



AL WOOTEN JR. YOUTH CENTER

EST. 1990 **CATCH THE VISION!**

30TH ANNUAL

CATCH THE VISION AWARDS DINNER

CELEBRATING OUR *34th* ANNIVERSARY!



HONORING



**JOHN MOHME
FOUNDATION**

*For their investment and commitment
to our youth and center*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 | 6:30-9:30PM
HOTEL CASA DEL MAR, SANTA MONICA

To the John Mohme
Foundation,

We wish to express our
deepest appreciation for your
outstanding service, concern,
and support for the youth and
staff of the Al Wooten Jr.
Youth Center.

The Lapham Family



WELCOME

Dear Guests, Students, Parents, Board Members, Distinguished Guests, and Honored Award Recipients,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to our 30th annual Catch the Vision Awards Dinner. We are thrilled to have you join us tonight as we celebrate the achievements and success of our students, and honor those who have supported our mission over the years.

This evening is particularly special as we gather to recognize the incredible support we receive from our community, and we are honored to present the prestigious Catch the Vision Award to the John Mohme Foundation. Their generous contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of the youth we serve, helping to create a brighter future for all who pass through the doors of the Wooten Center.

To our students and parents, we are proud of your dedication and hard work. To our board members, staff, and volunteers, thank you for your tireless efforts in bringing our mission to life. And to our distinguished guests, supporters, and partners, your presence here tonight is a testament to the shared commitment we all have in providing a safe and nurturing environment for the youth of our community.

We look forward to celebrating with you and making this milestone evening a memorable one. Thank you for your continued support of the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center and for helping us Catch the Vision for the next generation.

With gratitude,

Paul Wetmore, board chair
Corey Dantzler, executive director



Paul, second from left with his lovely wife, Melinda. Corey, second from right. Picture taken at our 2023 Vision Awards Dinner



Envision © Synthia SAINT JAMES

Thank you to acclaimed artist Synthia SAINT JAMES for the "Envision" artwork featured in our logo.

Thank you for the impact
you are making in the lives
of young people in our city.

David and Liz McFadzean

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our 30th annual Catch the Vision Vision Awards Dinner fundraiser. We honor you!



Sapphire (\$50,000)

Arrillaga Foundation
Friends Honoring John Lapham

Platinum (\$10,000)

SAA interiors + architecture
Christopher and Karen Jennings
Steven and Debra Oh
Paul and Melinda Wetmore

Gold (\$5,000)

Bank of America
David and Liz McFadzean
The World Famous KROQ

Silver (\$2,500)

Saeri Dobson, Ed.D.
The Lapham Family
Keith and Paulette Parker
Dr. Harin and Lotte de Silva
John and Kathy Talley-Jones

Bronze (\$1,500)

HKS Architects
Brian Condon

Auction Donors



OUR HONOREES



JOHN MOHME FOUNDATION

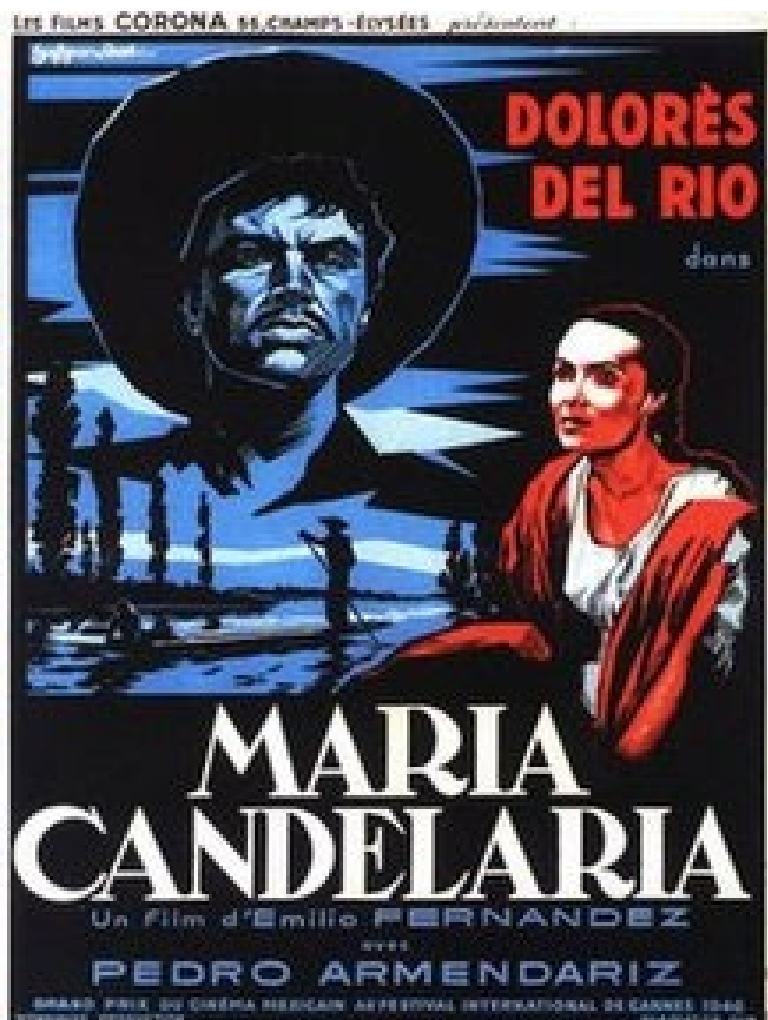


Look around town in Los Angeles and you'll see posters from the free streaming service Vix advertising many Spanish-language films from their earliest heyday. Clasa-Mohme, Inc., a movie studio owned and operated by Gustavo Mohme from 1941 to 1958, produced many classic films. "Maria Candelaria" is one such offering filmed in Mexico City in 1944 and starring Dolores Del Rio and Pedro Armendáriz. The movie about the love between a painter and a prostitute's daughter became the first Mexican film to be screened at the Cannes International Film Festival where it won the Grand Prix Award.

Gustavo's son John Mohme continued the family business tradition, carrying on the legacy as a film producer and distributor in the United States before his passing at age 102 in 2022. In his will, John, a classical pianist, dog breeder, and former WWII combat medic, bequeathed funds for a foundation that would support youth, education, music, animals, veterans, and other interests he loved. Proposals are accepted by invitation only.



Today, the John Mohme Foundation is one of the largest donors at the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center, having given more than \$250,000 since 2022 to help support our students. "The John Mohme Foundation has been a great friend since they first invited us to apply for a grant award," said Wooten board chair Paul Wetmore. "From their visits to our center to their extension of summer scholarships, along with the grants, they have helped sustain our work providing college and career readiness for our students. We greatly appreciate their friendship and thank them for accepting our Vision Award."



Rodger and Bob Mohme are the nephews that John entrusted to further the foundation he started in 2012. The brothers and sister-in-law Jayne Bower are the board members who have been carrying on the family's legacy of giving funds earned from their family's rags-to-riches story. Bob said he found the Wooten Center on Community Coalition's website under referrals (thank you, CoCo!).

"We're trying to do the best work we can with the money our uncle left in the areas he's interested in," said Bob, who had his own career in entertainment including working 25 years in marketing at Warner Bros., and some 10 years for the company started by TV producer Norman Lear, which evolved into Sony Pictures Television. "We work to find people who are doing good work where we can help make a difference. We don't want to provide direction but just to say these guys have been doing really good work for a while, so that is who we target."

While the family's history in entertainment and other fields is very noteworthy (Rodger helped develop the first laptops at Apple), it wasn't always this way. Gustavo, whose family migrated from Germany, started working in film distribution in Peru and moved the family to Argentina, then Chile and Mexico as his business career developed.

Gustavo sent his nephew to the University of Texas at Austin where John graduated in 1939 before moving to Los Angeles to work at Fox Studios. He later joined his father to start a new film business based in Los Angeles and Mexico City. A few months after John's dad and other family joined him in Los Angeles, the war effort interrupted his movie career when the Army drafted and stationed him in San Luis Obispo, CA. He helped guard the coast there after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and served as a combat medic in the South Pacific for the duration of the war. When John returned to Los Angeles, he went to work in his father's then-successful business producing and acquiring films in Mexico City for distribution in the United States and Canada.

"I remember Norman Lear was very motivated by his philanthropy," Bob said. "My uncle John was like that. That was his motivation—helping people. We aren't doing this for recognition. We would rather be on the quiet side, but if we can be a leverage to help raise more money for the center, we're happy to do that."

Wooten executive director Corey Dantzler said he is thrilled to honor the foundation for their care and contributions. "The John Mohme Foundation's commitment to creating brighter futures for young people makes them a truly deserving recipient of this award," Corey said. "We appreciate the shared journey supporting our youth and thank them for the example that John Mohme represents."

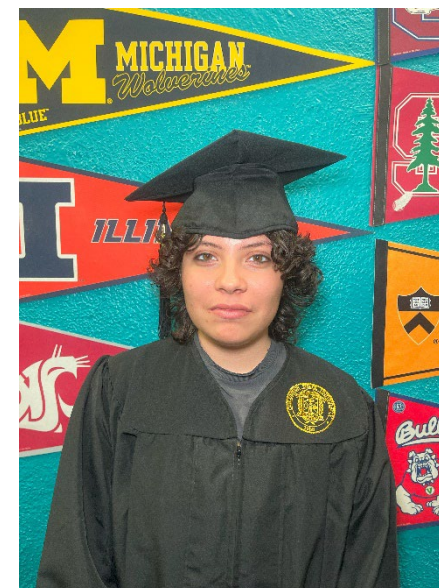




SAA interiors + architecture is proud to contribute to the Wooten Center in their mission to provide support for academic excellence in our youth!

OUR STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Our staff selected the following 2024 Wooten Student Achievers for their exemplary performance in fulfilling our mission for good citizenship and academic excellence. The students will speak and receive medals during the dinner program. We congratulate them for their great work and are looking forward to their continued success in our CollegeTrek Afterschool Program!



Seana Perez



Terron Rucker

Youth of the Year

Seana Perez

Good Citizenship

Terron Rucker

Good Sportsmanship

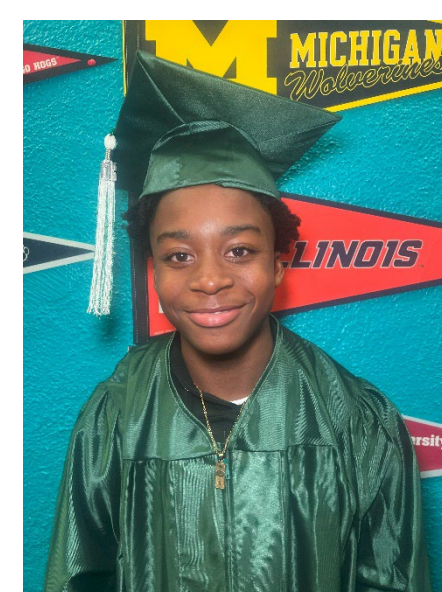
Kaiden Palmer

Jahmari Mariano

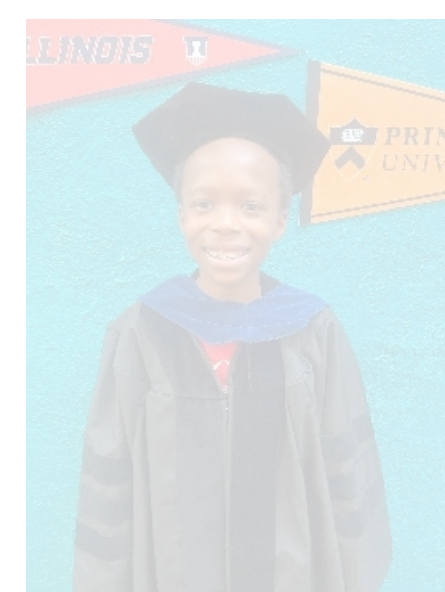
Stevie Brown



Kaiden Palmer



Jahmari Mariano



Stevie Brown

Academic Excellence, Math

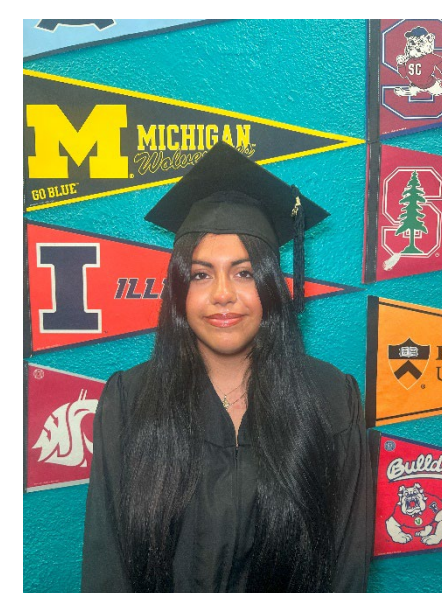
Alexia Cadena

Sandra Cadena

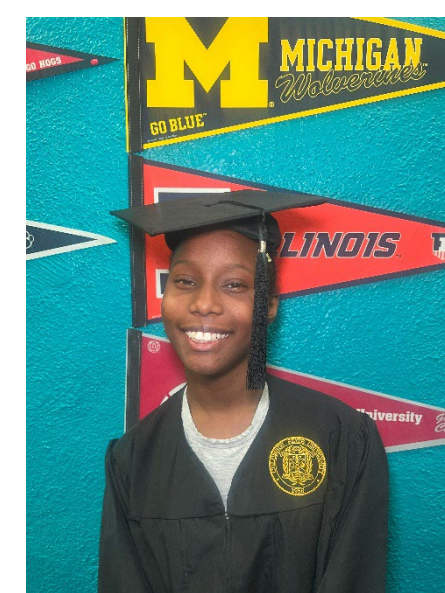
Seana Perez



Alexia Cadena



Sandra Cadena



Serenity Goffney

Academic Excellence, Reading

Serenity Goffney

Academic Excellence, Science

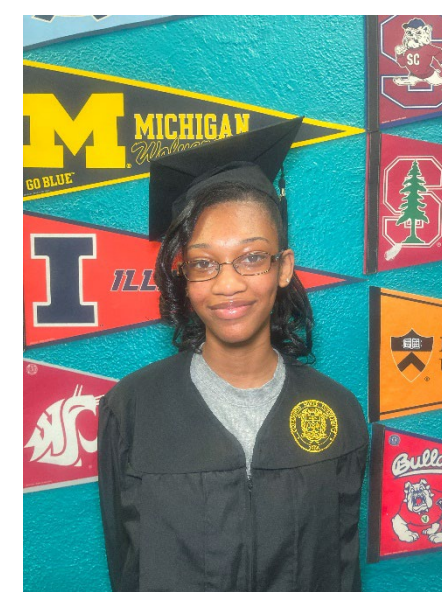
Justin Gray

Academic Excellence, Writing

Sharixa Irving



Justin Gray




Sharixa Irving

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our honored guests. Your invaluable assistance has been instrumental in enabling the Wooten Center to continue providing vital support to the children and families of South Los Angeles.

**Kit and Karen
Jennings**

OUR HISTORY



To Myrtle - Congratulations on your great work!


Mrs. Rumph with President Barack Obama at the White House on August 4, 2010 receiving one of 13 Presidential Citizens Medals, our nation's second highest civilian honor, for her work at the Wooten Center

The Wooten Center is continuing the work of Myrtle Faye Rumph, who founded our youth center in 1990 to help other people avoid her son's fate. Mrs. Rumph passed away on January 7, 2015. She was 83 and suffered heart failure.

According to police, 35-year-old Alton Wooten Jr. was the innocent victim of a gang initiation. Within weeks of her son's murder in 1989, Mrs. Rumph began holding meetings in her home with family and friends wanting to find solutions to the gang crisis in their community. They developed a plan to open a youth center to provide alternatives to gang activity in South Los Angeles.

After three months of meetings and a year venturing out taking kids at a local church community center on field trips, Mrs. Rumph rented a storefront at 91st and Western next door to the moving and storage company she owned with her husband Harris. With the help from family and friends, she opened a youth center for boys and girls ages 8-18.

The first participants were four pre-teen boys who used to hang out on the corner in front of Mrs. Rumph's business. Today, the Wooten Center is still on Western Ave., although in five buildings the center owns across the street from the original site. We are providing more than 300 students with the opportunity to nurture their dreams, participate in academic enrichment and recreational programs, learn important social skills and graduate from high school and college.



Faye with her children (l to r) Arthur, Alton and Barbara at their apartment in Los Angeles, c. 1963



Faye Family Room dedication on Feb 27, 2015

OUR MISSION

"The Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center is a neighborhood approach to the revitalization and empowerment of a community in crisis. We provide a safe and nurturing environment committed to good citizenship and academic excellence."



Congratulations to the John Mohme Foundation for earning the prestigious Vision Award. We are deeply grateful for your steadfast support for our youth at the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center.

The Oh Family

PROGRAM

30TH ANNUAL CATCH THE VISION AWARDS DINNER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024, 6:30-9:30PM
HOTEL CASA DEL MAR, SANTA MONICA

Music by the Bluesman Blow and the Soul Brothers Band

6:30-7:30PM, Reception & Auction
7:30-8:30PM, Dinner
8:30-9:30PM, Program

Master of Ceremonies: Paul Wetmore, Wooten Board Chairperson

Introduction of Emcee

Welcome

Acknowledgments

Our History

Our Programs

Student Achievement Awards

Parent Comments

Friend Comments

Introduction of Honoree John Mohme Foundation

Vision Award Presentation

Closing Remarks

Silent auction winners may proceed to the auction area to pick up your items. You can also Zelle your payments to zelle@wootencenter.org. Please use the payment slip on the table to pay by card. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to all guests for joining and supporting us tonight.

The John Mohme Foundation's unwavering support for our youth and staff at the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center is deeply appreciated. We are honored to celebrate your generosity this evening.

Paul & Melinda Wetmore

OUR BOARD & STAFF

Thank you to our very caring and dedicated board of directors and staff for your commitment to good citizenship and academic excellence for our students! "Making a difference for life...Catch the vision!"



Our staff and board at their annual planning retreats

HONORARY BOARD

Myrtle Faye Rumph (dec.)
Founder

Ron Glass (dec.)
Board Chair Emeritus

Barbara Clark
Founding Family Member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Wetmore (chair)
Merrill Lynch (ret.)

Keith S. Parker (ret.) (vice chair)
UCLA Government & Community Relations

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Biashara, Inc.

Carina Castellanos
Lennox Library

Brian Condon
Arnold & Porter LLP

Lotte de Silva
Owens & Minor, Inc.

Saeri Dobson, Ed.D.
Loyola Marymount University

Leslie Fishburn

Sheena Flowers
Los Angeles Kings

Laurie Inman, Ed.D.
CSU Dominguez

Connie James, Ph.D.
Pepperdine University

Christopher "Kit" Jennings
Liquid Venture Partners

Amy L. Johnson
Pepperdine University

Naomi McSwain (ret.)
Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center

Scott Miller, Ph.D.
University of Tampa

Dashan Nettles
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Steven Oh
PineBridge Investments

Camille Richardson
NuVision Credit Union

Brett C. S. Roberts
El Camino Community College District

Kathy Talley-Jones
Independent Writer and Planner

STAFF

Corey Dantzler, Executive Director
Christelle Telesford, Associate Director
Beverly Matthews, Education Director
Jose Alfaro, Recreation Director
Victor Casey, Program Manager
Rosie Nyenke, Family Outreach Specialist
Jason Love, Program Specialist
Marissa Castor, Program Specialist
Grace Nyenke, Program Administrator
Gary Blow, Sr., Transportation Specialist
Erika Dewitt, Data Specialist



The John Mohme Foundation's generous support has enabled the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center to provide valuable college and career readiness programming for students in our afterschool and summer programs. We applaud them for their tremendous work!

Keith and Paulette Parker

OUR PROGRAMS

College preparation should not wait for high school. The Wooten Center starts at grade 3 to prepare students to adopt skills needed to complete their journey to higher education. We provide free afterschool and low-cost summer programs for more than 300 students in grades 3-12 at the center and other sites.

Thank you to all who have supported our work helping our youth improve and excel in school and life. For more information, visit www.wootencenter.org. For updates on our activities, go to Contacts to join our mailing list and/or “Like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wootencenter.



Teen Job Shop



Solar cars



Computer lab

THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR THREE PROGRAMS:

CollegeTrek Afterschool Program

CollegeTrek is a tuition-free, afterschool program offered online and onsite. We offer private tutoring, homework assistance, diagnostics and lessons in reading and math, STEM classes, art and music, world languages and culture with cooking, leadership and life skills development, sports and recreation, field trips, and more.

MyCollegeTrek

This free program for teens only runs year-round with high school and college and career advisement, college tours and scholarships, internships and discussion groups, Teen Night, Teen Job Shop, and Juvenile Justice Jeopardy workshops bringing cops and kids together to discuss juvenile law.

Summer Fun Camp

This low-cost program (\$65/wk) offers weekly project-based labs based on a STEM theme like this year’s “Exploring Technology,” which featured guest mentors teaching artificial intelligence, computer science, tech & sports, and tech & music. Other activities include tutoring and weekly book clubs and swim lessons.

SHAWN PATTERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our silent auction features an opportunity to send students to our 2025 Summer Fun Camp. Guest mentors will help expose our students to college and career options for people who want to work in STEM. All bids for the scholarship auction item are winners!

The cost is \$455 per student for the full 5-6 weeks. Wooten board member Dr. Scott Miller started the scholarship fund in memory of his friend, shot trying to defend an abused woman. Send a kid to summer camp! Donate tonight or online at www.wootencenter.org/donate. Thank you on behalf of Shawn, Scott, and the kids.



We really appreciate the help
you have provided to improve
the Al Wooten Jr.
Youth Center.

Dr. Saeri & Terry Dobson

Many congratulations on the 34th anniversary of the Wooten Center! Thank you for giving me the chance to serve with you!



Leslie Fishburn

Thank you to John Mohme Foundation for your care and support for students at the Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center. Thank you for sharing your love and legacy with us!

Randy and Naomi McSwain

Congratulations to Al Wooten Jr. Youth Center on the occasion of the 30th Vision Awards Dinner and to your staff, families, and youth. Catch the Vision!

**John and Kathy
Talley-Jones**

Congratulations to this year's
Vision Award Winners!

Dr. Harin and Lotte de Silva

In memory of Loren Pelofsky
and Ron Glass

Love,
The Pelofsky Family

Congratulations to our honoree
John Mohme Foundation for your
award and to the Al Wooten Jr.
Youth Center for 34 years of
service.

HKS

The achievements we see among our Wooten youth each year fills me with many joys. You are celebrated.

Amy S. Johnson

Congratulations to our friends at the Wooten Center. We are pleased to support your work through our Almost Acoustic Christmas Concert and more.



Arrillaga Foundation



AL WOOTEN JR.
YOUTH CENTER

EST. 1990 **CATCH THE VISION!**