

## **Bill Brown – Educator**

### **Fullerton Union High School: 1961 – 1964**

Graduated in the bottom third of his class with a GPA of 2.07. Academically ineligible for his junior year water polo season. Post-concussion syndrome was diagnosed twenty-two years later.

All American in Water Polo: Senior Year.

All American in Swimming: Junior and Senior Years

4 Events: 50 Free, 100 Free, Freestyle Relay, Medley Relay.

Undefeated season in 1964, including 3 CIF Championship wins.

Set the CIF Record for 100 Freestyle & Freestyle Relay.

Fullerton High School won the CIF Swimming Championships in 1963 & 1964. Additionally, was runner-up in Water Polo.

CIF Swimmer of the Year 1964.

Inducted into the Helms Athletic Hall of Fame for Swimming and Water Polo.

### **COLLEGE:**

University of Southern California, Graduated 1969

Degree: B.A. Film/Television Production.

Member of the USC Swim Team which won the NCAA Championship in 1967.

Founding member of the USC Cinema/Television Alumni Association.

Among others, Bill wrote, produced and directed:

### **Dream Rider:**

This 1992 feature film starred James Earl Jones and E.J. Peaker. The story centered on a FUHS student/athlete who was dealing with Post-Concussion Syndrome and the loss of a leg. The true story depicts his healing process, in part, by riding a bicycle solo across the United States. The ride begins on the steps of Fullerton's Plummer Auditorium and ends at the Old North Church in Boston. Dream Rider inspired a handicapped orphan boy from Ghana to emulate the theme and the story. Emmanuel Efosu Yeboah rode a bike across Ghana and as he progressed, he developed an enormous following by constantly talking to and inspiring others. Emmanuel's efforts brought about a culture shift in the persecutions and treatment of handicapped persons. Today, handicapped babies are no longer abandoned

to beg and die besides the roads. Emmanuel was later awarded Ghana's highest civilian honor. Documentary film by Oprah: "Emmanuel's Gift".

Dream Rider was the Grand Champion Feature film at the 1992 Houston Worldfest. Later that year, Brown was awarded the Crystal Heart Award from the Heartland Film Festival, which honors and recognizes filmmakers who "Explore the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life".

### **The Hidden Epidemic:**

Brown made this film because he wanted to bring awareness to the life-threatening dangers of Post-Concussion Syndrome. Aimed at teachers, coaches and parents, this movie proved to be the ground breaker that has brought welcome change in the way traumatic brain injury is viewed. The Hidden Epidemic continues to be distributed to learning institution throughout North America by the Films Media Group of New York. The movie premiered at Plummer Auditorium in 2008 with a big audience, limo, a red carpet and two searchlights. The dramatization portions of the film utilized FUHS students as cast and crew.

Substantial portions of Dream Rider and The Hidden Epidemic were filmed on the campus of Fullerton High School.

### **The American Combat Soldier:**

Narrated by Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., this 1983 film honored the service and sacrifices of the ordinary American Soldier. Commissioned by the United States Army in celebration of the Army's Anniversary Ball held at the Beverly Hilton.

## **CAREER**

Teacher at Fullerton High School 1990 – 2009

English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language: He created an audio text book learning system, "Survival English" which was translated into 7 languages to be used in schools. Approved by the California Department of Education, Survival English was distributed nationally by the Nystrom Company. He used it in his own classroom.

Taught English, ESL, Oral Communications, Geography, Work History and Psychology.

1996: Teacher of the year.

2007: Given School Medal for being a major contributor to the success of Fullerton High as a Golden Bell School.

Fullerton College

Coached Swimming, Water Polo & taught Cinema.

Received a California Legislature Assembly Resolution for the 1989 FCC Water Polo Team in recognition of his Coaching and returning the Water Polo program back to its former glory.

Chapman University:

Coached Water Polo

**CURRENTLY**

Retired to Idaho in 2009

Brown continues to share his knowledge of Post-Concussion Syndrome and extends out when he can to be a help to others. He was the keynote speaker at the Washington State Conference on traumatic brain injury and his materials have become part of the health education curriculum in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Bill recently served as production consultant on the feature film, "Quiet Explosions" dealing with PCS and PTSD. He has also produced a promo video for the Twin Lakes Village Golf Club where he lives and enjoys his life of golf and leisure with many friends.



*Bill Brown*  
*Director*