve our memories.Let us support today's Cavers. Let us make sure that 144 years from now, someone is still telling the story of San Diego High School.

Once a Caver, Always a Caver.

Eddie '73

SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

History Center



As we welcome the **2026–2027 school year**, the San Diego High School History and Archive Center continues its work to preserve and share the rich history of our school. After the many updates across campus and the exciting new look of San Diego High, we are now turning our attention to reorganizing the **History Display Room** to have it ready for our **All-Class Homecoming Event**. This space will feature rotating exhibits throughout the year highlighting the people, organizations, activities, accomplishments, photographs, artifacts, and stories that have shaped San Diego High School.

I am also happy to share that the beautiful trees that were temporarily removed from the school grounds during the campus renovations were carefully protected and have now been returned to campus in their dedicated spaces. As you can see in the accompanying photos, it is wonderful to see them back where they belong, continuing to be part of the history and character of San Diego High.

We are also continuing the development of our new **San Diego High School Alumni History Website**, with hopes of having it completed before the end of the fall semester. The website will provide another way to share our history, photographs, stories, and archival materials with alumni, students, and the broader community. As we move forward, we look forward to continuing to work with students and alumni to **preserve our legacy and ensure that the stories of San Diego High School are carried forward for future generations.**

Yvette Porter Moore
Historian

MEMBERSHIP

Hi Cavers. The 2026 Fall school year has officially begun. You and I can still remember how much our San Diego High School years meant to us. I have had the pleasure of speaking to many of you over my 12-years on your Alumni Association Board of Directors, and you have shared with me that although you physically left the campus years ago, San Diego High School has remained in your heart.

Your membership, donations and Legacy gifts left to the Alumni Association, I believe, is all about “our pride.” Pride in being a Caver, and in belonging to and supporting a distinguished alumni community and network. With your membership, donations, and Legacy gifts, you help support student activities and programs.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NETWORKING ACTIVITIES & BENEFITS
- Annual All-Class Homecoming Reunion Breakfast, usually held during the month of October;
- Annual “Cavers at the Padres Game,” usually held on a Sunday afternoon during the month of July;
- Annual “Wall of Honor” Induction Ceremony, usually held at the Reunion Breakfast;
- Complimentary Campus Tours; and
- Digital email Spring & Fall Newsletters.

STUDENT/CAMPUS SUPPORT
- Maintain the SDHS Alumni Association Office;
- Provides funds for Student awards and academic competitions;
- Provides funds to support Student athletics including activities, clubs, and teams;
- Preserve and display SDHS historical treasures in our History Center; and
- Preserve Cavers history digitally.

GRATITUDE

On behalf of your Alumni Association, we "thank you" for your generosity. Every membership, new and renewal, is important. We also appreciate your donations and Legacy gifts. In 2023, your Alumni Association was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501 (c) 3, tax exempt, non profit organization. Your monetary support is tax deductible. I suggest you please discuss this with your tax representative if you have any questions.

My friends, thank you for your loyalty and continued financial support of your San Diego High School Alumni Association.
Let's go, Cavers!

Gaspar Luna Oliveira, Class of 1968
First Vice President

WALL OF HONOR



Father Seraphim Eugene Rose Class of 1952

Much has been written about my uncle, Eugene Rose, who became Monk Seraphim Rose in 1970. This book is a biography based on true and first-hand accounts from his family, friends, priests, and professors. Most importantly, it includes his personal correspondence from the time he left home for college to his passing in Redding, California, nearly three decades later. This compilation is the true account of his life's journey that led him into Orthodoxy. It is not a purified version of his life. The sanitized version was authored in 1993 by Monk Damascene Christensen with *Not of This World*. Large portions of Eugene's life were omitted in that version.

The first letter Eugenewrote and included in this book was dated August 23, 1953. The last letter he wrote was dated Wednesday, July 27, 1982. It was to his mother. It is believed that he did not write after that because he had fallen ill. For nearly two weeks, until he was ultimately driven to a hospital, he was trying to recuperate, alone on a cot, in his tiny forest cabin.

Some have called him a saint. But to his classmates throughout his first twelve years of school, he was called "Eugenius"; to his college friends he was, and still is, Eugen (in German pronounced Oy-gen); to his mother, he was Eugenie or Oogie; to the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, he was Hieromonk Father Seraphim Rose; to everyone else, including me, he was, simply, Uncle Gene.

Long before he became a monk, he gave up certain things. From my research, I learned that Eugene quit his post-college lifestyle when he lived in San Francisco around the late 1950s to early 1960s, where he hung out with the Beat poets. Shortly after, he embraced Orthodoxy and the rules of the Church, even before he joined that faith in 1962, and a decade before he became a monk. With his heart and soul, he loved the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad until the day he died. He never spoke or wrote despairingly about her to any church members, friends, or relatives. He was truly loyal to the Church.

From the time Eugene was a boy, he was never materialistic. He was always a deep thinker, almost disconnected from the material world. He loved nature and often took long walks. While he had what his closest friends described as a sweet disposition and a kind heart, he was steadfast in his opinions and beliefs: He stood his ground for

what he believed while also respecting others' opinions. He quietly and intently heard what other people had to say. He also had a great sense of humor, including while in high school. That whimsical quality came across in his letters.

Eugene was a storyteller. Those stories included lessons about people. He told them as a teenager and continued, as a monk, to deliver tales in his sermons and lectures so people could better identify with the message he was relaying.

*continues at: https://sandiegohighschoolalumni.org/*wall-of-honor-2024/



Margaret (Marti) Brown Lewis Class of 1965

Genealogist/Historian Marti Lewis who was formally known as Margaret Brown, is a native San Diegan. She is a member of the San Diego High School graduating class of 1965. Margaret is a recently retired employee of the San Diego City Schools and worked there for over 40 years.

Marti is a compelling and influential voice in the genealogy community. She has been featured, quoted, profiled, and published in several major media publications. Marti volunteers as a Contributor to Find-a-Grave, a former consultant on African American Research at the San Diego Family History Center, an administrator for the Friends of the San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group on Facebook, and a former administrator for the African American Genealogy Research page on Facebook.

Marti pioneered and founded the San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group and serves as its President.

Her love for genealogy is expressed through her many published articles: "A Soldier's Story", "My Family Link", "Time Will Tell", revised in 2005 to "He Touched Me," and a poem, "Ancestral Roll Call." Margaret is currently organizing her research materials to publish in a Family History Book, Ancestral Pursuit.

"A Soldier's Story," written by Margaret about her great-great-grandfather, Jacob W. Wilks, was published in the Tom Green County Chronicles of Our Heritage History Book. She also contributed genealogical information and pictures to Dr. Frank N. Schubert for his book " Voices of the Buffalo Soldier," which features Wilks in the Ninth Chapter. The same information will also be included in the supplementary volume to "On the Trail of the Buffalo Soldier.

Marti formally volunteered her time and her talents at the Family History Center, where she helped individuals one-on-one with their personal family research. She also taught a free series of classes in "Researching Your Roots." Although Marti's focus is on African American Research, all her presentations offer research strategies for other nationalities too!

Marti continues her love for genealogy by helping others to discover their roots.



Amie Callaway Class of 2012

San Diego HS – International Studies – 2012
UNLV – BS Hospitality Management – 2016
SDSU – MBA in Sports Management – 2018

Amie Callaway was born in Murrieta, CA and grew up in San Diego. She attended Sherman Elementary from 1st - 3rd grade (skipping 2nd grade), then Language Academy for 4th - 8th grade, before attending San Diego High School.

Amie helped lead her basketball team to four straight league championships, as well as the CIF DI title her senior and sophomore season and CIF runner-up her junior season. She finished her basketball career with a double-double average and holds three basketball records in the CIF San Diego record book. She was named a starter and team captain as a 13 year old freshman.

She competed in track all four years, becoming a two-time Eastern League champion in both the shot put and discus, setting school records in both events her senior season. She also played three years of volleyball, earning all-

league honors twice and one record in the CIF San Diego record book. Amie was named SDHS Athlete of the Year both years she was eligible and received Academic honors in every eligible season.

Amie played collegiately at UNLV from 2012-16, appearing in 123 games, making 75 starts and averaging 5.3 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. As a senior, she started all 32 games and averaged a career-high 7.1 rebounds per game. Amie was the only player in UNLV history to both play in and start a game while still 17 years old. She was also an excellent student, earning Academic All-Mountain West honors all four years and Mountain West Scholar-Athlete recognition. She received her Bachelor's degree in hospitality management from UNLV in 2016.

After graduation, Amie was a restaurant manager for a popular LA-based food chain, Du-Par's Restaurant & Bakery. She helped the company open a new location in the heart of Gaslamp in San Diego.

After a little less than a year, Amie decided to return to school to pursue an MBA from San Diego State. During her MBA program, Amie served as an assistant coach for the Bishop's School in La Jolla. The Knights finished as CIF San Diego Section Open Division Runner-Up. While in middle school, high school, and during her MBA program at SDSU, Amie coordinated multiple supply drives to support Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Amie also spearheaded her third supply drive geared towards helping the island of Hispaniola. During high school, her mother and four adopted siblings were in Haiti during the infamous 2010 earthquake, which rocked the island with a 7.0 magnitude. With the help of her middle school (The Language Academy) and her SDHS peers, she raised money and gathered supplies that directly benefited the survivors of the 2010 earthquake. In 2017, with a cohort trip to the Dominican Republic on the horizon, she partnered with her middle school again and then-CIF Commissioner, John Labeta, to organize another supply drive for communities in the Dominican Republic. Supplies included Spanish books and school materials, as well as sports equipment kindly donated by the CIF office.

Amie was the Assistant Director of Operations for the Cal women's basketball team from 2017-19. In that role, she helped coordinate community service and outreach programs, planned team and fan events, and assisted with recruiting efforts. In between her director of operations jobs, she was an admissions counselor at UNLV for one year before joining the basketball staff.

While on UNLV's staff, the Lady Rebels won four straight Mountain West regular season championships and three straight Mountain West tournament titles. She was responsible for all logistics, helped coordinate community service and outreach programs, planned events for the team and fans, directed the team introduction videos, and helped manage the team social media.

In 2025, she participated in the 3rd cohort of the Future Basketball Operations Stars Program, an exclusive virtual training program offered by the NBA League Office targeting professional development for basketball operations professionals. Of 4500+ applicants, only ~90 are selected. She was also one of 10 participants to be selected (of the 90) to work the 2025 NBA All-Star Game and Draft Combine in person with the NBA League Office.

Amie came home to San Diego State prior to the 2025-26 season as the program's Director of Operations. Similar to her past roles, she is responsible for all logistics, helped coordinate community outreach, planning events for the team and donors, and aiding in recruiting and retention efforts in the new age of Name, Image & Likeness. In her first season at SDSU, the Aztecs won the Mountain West regular season with a 19-1 record and won 27 games overall to tie a school record. SDSU advanced to the quarterfinals of the WBIT and set school records for three-pointers, free throw percentage, fewest turnovers per game and overall cumulative GPA.

Amie has 11 siblings; including four adopted siblings, two from Africa and two from Haiti. Her mother, Vera, is a long time educator, having served as a teacher, vice principal and principal at numerous schools in San Diego county. Vera now serves as the Assistant Principal for the college program at the CA State Prison in Palmdale.

continues at: https://sandiegohighschoolalumni.org/wall-of-honor-2024/

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Gone but not forgotten

View a full list at: https://bit.ly/2QbHwjY

NAME	LAST	CLASS YEAR	DATE DECEASED
Joan	Allen	1953	
Virgil	Bombe Twilegar	1979	5/30/2026
Cecilia	Cano Erickson	1966	
Richard	Chavez	1958	
Elmiree	Childs Walter	1951	11/30/2023
Ida Mary	Cook	1943	
Clarence	Dustin	1954	
Edward	Gavotto	1951	
George	Guevara	1967	
Francis R	Hammes	1962	10/27/2023
Ronald	Hayashi	1959	5/14/2021
James L	Hicks	1959	
Steve	Jones	1973	
James	Ladd	1940	2009
William A	Poncavage	1958	
George	Ream	1962	8/6/2024
Martha	Seifert	1943	
Jesse	Soltero	1978	5/10/2026
Bruce	Stadel	1961	
Lana	Stebbins Karmen	1962	3/28/2025
Grover (Sauls)	Thomas Jr	1968	
Stan	Varner	1977	
Ronald	Warren	1952	

