Grossmont High School
A Rich Legacy...
Building for the FUTURE!

From the 1942 El Recuerdo,
Clark Allen, Artist and Honor Graduate

Celebrating 90 Years of Educational Excellence
Welcome from Theresa Kemper, GHS Principal

Thank you for helping us celebrate the 90th anniversary of Grossmont High School. This booklet commemorates this special event with an informative record of our long history. We are proud of our school, our many longstanding traditions, and our wonderful Grossmont community. We hope that while you enjoy these memories of our history, you will continue to support Grossmont High and its students in the future, as well.

GHS Foothillers look back proudly on a grand history of excellence and on the traditions we maintain while also working hard to prepare our students for the world they will enter upon graduation. This booklet highlights some of those traditions and events. For nearly a century, our graduates have not only made an indelible mark on San Diego’s East County, but also on the county, state, and nation. Grossmont High School’s staff and administration remain committed to providing the highest quality learning experience for our students, a reputation for which Grossmont High School has been known since its beginnings in September 1920.
The Class of 1916 donated a drinking fountain, made of granite from a local quarry and inscribed “Class of 1916”, to the old El Cajon Valley Union High School. When Grossmont Union High School was established in 1920, the fountain was moved to the Riverview campus in Lakeside for two years. When the new Grossmont High School building was opened in 1922, the Class of 1916’s fountain was moved to the new school. For forty years, thousands of Grossmont students drank from the fountain. In 1960 the drinking fountain was buried near its original location as a senior prank. The granite base of the fountain was unearthed in 2008 and refashioned into a decorative fountain.
Grossmont High School is the only school in San Diego County from the early twentieth century to still have the original school building. We have much to celebrate when gazing at the 1922 Cornerstone.

School was dismissed at the Riverview campus in Lakeside at 2:30, February 6, 1922, and Grossmont students and faculty made their way to the laying of the cornerstone of the new high school at Grossmont.

Some of the contents of the cornerstone include items such as the 1921 El Recuerdo, the names of all the students attending Grossmont during its first two years from 1920-22 at the Riverview campus in Lakeside, and tickets to basketball and football games.
Celebrating 90 Years of Educational Excellence

Decade Facts

- **1921**: the school colors, blue and gold, are chosen.
- **1924**: Grossmont becomes the first San Diego County high school to play football out of the state of California.
- **1924**: school uniforms, a middy blouse, tie, and black or blue skirt, are required for girls, but not for boys.
- **1925**: the first reference is made to Grossmont students or teams as “foothillers”.
- **1926**: Circle G (Grossmont’s highest honor for a graduating senior) is first awarded.

1921 Associated Student Body

1929 Popularity Winners

1922 Baseball Team

1929 The Tumblers
1930’s Decade Facts

- 1930: the PTA donates money to purchase and plant ficus repen, a climbing fig ivy, on the school building.
- 1930: the first Christmas Pageant is performed.
- 1933: the school population is 637.
- 1939: teacher Josephine Kollmeyer starts the first Daisy Chain.
- 1930’s: the WPA reshapes the campus with new construction and landscaping.
1940’s Decade Facts

- **1940**: the Grossmont High School choir performs for the first time under the title of Red Robed Choir.
- **1942**: in February, Japanese-American Grossmont students are sent to relocation centers.
- **1944-45**: the El Recuerdo costs $3.60.
- **1947**: Gus is born when an on-campus contest chooses the design for the mascot.
- **1948**: 2,396 students enroll, the largest student body to that date.
- **1949**: in September, the first photo ASB cards are issued.
1950's Decade Facts

- 1950: Grossmont becomes the first US high school to have a nominating convention, which was later featured in LIFE magazine in 1959.
- 1951: Grossmont and Helix begin their football rivalry with the symbolic musket as the trophy.
- 1953: In June, the Norman Freeman award for the outstanding senior is first given at graduation.
- 1955: Grossmont and El Cajon begin their football rivalry with the symbolic peace pipe trophy.
Celebrating 90 Years of Educational Excellence

1960’s Decade Facts

- 1960: in June, the AFS, American Field Service, ends its first year at Grossmont.
- 1962: hazing is prohibited, and “Freshmen Welcome Week” begins, but Freshmen still paint the G on Cowles Mt.
- 1962: Gus gets a girl friend when Gertie is introduced at a football game.
- 1965: future President Ronald Reagan speaks at the Nominating Convention before his race for governor of California.
- 1960’s: the Special Education Program begins at Grossmont.

1965 Track

1960 by 1969

1961 Daisy Chain

1962 Seniors Dance

1968 Christmas Pageant Feast Scene

1969 Band Performs at Pro Bowl Halftime (San Diego’s 200th Anniversary)
1970's Decade Facts

- 1971-2 school year: the boys basketball and football teams and boys and girls swim teams all win CIF (San Diego County) championships.
- 1972: Title IX provides equal opportunity for boys and girls to participate in organized sports.
- 1975: the student store, Hillers’ Outpost, opens.
- 1977: PE classes become coed.
- 1978: in September, Grossmont’s pool opens.

1970's Decade Facts

- 1971-2 school year: the boys basketball and football teams and boys and girls swim teams all win CIF (San Diego County) championships.
- 1972: Title IX provides equal opportunity for boys and girls to participate in organized sports.
- 1975: the student store, Hillers’ Outpost, opens.
- 1977: PE classes become coed.
- 1978: in September, Grossmont’s pool opens.
In 1923, the football coach, Jack Mashin, said about the GHS field: "We played on decomposed granite and we made our own bleachers that could hold 60 people."

1980 Cheer Squad

1980's Decade Facts

- 1981: in October, Grossmont plays its first “home” football game under lights.
- 1985: the Grossmont Conference splits into North and South leagues for divisional play.
- 1987: the senior class votes to become the first senior class in 50 years to graduate at Jack Mashin stadium.
- 1988: the final Christmas Pageant takes place, ending a 58 year run.
- 1980’s: the Air Bands competition between schools begins.
**1990’s Decade Facts**

- **1990**: GHS’s Varsity Baseball team is ranked #6 in the nation, and in 1991, the team is ranked #2 nationwide.
- **1991**: student lockers are removed from campus, and six years later, students may rent a locker.
- **1993-1995**: El Recuerdo receives Best in Show at the Del Mar Fair three years in a row.
- **1996**: Grossmont graduates its 75th Anniversary senior class.
- **1990’s**: enrollment in Advanced Placement classes increases.
2000’s Decade Facts

• 2004: Every 15 Minutes, an anti-drunk driving program, begins.
• 2005-2008: the Boys Baseball Teams win the Division II CIF (SD County) Championship for a record 4 times in a row.
• 2009: Grossmont High School is named a California Distinguished School.
• 2009: the new Boys and Girls PE building opens.
• 2010: the new Science Building opens on campus.
From the 1960’s to the 1980’s, 26 alumni were selected as Honor Graduates. Beginning this year, the Hall of Honor will induct notable alumni or faculty/staff/community members who have achieved in one of several areas- athletics, academics, arts, public service- or who have been dedicated faculty or staff members. These individuals have brought honor to Grossmont High School after graduation or through their years of involvement with Grossmont.

**2010 Inductees**

Colonel Ed Fletcher, GHS Benefactor

Coach Jack Mashin, GHS Coach & Teacher 1923-1960

Ellen Ochoa, Astronaut Class of 1975

Rick Sturckow, Astronaut Class of 1975

**Past Honor Graduates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Lawrence Carr</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Clark Allen</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>Captain Howard M. Avery, USN</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Dan Lewis</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>Paul T. Mannen</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Reverend Franklin “Bud” Held</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>Brigadier General Osmond Ritland</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Bill Davis</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>Walter Barnett</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Ben Cloud</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>Judge Fenton Garfield</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Bill Anders</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>Amorita Treganza</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Gordon Austin</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>Ellamarie Packard Wooley</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Don Shields</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>Richard O’Brien</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>James Choi Spackman</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>George Bailey</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Michael D. Madigan</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Frances Ellen Coughlin</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Steve Starr</td>
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<td>1938</td>
<td>Douglas L. Inman, Phd.</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>F. Joe Donahue</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Dr. Robert H. Kokernot</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Michelle M. Marsh</td>
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Over the past nine decades, Grossmont has attracted wonderful professionals; many remained at Grossmont for their entire career.

The first faculty contained 11 members; the 2010 staff included 98 teachers and 175 total staff members.

The first graduating class of Grossmont High School numbered 37 and graduated in Lakeside at the Riverview Union High School campus; the Class of 2010 included 548 graduates.
When the 1928-9 cafeteria building, which was made from the same granite as the original school, finally received the wrecker’s ball in 1960, excited students were disappointed when the first few strikes bounced off the venerable granite structure.
During 1936-37, the Old Gym was built by the WPA as part of President Roosevelt’s New Deal. In 2000 the beloved building’s 1930’s Art Deco origins were altered by removing the windows and adding stucco to the style’s tell-tale columns and rounded edges. In the future, the Gym will be renovated and restored to reflect its original look.

For years, Grossmont students graduated at SDSU and played their home football games at night at other schools with lights. In 1981, the stadium received lights and remodeled bleachers, and both graduation and home games were held on campus. In 2003, the grass field was replaced with turf, and in 2008, the dirt track was replaced with a rubberized track coating.
The Manual Arts building was built by the WPA between 1935 and 1937. It originally housed the Wood, Metal, and Auto shops, and later became the Boys Locker Room and Weight Room.

The old Science Building and the Art Buildings were built in 1948-9. The new two story Science Building was built on the site of the old Manual Arts building.
GHS of the Future

As we preserve our past and its amazing traditions and experiences, GHS looks ahead to the new facilities which will be on the campus. As a result of bond issues Proposition H and U, the entire campus will be modernized.

2009  New Girls/Boys Physical Education building completed
2010  New Science classroom building completed
2011  New Child Development Center completed
2012  District Office (original high school) modernized
2012-2013  New Humanities Classroom buildings completed
2012  Stadium upgrades completed
2013  New Auto Shop completed
2013  Cafeteria building modernized
2014  Entrance to high school redesigned
2015  New Administration/Arts building completed
2017  New Performing Arts Center completed
TBD  Modernize remaining buildings: 600 building, Band Room, Old Gym

The Old Main in the 1940’s

2010 architect’s drawing of the new GHS Performing Arts Center which will occupy the space of the old Science and Art Buildings
For several decades, the Grossmont High School Traditions Assembly showcased the achievements of Grossmont’s students with a climatic moment at its end when, suddenly, the curtains flew open for students to see the impressive display of Grossmont trophies on the stage of the Old Gym. The last Traditions Assembly occurred in 1997; fortunately, it was captured in a video.

1930 Trophies

1979 Trophies

1995 Trophies
GHS Alumni Association

The Grossmont Alumni Association is here for you and your class. Perhaps, we can help you plan a picnic or plan one for everyone who graduated in the ’70’s. Maybe let’s attend a Charger or Padre game for those who graduated in the ‘80’s or have a night at the Symphony for those who graduated in the ’50’s. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend our BBQ before each Homecoming game.

To keep informed of future activities, visit the GHS Alumni page under “School Info” on the Grossmont web site at grossmont.guhsd.net. Let us know how to communicate with you by registering as an alumnus. Then, join your friends and classmates as we continue the Blue and Gold Traditions we all are a part of as Grossmont Foothillers. You may contact me directly at ghsalumni@guhsd.net.

Paul Miller
Director of the GHS Alumni Association
GHS Class of 1966

GHS Educational Foundation

This dynamic group of parents and community members has committed themselves to improving Grossmont High School. The purpose of the Foundation is to enhance the overall educational experience of Grossmont students by raising funds to support the needs of the school. All funds donated to the Foundation or its individual member groups are tax deductible. The Foundation encourages parents, students, and alumni to "Take your memories...Leave your footprints", which is their motto.

There are many ways to get involved. If you have questions about the Foundation or would like to become an active part of it, please email Ellen Erath, Foundation President, at ghsfoundation@guhsd.net.
In October 2008, a dream finally came true. For years, the community, alumni, and staff have wanted to establish a Grossmont High School Museum to preserve Grossmont’s amazing history. With immense gratitude and appreciation, we thank the wonderful alumni, staff, and school groups who have donated memorabilia or who have made financial donations to help us create the museum displays. We are open on Wednesdays. For the past two years, more than 3,000 students have visited the Museum in their ninth grade math classes, twelfth grade English classes, or on their own. The Museum is open to the public the first Wednesday of each month. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Connie Baer, GHS Museum Director, at ghsmuseum@guhsd.net or call (619) 668-6140. We hope to see you soon at the GHS Museum!

GHS Alumni Garden of the Future

Grossmont High School, with the support of the GHS Educational Foundation, plans to create a GHS Alumni Garden beneath the beautiful historic tree which has sheltered the Old Main, students, and staff for many decades. This garden will allow alumni and community members to create memorials to classes and graduates. Donors may make financial donations to fund trees, bushes, benches, walls, walkway pavers, and, perhaps, a fountain.

At the moment, we envision the garden taking shape after the District office (the Old Main) is renovated and the GHS Performing Arts Center is built. For more information, please email us at ghsmuseum@guhsd.net.
On September 25, 2010, “magic” happened when we held the 90th Anniversary Celebration of Grossmont High School. With a campus filled with Alumni, previous Faculty & Staff, community supporters, and current students, it was a very special day in the history of Grossmont High School.

For over a year, this event has been in the planning stages with a group of very special and dedicated "Foothillers" who shared ideas on what a 90th Anniversary should be. From planning what we wanted to do, what we could afford to do, and who and how it was going to happen...it’s been an interesting journey.

The committee grew, and each person listed below has made major contributions to its success. While at times we had our differences...the strengths, experience, and energy of the group came together to create a fun and fascinating day at Grossmont, a day that will not soon be forgotten.

Always remember...this was, and still is, your campus. Share and enjoy the memories it holds for you.

See you at the 100th Anniversary....Stay tuned.

Paul Miller, GHS Class of 1966
90th Anniversary Committee Chair

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**Planning Committee...**

Paul Miller, GHS Class of 1966 & GHS Alumni Coordinator
Connie Baer, GHS Class of 1965, GHS Museum Director, and retired GHS English Teacher
Lynn Baer, GHS Class of 1969 and GHS Museum Assistant Director
Patty (Carones) Bender, GHS Class of 1953 and retired GHS Special Education teacher
Garrison Fletcher, GHS Class of 1982
Larry Fletcher, GHS Class of 1955
Celeste Frandsen, GHS Class of 2011
Don Ginn, GHS Class of 1987, GHS U.S. History Teacher, and GHS Historian
Debra (Settle) Jacobs, GHS Class of 1972
Aaron Landau, La Mesa Historical Society VP
Connie McMahon, GHS Class of 1966
Marilyn Morse, GHS Library Tech and GHS Museum Assistant
James Newland, La Mesa Historical Society Historian
Mary Schoenfeld, GHS Class of 1959

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**Event Sponsors & Donors...**

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to today’s events.

- AAA-Grossmont
- Al’s Sports Shop
- Awards by Navajo
- California Kettle Korn
- Tony Calhoun, Party with Me Entertainment
- The Class of 1971 and Colleen James-Link
- Diana Culver, Class of 2001, Fleur D’Lis Flowers
- Cumming Corporation
- C.W. Driver Builders Since 1919
- Colonel Ed Fletcher Foundation
- Garrison Fletcher, Apex Type and Graphics GHS Class of 1982
- Dottie Gann, Class of 1962, and Debbie Gann, Class of 1967
- Gibs-Ribs BBQ Catering
- Helix Irrigation
- LPA
- Pure Flow Water
- James Choi Spackman, Class of 1958
- John Stickney, Boyd Anderson Photography
- Turner Construction Company

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**Volunteers...**

Many people came to support this event. We want to thank the Grossmont alumni, staff, and parents and the Grossmont student groups, ASB, G Crew, and JNROTC for their help today.

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**Hall of Honor Committee...**

Frank Foggiano, Committee Chairman, GHS Class of 1968, and GHS Math Teacher
Geoff Anderson, retired GHS Journalism and English Teacher
Dan Barnes, GHS Assistant Principal
Connie Baer, (see above)
Bill Davis, retired GHS Principal & Class of 1948
Don Ginn, (see above)
Judd Hulbert, GHS Science Teacher
We wanted to take a moment to thank some of the people who have put in countless hours preparing for the 90th Anniversary Celebration and for the production of this souvenir book. Please know that all proceeds from the sale of this souvenir book will benefit the Grossmont High School Educational Foundation, the Grossmont High School Alumni Association, and the Grossmont High School Museum.

Financial Support:
The publication of this souvenir book would not have been possible without the financial support of our wonderful financial sponsors:
The Class of 1971 & Colleen James-Link Cumming Corporation
C.W. Driver Builders Since 1919
LPA
James Choi Spackman, Class of 1958
Turner Construction Company
And we thank all the alumni and friends who made financial donations to support GHS’s 90th Anniversary Celebration.

The 90th Anniversary Celebration:
We are also indebted to Debbie Murray, GUHSD Coordinator for Program Planning, for her assistance in obtaining these sponsors and for her incredible support of the GHS 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Facts, Figures & Pictures
The Souvenir Book was created through the efforts of these committee members:
• Connie Baer, GHS Museum Director, GHS Class of 1965, and retired GHS English teacher
• Lynn Baer, GHS Museum Assistant Director and GHS Class of 1969
• Don Ginn, GHS Class of 1987, GHS U.S. History Teacher, and GHS Historian
• Aaron Landau, La Mesa Historical Society Vice President
• Mariilyn Morse, GHS Library Tech

We want to especially thank Garrison Fletcher, GHS Class of 1982, our wonderful graphic artist and his company Apex Type and Graphics; without his effort and expertise, this booklet would not be possible.

All facts are based on information taken from the GUHS Board Minutes 1920-28, The Foothill Echoes 1927 to 2010, the 1921-2010 El Recuerdos, the La Mesa Scout newspapers, Don Ginn’s "History of Grossmont High School", and recollections of GHS Alumni who have visited the GHS Museum. All photographs are from the Grossmont High School El Recuerdos from 1921-2010, Boyd Anderson Photography, or are a part of the GHS Museum collection.