

# THE 100 HALL

[www.bigredpride.com](http://www.bigredpride.com)

## Vision

To Inspire Every Highlander By Giving Back!



## Fast out of the gate!

Seems that time continues to fly by. Since we became an “official” organization on 1 June 2009, we have stayed engaged to create an organization that all Bel Air Alumni would like to call their own.

We have focused on bringing alumni together through events, building relationship with district and school administrators, and connecting with students through site events.

We will continue to take steps and are hopeful that many of you will join to further improve our organization.

The rewards of connecting with old friends, making new friends, and spending time with today’s youth provide fulfillment for all the invested efforts.

Read further to learn more about the exciting activities that you are helping make possible.

Sincerely,

The Bel Air Highlander Alumni Board

## Values & Norms

**A**ction- Oriented

**L**oyal

**U**nifying

**M**otivating

**N**oteworthy

**I**ntegrity



For the latest news, events, or simply mingle, stop by  
THE 100 HALL!

Your locker is still there!

## Making a Difference

# Scholarships!

Congratulations alumni!

You are on the brink of reaching the high mark that was set by those of you that believe in helping our young peers achieve in the perseverance of a higher education. And in this moment – perfect in both its accomplishment and its potential – we stand on the threshold of delivering on our promise...to deliver the opportunity of a higher education to Highlander students that are seeking to make a productive difference in their life, and as a consequence, in the life of those around them.

A few years back, on a pleasant El Paso night, some of us stood in a dark corner of Oscar Ramirez's ('84) backyard catching up on the life experiences that were written in the years after we left the Big Red. Many of the shared experiences and stories traced their way back to our Bel Air High roots. It was at that moment that we realized that we had a responsibility to give back to Bel Air and to encourage our peers to return to Bel Air the opportunity that was on loan to us.

Today we are prepared to make good on our promise of delivering five one-thousand dollar scholarships to deserving students. These last few months have been humbling in regards to the planning, developing and implementing the Alumni Scholarship agenda. However, some of the challenges before us have been successfully conquered. Such as:

- Deliberate and approve the attributes and criteria
- Develop a marketing and distribution strategy
- Write the application and agreement forms
- Clear and approve our scholarship program with the YISD and Bel Air High School administration
- Approve a benchmark schedule

In addition to these items, many other tasks have been completed, but there is work yet to be accomplished towards the delivery of scholarships. Of major importance, is the formation off an Award Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will be tasked with reviewing the list of applicants and selecting five deserving students (one from each of the five Bel Air Academies). We intend to have the Selection Committee seated in early 2010. We are looking for alumni who would like to participate as a member of this important committee.

If you would like to be part of the Award Selection Committee, submit your name at [www.bigredpride.com](http://www.bigredpride.com).

The generations of family, educators and alumni who have nurtured us, let us know that we are part of a “Big Red” continuum...and dedication of time, labor, ideas and pride redeems the hopes and dreams of everyone in this continuum. Alumni, your support of the Highlander Agenda fulfills the promise of Bel Air’s legacy; deepen a kinship with peers; and provide inspiration for younger generations who will benefit from your example. More importantly, you are of immense help in getting to the “black” cap and gown and that expensive piece of paper. You are helping achieve a portion of a dream that many cannot reach without an initial push.

Thank you for trusting The Bel Air Highlander Alumni with your time and financial contributions. You can all be assured that not one cent of your donations has been or will be misappropriated.

We hope to see all of you at the awards ceremony to witness the product of your dedication.



Julian Garcia

Class of 1985

## Breaking 100!

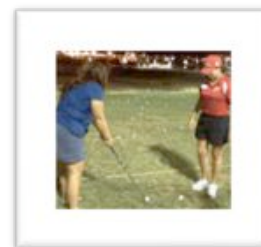
The Bel Air Highlander Alumni annual golf tournament continued to grow. More than 100 participants, sponsors and volunteers gathered to make this annual event a great success.

The winning team of Armando Almanza '91, Angel Torres '90, Mike Chavez '91 and Al Lopez '89 carded an impressive score to narrowly edge out the second place team of Dennis Telas '93, Pete Telas '86, Joby Telas '81 and Whaley Berry '95 by four strokes.

Armando Almanza was a double winner as his towering long drive outdistanced playing partner Al Lopez by less than twelve inches while class of '73 alum Ismael Leggarrete won closest to the pin honors.

Thank you to everyone who participated as the revenue generated by this event helps fund scholarships that The Bel Air Highlander Alumni will be awarding in May of 2010 to five deserving students.

A special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event another successful tournament.



Golf Range Mixer 2009

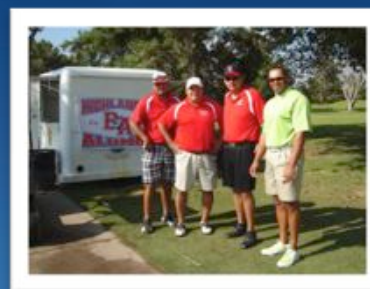
Food, friends, and a fun evening together as we all took swings on the driving range.

It was great to see all the kids having a great time.

Keep Practicing and Come Out Again Next Year!



## The Winners!



## The Proof?



Titleist		2009 Bel Air Alumni	
72			
59	2 <sup>ND</sup>		
55	1 <sup>ST</sup>		

#14 - Closest to Pin	Ismael Leggarrete
#18 - Longest Drive	Armando ALMANZA
09-18-2009	

## The Perks of Becoming a Bel Air Highlander Alumni Member

While in high school, someone once said, “when you hear bag pipes playing, you’ll always remember Bel Air”. They were right! Sixteen years after leaving high school, the sound of bag pipes takes me into a nostalgic trance and brings back many great memories.

Like most might come many siblings, financial Spanish as or single



Highlanders, we from a family with tight responsibilities, our first language, parent homes.

College was not made a priority. Being the first of five siblings to actually graduate from a university was quite an accomplishment. If I could get through four years of college, I couldn’t see why anyone else could not do the same.

Going back to Bel Air and sharing with present, and future highlanders that they have the same opportunities as well, was something I wanted to do. I wanted to go and “give back” to the highlander community. How would I do this?

Well, turns out there is an awesome organization out there known as the Bel Air Highlander Alumni, and I am a member!

Being an alumni member has reconnected me with many classmates, not only from my graduating class, but from the 1960’s to the present! And the great thing we all have in common...we have those bagpipes in our hearts, we have BIG RED PRIDE!

This organization hosts many different and fun events, some family oriented and some just to get together and have some fun, like golf tournaments, mixers, family picnics, and baseball games. They also participate in career day at Bel Air and its feeder schools like Ranchland and Hillcrest and other events I have had the pleasure to attend.

All the money they raise goes directly to scholarships, for students graduating from Bel Air.

Now here is another perk about being an alumni member. A couple of months ago while at a job interview, I was asked what I thought about “giving back to the community” and if I was involved in any community organizations.

Well, I eagerly informed them all about the Bel Air Highlander Alumni organization and how it gives back to the community, and it just so happened that the place I was interviewing at was an elementary school in the Bel Air community. Well, I landed the position at my elementary alma mater (Hacienda Heights), and I now have the great opportunity to interact with future highlanders.



Its never to early to instill ideas, motivate, and try to inspire, even a five year old, “...to **continue their education in a four-year college, university or institution of higher education so that they become successful citizens in their community**” as the YISD vision statement tells us.

Anna C. Gomez-Garcia

Class of 1993

## Staying Involved!

### Booster Bonanza

To kick off the school year, we attended the Bel Air Booster Bonanza in August. At this event, key leaders such as Michael Zolkoski (YISD Superintendent) and Marvyn Luckett (Bel Air Principal) shared key objectives and guidelines pertaining to organizations that are involved with the school.



We were fortunate to interface with different boosters as well as hear Mr. Preston Dennard, who was the keynote speaker.

### Hillcrest Character Education and Career Day - 2009

We had another great day as we returned to Viking Land to participate in the annual career day this November.



The day was well spent, as we were able to share our life experiences as well as hear of the vast dreams of today's youth. Witnessing the interest, focus on the future, and their enjoyment was reassuring that future Highlanders will be well prepared and will achieve new levels of success.

### Math, Science, and Engineering Academy

Angela Reyna, Assistant Principal and Director for the Math, Science, and Engineering Academy is looking for alumni that have established themselves as successful engineers, architects, or any career where math or science is a focus. She would like to invite you to speak to students about their career endeavors and successes.



Please contact Angela at [areyna@yisd.net](mailto:areyna@yisd.net) and make a difference by connecting with today's Highlanders. Go Big Red!



## President's Corner

We are very excited about our inaugural season as the official Bel Air Highlander Alumni. We have already received many of your generous contributions.

All the events that our board has put together have been a tremendous success.

Of course, in order to make this a successful year we encourage all alumni to show their pride and loyalty with your support, not just financial, but give us your thoughts and ideas for future events.

Help us make BAHA the best organization and help us make a difference in the lives of our current students.

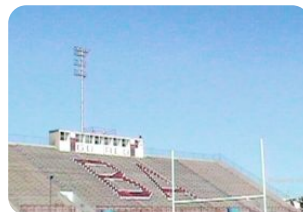
I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the most prosperous New Year.

Angel Torres  
Class of 1990

# Friday Night Reflections



With my older kids now in high school, I recall fond memories of my time at Bel Air and I would bet that you think of old friends and good times as well. I attended a number of high school football games this year. Go Rams! ... Yes...You do establish a connection with your kids high school. So I do wear green and cheer on the rams but will continue to keep tabs on Bel Air as I still bleed Red.



The high school football game scene is very entertaining and brings back many memories as the cast of characters remains the same. The jocks, the cheer leaders, the stadium roamers, the band, and of course the parents.

So now we are in the parents seat. What an amazing seat. In this seat you recall great memories, make incredible new ones and have a new perspective. We have conversations with our kids about their plans as we realize that soon they will be off on their own enjoying the joys that the future will provide.

I spend time speaking with my kids about their future plans, but I still can not grasp that soon they will be off on their own. Although, it is reassuring that today's teenagers "know everything." I am glad that my kids are thinking of their future, more that I did at their age, and my hopes are that all their grand plans come true.

As I reflect back on my journey in life, I feel blessed for all the challenges and successes along the way. At the same time, I wonder on how I can help my kids and others on their way. You and I can trace our paths back to Bel Air High School. This alumni organization is where a number of people, just like you, have decided to unite and find ways to give back.

Our intent is to help today's highlanders by sharing experiences, enhancing their educational experience, and generating resources that will benefit them.

Back in May, when we decided to move forward, I had high expectations and envisioning the vast number of alumni gathering together and marching through each objective



we had set in front of us. Reality set in as the flood gates of alumni did not open. Don't get me wrong, many participated in key events. Critical few, such as Roxie Salazar-Lopez and Claudia Acuña-Lopez carried the load in ensuring the logistics for events occurred.

I realize that we are all busy as we are involved with our jobs, family, and friends. I often kid, that my second job is that of taxi driver as my kids seem to carry quite the social calendar.

As a board, we want to represent you and create an organization that you will want to be part of; after all, you are The Bel Air Highlander Alumni. It doesn't matter if you graduated over 30 years ago or just last year, or if you live away or in El Paso, you can make a difference. The easiest way is to become a member and help us keep taking strides to make this a meaningful and beneficial effort.

I encourage you to visit [www.bigredpride.com](http://www.bigredpride.com) to learn more and join The Bel Air Highlander Alumni. Your help and participation will enhance the quality of education and significantly benefit students as they make important choices that will impact the rest of their lives.

Thank you for considering my request to join and serve the Bel Air Community.

On behalf of the board, I would like to wish all of you a safe an joyous holiday season.

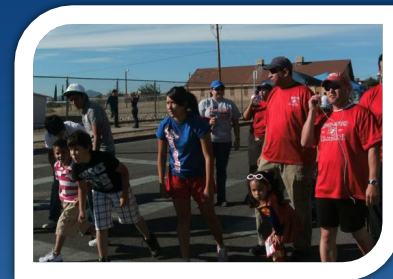
Sincerely,  
George Ramirez  
Class of 1986

# Homecoming 2009

## FIGHT SONG

Hail the Highlanders of Bel Air High,  
Hail the Highlanders of Do or Die,  
Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors  
Hip-Hop Hooray Go-Go-Go!!

Hail the Spirit of the Tried and True,  
Hail the Colors of Red, White and Blue,  
Let them hear a Rousing Cheer,  
Hail to Bel Air Fight Highlanders Fight.



The one-mile lap around the Bel Air Campus ended with the start of the annual Street Festival

## Street Fest Fun Run 2009

### Upcoming Events

December 26, 2009 – Alumni Year-End Mixer



Join us to connect with old friends and an evening of fun!  
Visit us on Facebook or [www.bigredpride](http://www.bigredpride) for more details.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

February 20, 2010 – Alumni Baseball Game

May 2010 – Scholarship Award Luncheon

