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Cornell • Creighton • Dartmouth • Dillard • Domini
Franklin & Marshall • Georgetown • George Washington
Gustavus Adolphus • Hamilton • Hampshire • Harva
Names • Howard • Hunter • Indiana • Iowa State •
Lewis & Clark • Loyola of Chicago • Loyola Marymou
McGill • Mills • Morehouse • Mount Holyoke • NYU • Northwestern • Oberlin • Ohio State • Orego
State • Pace • Pacific Lutheran • Penn State • Pepperdine • Princeton • Purdue • Randolph-Macon • Re
Rice • Rutgers • Saint Mary's • Santa Clara • Sarah Lawrence • Smith • Spelman • Stanford • Swarth
Syracuse • Texas Christian • Tulane • Tufts • U of Arizona • U of Colorado • UC Berkeley • UC Davis
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U of Kansas • U of Maine • U of Maryland • U of Michigan • U of Minnesota • U of Missouri • U of
Nebraska • U of North Carolina • U of Oklahoma • U of Oregon • U of Pennsylvania • U of Rochester •
of San Diego • U of San Francisco • U of Texas • U of Vermont • U of Virg of Washington • U o
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2004 Annual Fund Campaign: Investing In Excellence



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Whether alumni funds are used to support forensic tournament entry fees, lab tables in the new science/academic wing or college scholarships, every dollar represents an investment in excellence. Lowell's commitment to excellence can be seen in virtually every aspect of student life, from the classroom to the playing fields to the stage of the Carol Channing Theater.

For many years, the Lowell Alumni Association's support centered on what were considered "extras" to supplement the basic academic program. But as school budgets have been slashed repeatedly over the years—and most drastically in the past two years—it has become necessary for us to change our focus. Lowell alumni, parents and friends need to provide funding to save critical faculty and staff positions, while also striving to continue our support for the additional programs that make Lowell a shining example of how a demanding academic environment can attract a diverse student body drawn from every San Francisco neighborhood.

Your donation is critical to ensure Lowell's continued existence as one of the city's finest institutions. Consider it an investment in excellence to benefit today's students as well as future generations of San Franciscans.



Marian Gonzalez, Lowell science teacher and current department head

“Alumni donations have helped hundreds of students pay for the AP exams that allow them to demonstrate their commitment to academic excellence. For this and many other reasons, we are truly fortunate to have the support of such a dedicated alumni community.”

Excellence in Advanced Placement Courses

There is no better measure of the Lowell student body’s interest in serious academic challenges than the continuing growth of Lowell’s Advanced Placement (“AP”) program. Students enroll in college-level courses in subject areas ranging from economics and calculus to music theory and art history in preparation for taking national exams. High AP exam scores earn college credit or placement in higher-level college courses. And the country’s most selective colleges prefer to admit applicants who have demonstrated their strong academic drive through AP coursework.

In recognition of the important role of the Advanced Placement program at Lowell, the Lowell Alumni Association has helped students with financial need pay their AP exam fees. Over the past decade, alumni donations have provided more than \$50,000 in exam fee subsidies to deserving students. If state funding for AP exam fees is eliminated this year, the Lowell Alumni Association will be asked for an additional \$17,000 in subsidies to support low-income students.

Over the past decade, the number of AP exams administered at Lowell has grown by nearly 10 percent annually, resulting in the nation’s fourth-largest AP program. Today’s average Lowell student will take four AP exams prior to graduation, although some students will graduate after taking ten or more. Even more important than the number of AP exams taken is the fact that 38% of Lowell students earn a perfect score of 5 on their exams, compared to a national average of only 14% of students who do that well.

Excellence in World Languages

The breadth of Lowell's world languages program, currently offering 9 languages, is likely unmatched by any other public high school in America. Lowell's Italian and Korean programs are among the few offered in Northern California. And the Hebrew program, product of a collaborative partnership with the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, Koret Foundation and San Francisco State University, may be unique among public high schools in California.

Lowell offers instruction in nine languages: Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin and Spanish. No other public high school in the Bay Area offers more than six languages.

Lowell's annual Kermesse festival, celebrating a variety of international cultures through music, dance and food, raises money to support the World Languages program and has become one of Lowell's most beloved traditions. The most significant recent development in the World Languages department is the opening of a new, state of the art computer-based language lab in the new science/academic wing. Although additional funding is needed to enhance the lab's capabilities, hundreds of students visit each week to supplement traditional classroom instruction.



Erica Edwards, Lowell class of 2006

“My Italian classes at Lowell, where we learn not just about the language but also Italy's history and culture, have taught me the importance of understanding other people and cultures. It was great to meet the high school students from Assisi, Italy who visited Lowell last year and I hope to travel there next year with Lowell's Italian program.”

“Thanks to last year’s tremendous support from Lowell alumni and parents, the counseling department was spared the debilitating staffing cuts threatened by the state budget crisis. Thank you for helping to see us through these difficult times.”

May Choi, Lowell class of 1968 and Lowell counselor



Excellence in College Preparation

For generations, Lowell has lived up to its reputation for providing its students first-rate preparation for their college studies. It’s not uncommon for Lowell alumni to find their college coursework— even at America’s finest colleges and universities—to be less challenging than what they faced at Lowell.

Over 98% of Lowell’s most recent graduating class entered college immediately while the balance chose to temporarily defer their college studies. Recent Lowell graduates can be found at more than 200 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada, including every University of California and California State University campus, every Ivy League school and most of the nation’s other outstanding educational institutions.

Last year, 29% of Lowell students applying to UC Berkeley were admitted, compared to only 14% of other applicants. At UCLA, 24% of Lowell applicants were offered admission, compared to just 17% of other applicants.

The fact that virtually every Lowell student plans to attend college, combined with the size of the Lowell student body (more than 650 graduates each year), creates an incredible demand for college counseling services. Lowell’s counseling staff, with the help of other faculty and the parent volunteers who staff the school’s outstanding college advising center, do their best to meet that demand. But budget cutbacks again threaten a 20% reduction in counselors that will only be offset by outside financial support from alumni and parents.

Excellence in Special Programs and Athletics

The increasing emphasis on and visibility of test scores of all types serves to burnish Lowell's reputation for excellence with regard to core academic subjects. But Lowell students excel in a myriad of other areas. For years now, Lowell students have not only taken top honors in local architecture competitions but often sweep all the awards in some competition categories. Lowell's Academic Decathlon team has won the city title (competing against both public and private high schools) ever since the competition began 18 years ago.

The Lowell, after more than 100 years of continuous publication, regularly receives national recognition as one of America's very finest high school newspapers. In 2003, the National Scholastic Press Association named *The Lowell* one of the five best large high school newspapers in the U.S., marking the third consecutive year the paper received the NSPA's Pacemaker Award.

And Lowell has even become an athletics powerhouse among the city's public high schools. While the boys varsity basketball team has received the most attention lately, after having won the city title for the first time since 1953, other Lowell sports teams have dominated their opponents for years. Current city title streaks include: girls cross country, 27 consecutive years; overall cross country team title, 25 years; girls track, 17 years; girls varsity swimming, 15 years; boys tennis, 14 years; girls varsity volleyball, 8 years; boys varsity swimming, 8 years; boys track, 7 years; and girls soccer, 6 years. Other teams, from baseball to golf to softball, regularly win the city title. The varsity football team has played in the last two city championships, winning the title in 2002, while the girls varsity basketball team went undefeated in league play this season only to be upset in the playoffs.



Jonas Chin, Lowell class of 2005 and Vice President, Student Body Council

“One of the great things about attending Lowell is realizing that you are part of a history that goes back nearly 150 years. And the amazing thing is that the many Lowell alumni I’ve met (including my counselor) are just as proud to be part of this same tradition.”

“Lowell has a special place in my heart, as I know it does with many of my fellow alumni. But my decision to support Lowell is driven by more than just nostalgia. I have seen the energy and enthusiasm of today’s Lowell students and am proud to help these dedicated young people as they prepare for college and careers. Go Lowell!”

Robert Knox, Lowell class of 1942



Excellence in Alumni Support

While the most important keys to Lowell’s continued success are talented and hard-working students matched with dynamic and dedicated teachers and staff, credit is also due the alumni community. Few high schools in America boast the depth of alumni involvement and support seen at Lowell each and every day.

Alumni participate on the school site council, coach athletic teams and help students with college and career advice. Several more alumni are Lowell teachers and counselors. And the thousands of Lowell alumni who help improve our society, through their families, careers and philanthropy, provide strong role models for today’s Lowell students.

More than 3,000 alumni and other friends of Lowell participated in the 2003 Annual Fund Campaign, donating more than \$385,000 in unrestricted gifts. Those funds helped to restore faculty and staff positions while also funding a host of important projects and more than \$50,000 in college scholarships.

Now it’s up to you to make your own personal investment in Lowell’s continued excellence. Your generous donation, no matter the amount, will enhance Lowell’s tradition of alumni involvement and support and help a new generation of San Franciscans make the most of their talents and ambition.

Please use the accompanying return envelope or mail your tax-deductible donation (made payable to “**Lowell Alumni Association**”) to:

Lowell Alumni Association
PO Box 320009
San Francisco, CA 94132-0009

Or donate online, using your major credit card, at
www.lowellalumni.org/donate

Thanks for your loyal and generous support!

2003 Annual Fund Campaign Summary

Last year’s Annual Fund Campaign, “*Preserving Lowell’s Unique Curriculum,*” emphasized restoring important programs that had been most affected by the severe cuts in state funding. Thanks to the generosity of thousands of Lowell alumni, parents and friends, \$475,000 was spent to save many important programs during the 2003–2004 school year. Those funds were spent as follows:

- Classroom teachers \$320,000
supporting the Band, Choir, Orchestra, Italian, Hebrew, English and Science programs
- Counselors \$72,000
providing additional support for Lowell students as they prepare for college and careers
- Librarian \$38,000
helping to keep the library open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every school day
- Other Staff and Supplies \$45,000

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