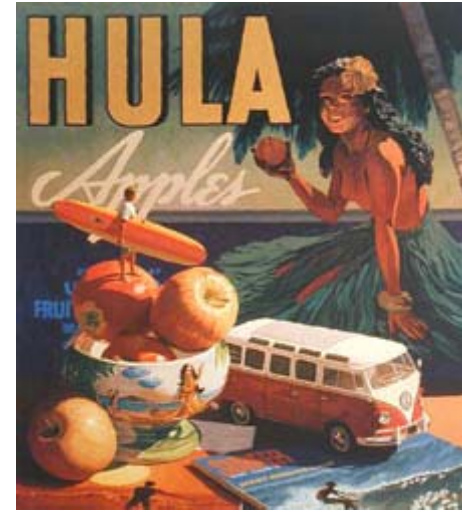


The Downey Patriot

Downey High inducting five into hall of fame

DOWNEY



“Hula Apples” is one of many offset lithographs by artist Scott Moore. A 1967 Downey High School graduate, Moore will be inducted into the school’s hall of fame at ceremonies today. Image courtesy www.scottmooreart.com

2008 DHS Inductees

**James P. Ball
David R. Gafin
Jack Kyser
Shari McMahan
Scott Moore**

—Five Downey High School graduates, each distinguished in their respective field of work, will be inducted into the

school's hall of fame in a campus ceremony at 10 a.m. today.

The inductees were chosen by a panel of DHS administrators and alumni from six categories, including Arts; Athletics; Business; Education; Civic, Community and Government; and Professional. Except under special circumstances, inductees are graduates of Downey High School.

The following is a brief biography of this year's inductees, as provided by the school.

James P. Ball (1952), Outstanding Track Athlete - James Ball graduated from Downey High School in 1952. He attended UCLA, graduating with a BS in Physical Education in 1957. He then served his country in the United States Air Force in the field of Operations and Intelligence from 1957 – 1979 and was a track coach and instructor at the United States Air Force Academy from 1964 – 1967. He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel.

Ball's athletic record is as equally impressive as his academic accomplishments. He was an alternate for the 1960 U.S. Olympic track team in the 110-meter high hurdles, a member of the UCLA NCAA championship track team, had the fastest time in the world high hurdles, holds a black belt in judo and aikido, was an All-American in volleyball between 1983 – 1985 and again from 1994 – 1995, was an advisor and track coach for high-altitude training for the Philippine track and field team for the 1968 Olympics, and was only the second American to be named Adopted Son by the Baguio City, Philippine City Council.

Ball has also held numerous posts on many community organizations, including the August Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Olympic Torch Relay Taskforce, Greater Augusta Sports Council, Augusta Volleyball Association, and currently chairs the Evans High School Career/Tech Ed Advisory Board.

David R. Gafin (1972), Mayor, City of Downey - David Gafin's community involvement includes being past president of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, Gangs Out of Downey and the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club. He was also chairman of the Downey City Planning Commission, Downey Holiday Lane Parade and the Downey Street Faire.

He was vice president of the Downey Coordinating Council and is a member of Citizens for Downey and the Downey Rose Float Association.

Currently the mayor of Downey, Gafin's responsibilities include being the city representative to the Downey Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Chamber's City Affairs Committee, the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center Foundation, Gangs Out of Downey, the Gateway Cities 91/105 Needs Assessment Study Corridor Cities Committee, I-5 Consortium Cities Policy Board, L.A. County Sanitation Districts 2 and 18, the Budget Subcommittee and the Lakewood Subcommittee. He is also an elected regional council member for District 25 representing Downey and South Gate in the Southern California Association of Governments.

Gafin has won awards as Kiwanian of the Year, Downey Chamber of Commerce Director and Committee Person of the Year, Outstanding Community Service Volunteer for the Downey Coordinating Council, and Small Business of the Year by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

He lives in Downey with his wife, Brenda, who also graduated from Downey High School, and has a son, Brent Gable, who graduated from Downey High School as well.

Jack Kyser (1951), Chief Economist - Jack Kyser is the chief economist on staff at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Called the “guru of the Los Angeles economy” by the “Los Angeles Business Journal,” Kyser is responsible for interpreting and forecasting economic trends in the Los Angeles region (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties), and for his close analysis of the major industries of the region. Utilizing this information, he helps develop job retention and creation strategies for Los Angeles County. Kyser’s insight is frequently sought by business, government and the media.

The LAEDC is a private, not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is leadership in the retention and creation of jobs and economic base in the Los Angeles area. Kyser’s analytical research work and insightful knowledge of the regional economy has helped to elevate the LAEDC to recognition as the pre-eminent source of economic information and forecasts on Southern California. In late 2007, the LAEDC named its research function “the Kyser Center for Economic Research.”

Prior to joining the LAEDC, Kyser was chief economist for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also worked for Security Pacific National Bank, First Interstate Bank, and the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Neb., where he was transportation economist. He has taught economics at the University of Nebraska – Omaha, and served as a business reporter and commentator for radio station KVNO, also in Omaha.

A native of California, Kyser was born in Huntington Park. He resides in Downey where he graduated from Downey (Union) High School. He holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Industrial Design and an MBA from the University of Southern California. He has also pursued additional course work at UCLA.

Shari McMahan (1981), Nationally Recognized Educator - Dr. Shari McMahan is professor and chair of the Department of Health Science at California State University, Fullerton. She received her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine and her M.S. degree in Health Science from California State University Northridge.

She was included in 1998 as a special advisor for the California Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. She has served as VP Research and VP Health for the Southwest District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. In 2005, she won the Distinguished Faculty Member Award for the College of Health and Human Development.

McMahan is a reviewer for the “American Journal of Health Promotion,” “American Journal of Health Behavior” and “American Journal of Health Studies.” She is co-editor of the “California Journal of Health Promotion.”

McMahan also directs the Center for the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles and Obesity Prevention and is very active in the community preventing obesity, promoting health in aging workers, and reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in young women. In her spare time she teaches group fitness classes in Orange County.

Scott Moore (1967), Nationally Recognized Artist - In 1970, while in his senior year at California State University, Long Beach, Scott Moore joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he worked as an artist on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. At 20 years old, he was responsible for designing and building oversized backdrops that would adorn the main ballroom of the Hawaiian Hilton for the Pacific Fleet’s Marine Corp Ball, not to mention any other art-related project that came across his desk.

Returning to civilian life in 1972, Moore continued his art studies at Long Beach State and in 1973 married Carol LaGette, his childhood sweetheart (a Downey High School 1971 graduate). They moved to Laguna Beach in 1980 where Moore pursued his full-time artist career, exhibiting at the summer festivals and raising their two children, Brady and Hayley.

Moore is past president of the Festival of Arts and Pageant of the Sawdust Festival Benevolence Fund. He holds prestigious memberships in the American Watercolor Society, New York and the National Watercolor Society, Los Angeles. His watercolor and oil paintings are collected around the world and are in numerous private and corporate collections.