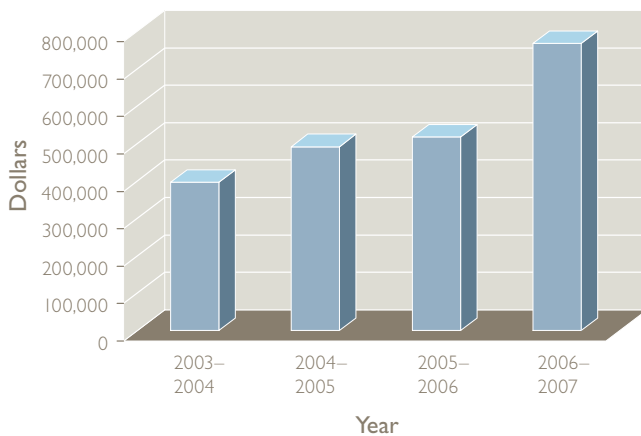


## DONORS MAKE DREAMS HAPPEN

*Record-Breaking Fundraising Year for the Foundation*

**FFF Income through 4/30**



Recently named a California Distinguished School, M-A is poised to continue building on its many strengths. One of those strengths is the incredible pool of parents, alumni and community members who contributed to a record-breaking fundraising year for M-A's Foundation for the Future.

This year, our fourteenth, the Foundation has

increased funds raised by almost fifty percent over last year, and almost 100 percent over just three years ago. As of the end of April, the Foundation has raised over \$768,000 (compared to about \$517,000 for the same time period in 2005-06).

As a result of our donors' generosity, professional development for M-A staff (see below) and strategic class-size reduction are no longer just dreams, as plans are currently underway to implement both for next year. These efforts should directly enhance the classroom experience of almost every M-A student.

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## A NEW REALITY: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR M-A TEACHERS

The Foundation for the Future board recently approved setting aside nearly \$100,000 raised this year to fund a first-ever Professional Development Program for faculty and staff at M-A. The program, to include both group and individual components, will begin in the new school year, and is in direct response to strategic priorities highlighted by the administration.

Last Fall M-A administrators identified four critical priorities—none of which could then be funded—for the high school. At

the time, potential donors were told by the Foundation that funds raised above the approximately \$500,000 already committed by the Foundation for the '06/'07 school year would be targeted at one or more of the strategic areas—staff professional development, class size reduction, and broadening of the science and performing arts curriculums.

The approved professional development plan will initially support group staff development and collaboration efforts for the

Science department, the English department, the AVID tutoring program, the World Studies task force, the Co-Teaching program led by the Special Education program, and the SDAIE program ("Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English").

To encourage individual growth, the program will also allow each teacher, classified employee, and administrator—with approval from their department chair and the principal – to attend a workshop or take a college class that supports their current

*continued on back »*

# OUTGOING PRINCIPAL DENISE PLANTE



# INCOMING PRINCIPAL MATT ZITO



Dear M-A parents and community members,

It is with regret that I have announced my departure from M-A at the end of June. M-A is a wonderful school with great staff, students, parents and community support, and over the past fifteen months, I have established many bonds. Nonetheless, I am departing for family reasons.

I am pleased that Vice Principal, Matthew Zito, will take over as principal. Mr. Zito has demonstrated strong leadership skills, and I have faith in his ability to assume the principal's responsibilities seamlessly.

I believe I am leaving M-A a better place. We exited the No Child Left Behind program improvement status by meeting all annual measurable objectives for all students. We recently were named a California Distinguished School for the first time since 1986. And we successfully completed a Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation review.

Key to our success was funding provided by the Foundation for the Future. With the Foundation's generous support, we were able to fund advanced placement, enriched science and foreign language classes; provide SAT prep and counselor support; upgrade computer labs; and enhance drama, art and photography classes.

With your ongoing support, M-A's future is bright indeed.

With respect,

In my 3rd year at M-A and my 8th year in high school administration, I am pleased to be taking over as principal. In a short time, M-A has taken dramatic strides forward thanks to excellent leadership from Denise, hard work by our outstanding faculty and staff, and the continued generous support of our parents and community donors.

As I embark on my new job, I already have identified some key goals:

- Seamlessly transition M-A's leadership;
- Support superior teaching, via class size reduction and enhanced professional development programs for faculty and staff;
- Better coordinate student support services;
- Improve M-A's public image, via increased communication to parents and upgrades to the campus; and
- Build the Performing Arts Center.

Most of all, I look forward to a continued time of growth and achievement for our school as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

MENLO-ATHERTON  
HIGH SCHOOL  
2007 CALIFORNIA  
DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL



**ATTENTION ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN FAMILIES!**

# FRESHMAN PARENT COFFEE

*Please join us for a parent coffee on the morning of freshman orientation*

**Tuesday, August 21, 8:00 AM**  
**Pride Hall at front of school**

*Drop your freshman off and join us for a cup of coffee and pastries.  
Meet other freshman parents and learn more about M-A.*

**Sponsored by M-A's Foundation for the Future**



Left to Right: Diana Beers, Madeleine Besse, John Giambruno, Stephen Ready, Jim MacKenzie, Hector Melgar

## LEADERSHIP AWARD: JIM MACKENZIE

Jim embodies the spirit of M-A, its past, its present, and its future. As an M-A grad himself (and All-American swimmer and water polo player in his day), the husband of an M-A grad (and current Oak Knoll teacher); the brother of four other M-A grads, and the proud parent of two more, Jim has lived and breathed M-A for nearly half a century. The list of awards he has earned over the years—and there are too many to name here—include Outstanding Teacher awards from the Rotary Club, Key Club, PTA, M-A, Sequoia Union, and Foundation for the Future, all in recognition of his service and commitment to public education. As a teacher in the district since 1969, and at M-A since 1982, Jim has inspired and challenged generations of M-A students in a myriad of subjects, including history, government, world studies, anthropology and most recently, psychology and economics. He also served as the faculty representative to the Foundation Board for 13 of the past 14 years. His dedication to M-A and its students serves as an example to us all. We are so very proud to honor Jim with the Foundation's equivalent of a Lifetime Achievement Award for all he has given to the school and community!



Jim MacKenzie

## THE FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING TEACHERS & CLASSIFIED STAFF

### *Teaching Award Recipients*

#### **Madeleine Besse**

In the more than twenty years that she has been teaching Latin at M-A, Madeleine has inspired class after class of M-A students. In addition to her regular teaching duties, she spends a weekend each year with her students at the California Junior Classical League—this year, they took first place both in catapult and costume. Madeleine's career at M-A has been lived "consilio et animis" (or, for the non-Latin speakers amongst us, "with a plan and with courage").

#### **John Giambruno**

John wears many hats throughout his day at M-A. He teaches English, Video Production, and runs the AVID ("Advancement Via Individual Determination") program providing academic support to help students achieve their goal of attending college. Known affectionately as "G", John is admired for his dedication and compassion to his students and their families. He's also been known to produce a video or two showcasing M-A programs and even staff weddings.

#### **Stephen Ready**

In his eight years at M-A, Stephen has taught ESL ("English as a Second Language"), World Studies, and is now M-A's Bilingual Resource Teacher. After teaching high school

English on the Texas-Mexico border for a number of years, Stephen came to M-A well prepared to encourage and empower M-A English learners. He also provides invaluable support to other teachers and staff in implementing strategies for advising and assisting our English learners. Stephen's positive impact is felt school-wide.

#### **Diana Beers**

Diana has been the M-A librarian for nine years. During her tenure, she helped move hundreds and hundreds of books one summer from the old library to our current state-of-the-art library. Diana has built our collection of books, software, DVDs and videos for both classroom use as well as pleasure. Diana has also arranged for presentations by guest authors, inspiring our students in and outside the classroom. Indeed, many say the M-A library is the place to be.

### *Classified Staff Award Recipient*

#### **Hector Melgar**

A native of Guatemala, Hector has been making M-A a better place for 9 years as custodian. Whether he is helping to set up for sports or other events on nights or weekends, Hector can be counted on to go above and beyond what is asked. He helps maintain a clean and safe learning environment for our students, teachers and staff. Thank you, Hector.

# FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL

Menlo-Atherton High School

P.O. Box 1228

Menlo Park, CA 94026

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## NEW OPTION FOR MEETING UC LAB SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

A Foundation-funded M-A Computer Academy science class, Environmental Analysis through Chemistry, was recently approved by the University of California to meet their laboratory science "D" requirement. Teacher and course writer Lance Powell comments, "I believe environmental science, and hopefully the environmental consciousness and awareness that follows, should be required curriculum for high school students." The resulting flexibility Academy students will have in meeting the UC lab science requirement "couldn't have happened without Foundation support," according to Powell.



### Professional Development continued from cover »

job. Funds have been set aside to support up to 60 such requests, with more potentially available as required. Finally, through "A Day in the Life of a Bear", 10 teachers will have the opportunity to experience student academic life first-hand by shadowing one of their students for a day.

"All of us who have been involved in the development of this plan are quite excited with its possibilities, and we hope it is just the beginning of an M-A commitment to professional development for years to come," said Gregg Whitnah, Math Department Chair. "Although there was a clear need and desire for such a program, there was absolutely no way to fund it until the Foundation and its donors stepped in," he continued.

"This investment helps address two of the key priorities identified this year—professional development and curriculum planning for the science department under new Science Department Chair, Jeff DeCurtins," noted Matt Zito. "Funded professional development will help us to attract and retain outstanding faculty, building on M-A's commitment to put superior teaching resources in the classroom."

The Foundation for the Future wishes to thank Steve Bellumori of Coldwell Banker, Menlo Park, former M-A parent and previous Foundation board member, for generously providing the underwriting of this publication on behalf of the school.

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