

A. Lee Brown (Class of 1959)

Academic/Author/Friendship

Author, teacher, professor, scientist, scholar, lifeguard, surfer.

That's Lee Brown, who's proud to be a Pointer, Class of '59, and proud that he attended the same schools as did his wife, Kathy, and, later, their children.

Brown's numerous scholarly pursuits include a bachelor's and master's (San Diego State), two doctorates (University of Texas), and a Fulbright Scholar fellowship (Oxford, England). Over the years, he's taught various disciplines at Grossmont College, where he served as Dean of Mathematical, Physical and Behavioral Sciences, and at San Diego State.

Along with reaching such academic heights, he's equally proud of his youthful surfing exploits at Ocean Beach, starting at age 13, as an escape from a difficult childhood.

Since returning to San Diego in 2012 from Idaho after serving The Nature Conservancy as a hydrologist, Brown has focused on his writings, which include recent two books based on his early years in Ocean Beach and Point Loma.

In *VARSITY* (2020): The Story of America's Underage Warriors in WWII, Brown tells a fictional, but historically accurate tale of two high-school dropouts who illegally joined the U.S. Army, where they served their country before returning home to "Peninsula High"

(PLHS) to play varsity football. (Spoiler alert: While dealing with their own personal post-war trauma, they lead the formerly ragtag team to unlikely championships in 1946 and '47).

More recently, Brown authored *CRADLE OF BITCHIN: A Story of Mentors, Waterman & the Sea* (2022), a first-person ode to his salty 1950s youth. Mixing humor and pathos, Brown pays tribute to those “elders” whose calling was respect for the sea and its power, moods and gifts.

A Renaissance man with many stories yet to tell, Brown’s heart belongs to his roots, where the stories of his life come shining through.