



The Foundation Focus

Spring 2024
Volume 17, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Catalina High School Foundation

CHS Aquaponics Lab & Garden Club

by Jennifer O'Dell, CHS Science Department Chair and Garden Club Sponsor



Fall '23 Jennifer O'Dell, science teacher

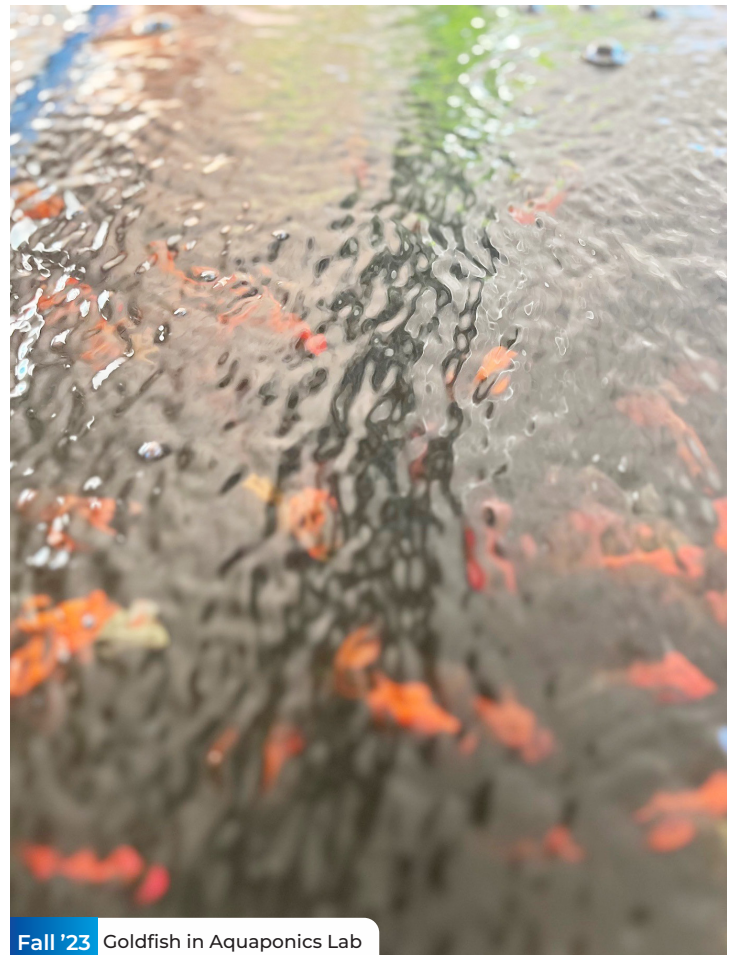
During this past summer and fall, the monster Cherry Tomato plant became THE talk, for anyone who saw it through the greenhouse windows (off the Trojan Head Patio). This one plant, with its amazingly sweet and juicy cherry tomatoes, changed the minds of a few students and staff members about what a tomato really can taste like, and how

BIG a single plant can get. The rapid growth of this tomato plant was not a science experiment or a monster anomaly, but rather the result of a balanced and healthy aquaponics ecosystem, in the Little Greenhouse at CHS.

It was just over a year ago that the CHS Aquaponics Lab got started, with LOTS of lava rock, a couple of tomato plants, and about forty goldfish. With support from the CHS Foundation, we were able to add Koi fish and nutrients we needed to bring the system into balance. Now, we have a thriving ecosystem full of beneficial bacteria and algae that break down the fish waste and convert it into nutrients for the plants. The plants grow bigger, faster, and use less water than by traditional agricultural methods!

Students in both Math and Science classes are using aquaponics to learn about pH, ecosystems, soil, and composting. They use graphing and geometric concepts to calculate volumes, flow rates and more. Using microscopes, the Environmental Science classes were able to study the Nitrogen cycle first-hand, taking samples of the water and observing the different types of bacteria and microorganisms. The Garden Club

itself is slowly growing and has collaborated with the Culinary Department to use food waste from the kitchens in making compost. The Garden Club has, reluctantly, trimmed back the monster tomato plant, started a variety of beans, and will be planting salad greens, including collards and kale, now that the temperatures are finally cooling off. We also have planted potatoes, in a traditional dirt bed, and hope to plant garlic and onions too. We look forward to growing additional tasty and healthy foods, using the Aquaponics Lab to teach our students how to be more 'green' at CHS.



Fall '23 Goldfish in Aquaponics Lab

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Reunions

Celebrations & Connections Fall Social 2023

by Emily Morrison '60

The Fall Social began with a tour of the school for interested alumni who had not been back. The school has seen many changes since the early days, and the participants were all impressed by how really good the school looks.

Alumni connected with current students on the tour and during the Social. Members of the FBLA (Future Business Leaders Association) served as guides and hosts, even setting up a station for guests to share memories of their time on campus.

As graduates arrived they were greeted with music by students in the band program. It provided a lovely background for the 'socializing time' before the Celebration of Hall of Famers. One of the most enjoyed parts of our Fall Social has become the catering provided by the students in the Culinary Arts program.

The highlight of the evening is always the recognition of those being inducted into the Trojan Hall of Fame. This year our Founder, Terry Anderson was recognized as the Alum of the Year, in great part for his efforts to bring this



FBLA students share a laugh with alum, Steve Kozachik 10/23

alumni group to life. Six additional alumni were celebrated, and each given a chance to say a few words. (They were spotlighted in the Fall 2023 FOCUS). The evening concluded with a brief Annual Meeting.

Awesome Science Trip to Pima Air and Space Museum

by Sonia Sharma (M.Sc., B.Ed.) Chemistry/Physics-CHS

I would like to describe for you our experiences during a trip to the Pima Air and Space Museum. Initially, I will share that more than 95% of those who went on the field trip had never visited the Museum before, even though they've always lived in Tucson. They were very excited about it!

Students witnessed the evolution of technology and increased their understanding of the scientific principles behind flight. It was very encouraging to see them engaging in discussions about the physics relating to aircraft and talking about the terms that they have learned in class, such as aerodynamics, thrust, lift, and drag. It was gratifying to see students actively sharing their knowledge and exchanging information. The collaborative learning environment enhanced the overall educational experience.

At the Museum, a representative highlighted significant historical events and individuals. Students also learned about the Tuskegee Airmen, their contributions to aviation history, and the challenges they faced as African American pilots during World War II. The Museum also



Students at the Pima Air Museum 11/23

offered interactive exhibits and hands-on activities such as building and launching model rockets and experiencing flight simulation, allowing students to actively interact directly with scientific concepts.

Overall, our visit to the Pima Air and Space Museum provided students with a unique opportunity to connect theoretical concepts with real-world applications. It definitely served to spark their interest and ignite their passion for aviation, and for engineering.

CHS Improves to C Letter Grade

by Dr. Kelly Bristow, Assistant Principal

We are proud to announce that Catalina High School has officially been awarded a C letter grade for the 2022–23 school year! There are five categories in which points can be earned that determine the school letter grade: ACT testing proficiency, ACT testing growth from the previous year, graduation rate, English Language Learner's (ELL) English proficiency test scores on the AZELLA, and College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRI). Our current grade is a victory because the letter grade has been a struggle for our school: In the 2018–19 school year, we earned a D for the third year in a row. Because state policy states that three consecutive Ds result in an F for the year—and because grades were frozen during Covid—Catalina received an F for two years. We worked hard to address our letter grade during those years, and in the 2021–22 school year, Catalina was awarded a C!

Though we continued working hard to support students during the 2022–2023 school year, an unfortunate cyberattack in the spring of 2023 disrupted our mandatory ELL testing. The state did not allow us to extend the testing window for our large population of ELL students, and though we completed the AZELLA

test within the timeframe, our scores on the AZELLA test reflected this strain.

At the end of October 2023, we learned that Catalina HS had earned a D, but we were only .1 away from a C. While the composite score was lower than in previous years, our scores in most categories were similar to the previous year. We even gained two points in the CCRI category by making sure that as many students as possible completed two years of a foreign language, two years of a CTE program, and—for seniors—the FAFSA (which qualifies them for federal student aid for college).

Realizing that the letter grade did not accurately reflect the strengths of our school, Catalina administration appealed the grade based on “adverse testing conditions” resulting from the district-wide cyberattack. On December 4, 2023, we learned that we won our appeal, and Catalina High School was officially awarded a C. Administration, teachers, and support staff are all working extremely hard to maintain or improve Catalina's letter grade for the 2023–24 school year.

From the CHS Foundation: Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students for achieving this milestone amid all sorts of obstacles!

Bridges Garner's Top AD Award for 2023

by Stephen Gin '83

Catalina Athletic Director Tim Bridges is extraordinary. To recognize his efforts for moving young student-athletes and Arizona high school sports forward, he was named the state's AD of the Year for the 3A level by the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in September.

Bridges took the reins of CHS athletics five years ago. In that time, he has worked diligently to rebuild the program and offerings here and to establish a positive culture that extends beyond the playing field. He also helps with the AIAAA in various roles.



Fall '23 Tim Bridges receiving his award



Spring '23 Van Wrap

He notes that many Catalina students face challenging economic and family situations. As student-athletes they may need help finding that balance between competing, learning and living. “There’s

just some different dynamics that we have to consider,” Bridges explains. Even getting to practices and games can be tough, especially if the athlete has to work or if there are transportation issues.

Bridges is encouraged by the character CHS players show. “We do have to shift our focus (away from wins and losses),” he explains, “because oftentimes the scores are lopsided, and our kids are still demonstrating heart, effort and hard work—that’s part of what I encourage them to buy into at the beginning of the school year.” Trojans also consistently score highly when it comes to sportsmanship and controlling their tempers when they compete, according to evaluations by officials.

IMO-in
memory of
IHO-in
honor of



Donations

\$10,000 and above

Anonymous, Scholarships,
Administration and Success Center

\$5000 – 9,999

Class of '73

\$2500 – 4999

Nancy Gin '78, IMO J. G. Carlton,
Scholarships, Success Center, STEM

\$1000 – 2499

Barbara Callaway Pollack '58,
scholarships,

Janet Romanishin '70

Anonymous

\$500 – 999

Stephen Bentley '57, IMO George Roth

Sandy Elers '58, IMO Karl Elers,
Margaret-Ann Fangmeier, George Roth

Linda Fry Fulgenzi '57, Success Center,
IMO Kenneth S. Fulgenzi

Mary Hines Estate

Ray Lindstrom '59,
IMO Karen Lindstrom

John Moffatt '61 Construction

Jim & Dee Ann Sakrison, '59

Susan Shetter '66

Stephen Tofel '60

Emily Suzanne Rowe Van Ort '58. IMO
Margaret-Ann Fangmeier '58, Karl Elers

\$250 – 499

Phil Barry '66, Scholarships, IMO Nora
Barry Gosewisch Johnson, '74

David Bartlett '62

Susan Carruth Ellington '58,
IMO Jim Carruth, '57

Paul Gray '60

Lynn Derby Helmke '60, Special Needs,
IMO Newton B Derby '58

Patrick Lane '72, STEM

Murray Leaf '57

Joel Levin '66

Howard Post '66

Charles Townsdin

\$100 – 249

Anonymous, IMO Jane and Max Ervin

Gaeel Beaham '57, Athletics,
IMO Chuck Giles

David Berg '60

Joe Butner '66

Susan Cooper '60

Chuck Davis '68

Wallis Downer-Joyner '60

Debbie Petranek Collazo '69,
Scholarships, IMO Jan Petranek '67

Linda Dunlap '70

Julie Ferdon '68

Bruce and Gail Grossetta '61

Patricia Heisdorffer

Nancy Trott Hurtado '58

Randall Jeter '70

Don '60 and Kay '61 Ijams,
School supplies

Jay Kittle '59, School supplies

Sylvia Lee

Deborah Linscott '67, Success Center

Ted and Emily Kittle Morrison '60,
School supplies

Ted and Emily Morrison '60,
IMO Karl Elers

Tom Neil '66, Culinary Arts

Stephen Patzman '60, IMO Fred Piziali,
Woodworking

Amanda Place '60, Athletics,
IHO Timothy Bridges

Christina Razzi '83

Ed and Debra Smith, '70,
IMO Edith Ann Smith '71

Mark Haddad Smith '71

John Snavely '69

Gregory Ziebell, Success Center

\$1 – 99

Charles Aurand, IHO John Snavley '69,

Nancy Bargamian '68

Laura Briggs Bartkowski '70

Mary Black '70

Doug Boling '66

Ford Burkhart '59

Jennifer Sue Bond '66

Ford Burkhart '59

Carol Castro

Kim Crooks '70, School supplies

Bruce Davidson '61, Athletics,
IMO Coach Cliff Myrick

Kyle Defoor '59

Linda Foley

Bernice Gin

Bruce and Gail Grossetta '61,
School supplies

Peggy Burke Guerra '64,
Construction Trades

Richard Holsclaw '65, Band

Beth Janes '67 and Alan Scott '66

Julie Johnson '60, School supplies

James Klein '60

John Klein '87

Sharon Bykerk Lopeman '65,
Scholarships, IMO Mike Toomey '65

Anita Lumpkin '58, Scholarships

Terri Millsap '60

Terry Nordbrook '83

TAX CREDITS

If you make a \$200 donation for those filing singly (\$400 for those filing jointly) to Catalina High School, the amount of your donation can be deducted from your Arizona State Tax Return Taxes Payable. This basically is a big help to Catalina High School which costs you nothing. (Otherwise, you would pay it in taxes.)

Information on this great deal can be found at: catalinahs.tusd1.org and then choosing "Make a Tax Credit Donation" from the list on the left. These donations can be made any time before April 15, 2024, to receive the credit on your 2023 Arizona State taxes.

See <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits>.

Paul Nygaard '58

Goretti Peterson '70, STEM

Keith Pullen '73, School supplies

Marjorie Davis Scott '66

Carolyn Steinko Smith '57

Randall Smith, Scholarships

Vicki Ramsey Smith '70,
School supplies

James Stevenson '70

In Kind

Sara Hammond, School supplies

Lucy Masterman '61. School supplies

Linda Morrison, School supplies

Bev Moxley, School supplies

Steve Young '60, School supplies

Life Members

Phil Barry '66

David Bartlett '62

Gaeel Beaham '57

Murray Leaf '57

Howard Post '66

Jim Sakrison '59

Charles Townsdin

57 club

Vicki Kullberg '68

John Snavelly '69

Gregory Ziebell

Annual Members

Nancy Bargamian '68

Gaeel Morrison Beaham '57

Carol Castro

Linda Foley

Anita Lumpkin '58

Terri Millsap '60

Lynn Steinko Smith '57

Randall Steven Smith

CHSF provided \$7372 in Mini-Grant Funds for Books, Athletic Needs, Classroom Aids; and reactivation of the National Honor Society

by Jennifer Bond, '66

Mark Welshans, \$500 Head coach for Boyd Baker Women's basketball tournament fee

Ben Clevenger, \$500 to enter the wrestling team in the William Bell wrestling tournament at Pueblo High School on December 1-2, 2023

Michelle Fierro, \$300 to prepare a Dia de los Muertos presentation honoring deceased CHS Alumni at the Tucson Pesidio Historic Museum downtown

Karin Bernal, Librarian, \$292.25 to purchase Graphic Novels for the library which will be appealing and easier to read for English learners.

Melissa Schmit \$600 to purchase Makey-Makey, an English-Math Computer program, which includes coding.

Counselor, Maria Cuadra, \$500; \$385 of which will go to reactivation of the National Honor Society chapter at CHS; and \$150. to cover the cost of the first ceremony.

Dillon Cox, \$500. to purchase and expand PE soccer equipment.

H Paul Rojas, \$500 to purchase rescue tubes and to procure an AED practice trainer device for CPR and lifeguard training.

Karin Bernal, \$500 to obtain more relevant and current fiction books for the library.

Terry Reed, \$292.25 to purchase a classroom set of the Iliad—the Graphic Novel adaptation for his dual enrollment History/Western Civilization class.

Angela Champion, \$500 to pay for 3 cheer-specific training equipment items to help with tumbling and stunting. Will also support safety; and increase technical and physical strength.

Sam Rolfe, \$482.66 to purchase 2 small weight belts, 4 basketballs and 5 tennis balls, and soccer balls for the PE classes. Also, practice bibs and a portable ball pump for all PE classes.

Karin Bernal, \$705 to purchase new books for the library. Titles were requested by the students.

Santa Cruz Valley School District, \$500 to allow CHS Men's Soccer team to enter a tournament in Rio Rico.

Alfredo Mendoza, \$500 to replace some women's soccer equipment that was stolen at one of their meets. Procedures have been put in place to prevent further occurrences.

Alfredo Mendoza, \$200 to buy some new equipment for the women's soccer team.



Fall '23 Jenni Bond, Liz Whitaker, Stephen Gin



Stephen Gin designed and built a new display system for the Hall of Fame and Alum of the Year photographs. It was placed near the front entrance by Liz Whitaker and Ken Newman.

New CHSF Board Members

Kathy Krucker '67

Kathy was a CHS Hall of Fame inductee last October and was an outstanding athlete and student at Catalina High School, graduating in 1967. She played tennis and volleyball at Catalina and the University of Arizona where she was the Volleyball Team Captain with State Championships in '70 and '71. She was also an outstanding swimmer for the UofA and named Outstanding Sportswoman in 1971. After graduation, Kathy became an amazing high school biology teacher, influencing thousands of students with her science expertise and leadership skills. She was the Christa McAuliff Fellowship winner for Arizona in 1995. She was also Arizona Science Teacher of the Year in 2001. She volunteered as a Patient Instructor for the University of Arizona College of Medicine for 13 years. After retirement, she supervised student teachers for the University of Arizona. Kathy is also an outstanding underwater photographer with work shown on the TMC Healing Arts website as well as her beautiful website, AZScubacat.com. She is interested in joining the Board and helping Catalina.

Karl Oxnam '86

Karl is currently a business teacher at Catalina. He retired from TUSD after serving as head of JTED programs but decided to return to teaching. He is currently the sponsor for Catalina's Future Business Leaders of America chapter. Karl is interested in becoming a CHSF Board member; and it is good to have a current teacher.

Linda Raymond '73

Linda has had a long and distinguished career in Culinary Arts including 11 years in Nogales, as well as many years at schools in California. She helped students organize and run a restaurant as part of their training. She is retired now and interested in helping Catalina and the Foundation.

Website:

www.catalinahighschoolfoundation.org
 Contact us at greenenchalada@gmail.com
 CHS Foundation FOCUS newsletters:
www.catalinahighschoolfoundation.org/foundation-efforts/foundation-newsletters/



Friend us on Facebook



Catalina High School Foundation Membership Form

Annual and Founder's Club dues run from November 1 to October 31

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Dues	\$25.00 _____	I would like my donation to go to (check one)
Founders' Club Dues	\$57.00 _____	General Fund _____
Life Membership	\$250.00 _____	Mini-Grants _____
Donation	_____	Social Services _____
Total Enclosed	_____	Band Fund _____
		Scholarships _____
		Eva Royce Fund _____
		Construction Trades _____

Please return this form and your donation/dues to:

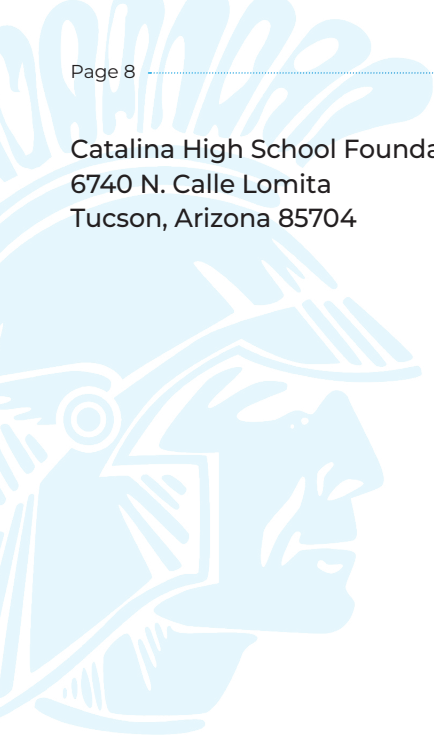
Catalina High School Foundation
6740 N Calle Lomita
Tucson AZ 85704

I can help by: _____

Please do not publish my name. Initial here: _____

Life Member Payment Plan: Pay \$100 per year for two years and a final payment of \$50 in the third year, and become a Life Member. Put "Payment for Life Membership" on the "For" line. Questions? Ask Sandy at greenenchalada@gmail.com or 520-260-9171.

Catalina High School Foundation
6740 N. Calle Lomita
Tucson, Arizona 85704



CATALINA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

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Roland Wong '86

CHS Reunions

Class of '64

Peggy Burke Guerra

peggyretired@gmail.com

April 12–13, 2024

Class of '58

Fran Knowles

highonthedesert@yahoo.com

April 26–27, 2024

Class of '74

info@chs74.org

Oct. 19, 2024

Please notify your classmates that the ONLY authentic Alumni group AFFILIATED with Catalina is the CHS Foundation site (catalinahighschoolfoundation.org) and [FaceBook link](#). People are registering with other FB pages that presume to be connected, and if money is sent it does NOT go to help Catalina but rather the commercial sites.

