



# CV Connected

Volume Two • Issue One July - September, 2009

## LEUZINGER GRADUATE OFF TO VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY – FULL SCHOLARSHIP



Julian White is a graduating senior from Leuzinger High School and he is on his way to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He placed in the top 4% of African American students taking the PSAT in the nation. Because of his accomplishment, he was nominated for the National Merit Scholars Scholarship program. His PSAT score and his grade-point average at Leuzinger earned him a \$59,500 per year scholarship from the University. He wants to major in Electrical Engineering and minor in Patent Law. He wants to be an attorney and he also wants to be an engineer, so he is going to pursue both.

Julian's life was filled with challenges. He was born in Belize and was shot in the chest by a stray bullet when he was only 10 years old. His family moved to California to get away from

the violence of his country. His mother committed suicide, and his grandmother died, so Julian said he focused all his energy on school. He was determined to keep working hard and study so he could be successful. He not only excelled in school he is also an excellent athlete, playing basketball and running track. He says that when people find out that he received a scholarship, they ask him if he received it in sports, he answers, "No, **I got an academic scholarship for my brain!**"

Julian also helped his fellow students at Leuzinger as a Peer College Counselor. He said that math always came easy to him and when he saw a fellow student struggling, he felt it was his duty to help them with their work. He said he would tell incoming freshman to **"stay focused, have fun, it is possible to succeed."**

He stopped by the district office to say farewell to CVUHSD and brought his little brother, Jemuel, who is visiting from Belize this summer. Jemuel is so proud of his "big" brother, he says he has got big footsteps to follow and Julian is truly his **real life hero.**

## HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL TEACHER RECEIVES THE YALE DISTINGUISHED MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD

Joy Devlin, choral teacher at Hawthorne High School, received the "Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award" for 2009 at a symposium on Music In Schools held on June 10-11, 2009 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Joy worked as a transcriber/arranger for Stevie Wonder and also worked for 17 years concertizing with singers and instrumentalists as musical director for Children's Theater Experience. In 2004, Joy Devlin was asked to rebuild the Hawthorne High choral program. By 2006, the advanced choir was invited to dedicate the Beach Boys monument performing Brian Wilson's music in his presence. Way to go, Joy!

## DISTRICT NEWS

- As of the printing of this newsletter, we are happy to announce that ALL TEACHERS, with the exception of 3 counselors, who received Reduction In Force letter, have been offered re-employment.
- The District projected incoming students to Centinela to total approximately 6,800. As of 9/21/09, there are a total of 6,892.
- Lloyde Continuation High School and Lawndale High School made AYP.
- Leuzinger and Hawthorne High School increased their API scores.
- The District has authorized Instructional Services to establish 3 new academies for next school year. Staff involvement will be included in the planning.

➔ **Get involved! Join PTA!**

## NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The District is using a **new student information system** since September, 2009. The previous program called "Sasi" was replaced with "PowerSchool." The program allows parents to view their student's grades, attendance, and communicate with the teachers. Parents are provided with a username and a password. The only way a student's information can be accessed is through this information. For any questions, please contact your student's school.



## RETIREES - 2009

A reception was held for retirees of 2009 at the district office. **A total of 225 years of service was completed by the retiring employees.** Thank you all for a job well done for the students and staff of Centinela Valley Union High School District!



## SUMMER COMPLETION CEREMONY

The CVUHSD Board of Education decided to offer classes this summer at all three high schools. Although the current financial crisis restricted the offerings, the district still felt it was important to offer core classes to students who needed to make up credits. As a result **over 2,500 students attended classes and the attendance was an all-time high.**



A ceremony was held at Leuzinger High School on Thursday, August 6, 2009 where students from Lawndale, Hawthorne, and Leuzinger High Schools received recognition for completing their high school diploma. Congratulations to all the participants!

### NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of the Superintendent

14901 Inglewood Avenue, Lawndale, CA 90260  
(310) 263-3201 [www.centinela.k12.ca.us](http://www.centinela.k12.ca.us)

**Board of Education:** Gloria A. Ramos, President, Sandra C. Suarez, Vice-President, Rocio C. Pizano, Clerk, Rudy Salas, Member, Francisco M. Talavera, Member  
**Jose A. Fernandez, Superintendent**

## WELCOME!

Centinela Valley Union High School District would like to welcome our 2 newest principals.

### Dr. Damon Dragos, Principal, Lawndale High School

Dr. Damon Dragos will be joining us at Lawndale High School. Dr. Dragos previously served as principal at La Canada High School in Pasadena and Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton. He earned his Bachelors of History from Whittier College, a Masters in Administration from Azusa Pacific and his Doctorate in Education Leadership from the University of Southern California. He is married and has two daughters.

He says his goals are to work diligently to support the continued growth and success of the programs at Lawndale, to draw in and connect with parents and the community and work collaboratively with the entire district to provide the best of learning opportunities for the students.



### Dr. Raul Carranza, Principal, Leuzinger High School

Dr. Raul Carranza will be joining us at Leuzinger High School. Dr. Carranza brings an abundance of experience to Leuzinger. He was a principal at College Ready Academy High School #7, a charter school in Los Angeles Unified School District. He was also a principal at Juvenile Hall Charter School in San Diego County and at Desert High School at Edwards Air Force Base. He was also a teacher at Fremont and Crenshaw High School. He wants to continue "Reaching for the Gold" at Leuzinger and thinks this is a great opportunity to bring the community, parents, and students together and continue to make Leuzinger Olympians the best.



**Dr. Karma Moore-Nicolis** and **Michael Martinez**, who are also new to the district, will be joining us at Hawthorne High School as new Assistant Principals and **Byron Briggs**, Assistant Principal at Leuzinger High School.

Welcome to our "CVUSHD family."



## COUGAR ACADEMY

**A new "School within a School" is opening at Hawthorne High School. It is called the "Cougar Academy".**

The program is being made available to Hawthorne students via a unique partnership between Cougar Academy and another "school within a school" type program, the Navy Junior Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program.



Students Physical Education, character growth and other life skills training will be delivered by two Naval Science instructors (NSI's) in a team teaching environment. Senior Chief David Yancy and Chief Pedro Martinez have over 55 years of combined experience in training young people in taking on new challenges and accomplishing life goals.

The students will enjoy a "special dual status"; they will be Cougar Academy Students/Cadets. Once a year, they will participate in the California Fitness Gram and the NJROTC Navy-wide Physical Fitness Test (PFT). They will even have the opportunity to compete in traditional school sports (with qualifying academic standing) or NJROTC Athletic Meet competitions.

Good luck to the Cougar Cadets as they lead the way to success!

### Other Academies in the District:

- Engineering - Hawthorne H.S.
- Biomedical - Lawndale H.S.
- Marine Academy - Lawndale H.S.
- Multimedia Arts - Leuzinger H.S.
- Environmental Careers - Leuzinger H.S.

## LEUZINGER BUNGALOWS ARE GONE

**One of the first things accomplished this summer was to remove the bungalows at Leuzinger.** The bungalows have been unsightly and unsafe for some time. The Board and the Superintendent were committed to getting them off the campus and getting Leuzinger cleaned up—thanks to all involved in the process.