

Foundation Day 2009—Welcomes Lance Williams, WHS '68

Lance Williams was back in Wyoming on September 21st to be recognized as the Foundation's 2009 Distinguished Alumni. Honorees are recognized as part of Foundation Day, a celebration that brings successful alumni back to Wyoming to meet with high school students.

The following reflection was provided to us by Lance Williams (Class of 1968) who was honored as the 2009 Distinguished Alumni and is currently an investigative reporter for California Watch's Center for Investigative Reporting.

It's every reporter's dream to write a big story that makes a difference – one that catches people's attention, and prompts debate, and leads to reform. The reporting that my partner, Mark Fainaru-Wada, and I did on baseball's steroids scandal -- first in the San Francisco Chronicle, and then in our book, *Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, Balco and the Steroids Scandal that Rocked Professional Sports* – turned into that sort of story, and we were pleased beyond words that our work had impact.

Because of the interest in our work, we had some memorable experiences. At a private reception in Washington, we were privileged to meet President Bush, who praised our reporting. We appeared on the David Letterman show, and he was just as cordial to us as the President had been. Less pleasant but no less memorable was the day we were summoned to federal court and sentenced to 18 months in prison because we wouldn't tell prosecu-

tors the names of our news sources. (Fortunately for us, through litigation and lobbying the sentence was set aside and we were spared the additional experience of having to serve time.)

Unforgettable, too, was my visit to my old hometown last fall for the Wyoming School Foundation's alumni event. Even though I've spent many years away, I still feel a strong connection to Wyoming -- I'm married to my classmate Barbara Thompson -- and from boyhood I've been aware of the community's intense commitment to education. So it was

extremely interesting to meet with the people who have made the Foundation a success, and to see all that has been accomplished for the schools. And of course it was fun to visit with some of the bright young people who go to WHS these days. Thanks so much for recognizing my work in this way.

Lance Williams '68

visiting with students at the High School



Prior Award Recipients:

Ambassador Thomas D. Boyatt ('51) 2002

Mark "Hap" Fuller ('50) 2004

Dr. Paul Sperduto ('76) 2006

Christine A. Poon ('70) 2008

Admiral C.R. "Bob" Bell ('48) 2003

Professor Diane Shaver Clemens ('54) 2005

Carl B. Westmoreland ('55) 2007

Lance Williams ('68) 2009