

# Return of supportive alumni unites generations

## Alumni immerse in activities, deserves appreciation and emulation

by **Christine Chang**

At select times of the year, persons of vague familiarity appear on campus, gliding in and out of classrooms in a déjà vu trance. But most days of the school year, they're busy putting on that freshman 15 or cramming their way to a Ph.D.. The Matadors of years past are often so busy bustling about college campuses or even the working world that they seem to come back once in a blue moon, and only so shortly.

Shortly, if at all. At most, they'll usually sit quietly in the very back of classrooms, almost inconspicuous in the throng of students who only do as much as glance briefly in their direction.

Yet sometimes they make more notable appearances. They do more than just drop by to relive high school for a few hours like visitors of the past. They come again with a mission in mind—to build and preserve a legacy of MVHS spirit.

When alumni, with their hands full managing college or careers, voluntarily involve themselves with high school matters, they are offering a truly noble deed. Alumni who come back not only instill a sense of pride in fellow Matadors; they contribute a feeling

of timelessness to MVHS—a feeling that MVHS isn't merely a four-year learning center. It says something about the respect for the constituents of this school that graduates have.

Often times these exemplar veterans become such an integral part of student organizations they seem to blend right in. Class of 2009 alumnus Brendan Dinh isn't conspicuously different within

the sea of badminton players whom he helps coach nearly every day. Likewise, class of 2009 alumnus Brian Miller works closely with drama so much so that he appears to be simply a more experienced student, but not at all an outsider. The countless hours he spent guiding and mentoring students the past few months contributed to the magnificent *Odyssey* production that debuted this March.

### GENEROUS GRADUATES

**Who they are and how they have given back:**



Christine Chang | El Estoque



Sabrina Ghaus | El Estoque

**Brendan Dinh, Class of 2009:** Helps coach the badminton team, particularly new members, nearly every day

**Brian Miller, Class of 2009:** Worked closely with the drama class as assistant director on "The Odyssey" production

Sometimes they'll make a grand entrance on our own auditorium stage. On Feb. 13, Class of 2008 alumna Jenny Suk made MVHS Key Club's Hope for Haiti benefit concert a hit by offering to perform alongside YouTube star AJ Rafael, and helped to raise over \$1,400 for Haiti relief. The orchestra's annual winter concert dazzled audiences with a special appearance of soprano Michela Macfarlane, who returned to sing 18 years after her graduation.

These are the alumni who, regardless of having retired from their Matador years, deserve a purple pin of recognition. They're the real bull spirit champions, because it's easy for high school to become little more than a memory once those diplomas are all handed out.

Giving back is easier said than done, and those who've done more than simply offer their appearance, whether behind the scenes in drama

or in the spotlight, exemplify what loyalty really means.

So as our senior class graduates, may the farewells be short-lived. Whether they're aiming to be the next NBA stars or running for senator, it's the ones who come back with the same humbling Matador pride that really become an enduring part of MV's collective identity.