



Pioneer

VOL. 24 NO. 2 FALL 2019

Alumni Newsletter

Rob Hill '95 Design Engineer at Boeing

By Dave Martin



Rob Hill in his work environment at Boeing.

Rob Hill '95 doesn't let too many things stand in the way of achieving his goals.

After graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Hill put his mechanical engineering degree to work in Boeing Company's Propulsion Systems Division in Seattle.

"I've been in the same division within Boeing my entire career and for good reason," Hill said. "I love what I do, and it has provided me with opportunities I could have never imagined."

Hill works as a design engineer for primary propulsion structures, designing parts that transmit the thrust load produced by each engine through to the wings to propel the airplane through the air.

"I like to think my parts are the most important because without them planes go nowhere," he said. "Perhaps I'm a little biased though."

Most of his career has been supporting individual airplane programs, specifically

the 747-8 and new 777-9. Each airplane he works on offers its own unique design challenges. For example, the engines of the 777-9 are the largest ever and require unique design elements to ensure the engine can be integrated properly with the specially designed carbon fiber wing. Hill, along with two other engineers, developed and patented a special bushing and installation method which provides mechanics a better way to do their job, while also improving efficiency.

"I was present when they installed and tested out my design for the first time, and it worked perfectly," Hill said. "That was the highlight of my career so far."

"The teachers at U-High began to light a fire in me when it came to going after what I wanted and not letting anything hold me back despite my physical disability. They instilled a passion for learning that has never left me, especially when it came to math and science."

Teachers Barbara Bills and Carol Ropp were very influential, he said. The fact that Hill was in a wheelchair made no difference to them.

"They pushed me hard to be the best, and that was what I loved about them both," he said.

Hill's career accomplishments are significant considering how he's able to do his job with very limited ability to use his hands due to cerebral palsy. He uses CAD software to design parts.

"Due to my inability to draw anything on paper by hand, using CAD software has been a game-changer when it comes to transforming figments of my imagination into real digital objects that I can look at and spin around in 3D," Hill said. "I would love to have the ability to do the physical work of creating and building real, tangible things, but this is the next best thing and favorite aspect of my job."

However, despite all the advancements in technology over the last two decades, the downside of having a physical disability in his field is that no software or hardware has been developed that would give him all the functionality and speed needed to operate the most advanced CAD software in an efficient manner. Hill is limited to having a rod attached to his head to type and move the mouse around the screen via the numpad on the keyboard.

continued on page 6



UNIVERSITY
**LABORATORY
SCHOOLS**
Illinois State University

University High School Alumni Association

Illinois State University • Campus Box 7100
Normal, IL 61790-7100 • (309) 438-8542
Website: UHigh.IllinoisState.edu
Email: UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu
Facebook: We Are One: U-High Pioneers

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Save the Date!

HOMECOMING Social

2019

FRIDAY

-October 11-

at Horton Field House from 4:30-7 p.m.

- FREE LIGHT DINNER

- FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS

- FREE PARKING
Use lot G83 at Main and Willow or lots G82, M82, F82 off Adelaide by Tri-Towers

Accessible parking at F82 adjacent to Horton Field House

Open to ALL U-High alumni and their families!

Varsity Football
Kickoff against
Glenwood High
School at 7 p.m.

Opportunity to
purchase U-High
spirit wear from
the UHS Booster Club.



THE Pioneer

A L U M N I N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 24 Number 2, Fall 2019

Published semiannually

Illinois State University

University High School

Campus Box 7100

Normal, IL 61790-7100



U-High reunions, please check the U-High website for updates for the latest reunion plans! UHigh.IllinoisState.edu

Class of 1946

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Second Wednesday of the month at noon, Jim's Steakhouse in Bloomington

Class of 1947

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m., Westminster Village in Bloomington

Class of 1950

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

First Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m., CJ's Restaurant in Bloomington
Contact: Gordon Schroeder at (309) 452-2875

Class of 1969

50- YEAR REUNION

The class of 1969 will have a 50-year reunion on Homecoming weekend, October 11-13, 2019. Please watch your snail mail for a save the date card. If you do not receive one within a month, please email Karen Mercier Crusius karenlcrusius@gmail.com or Robin Schaab Gould rk Gould@IllinoisState.edu to update your address. Hope everyone will join us for a fun weekend of catching up and reminiscing

Class of 1979

40TH REUNION SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 from 6 P.M. UNTIL CLOSE

Gill Street Sports Bar and Restaurant: 3002 Gill St., Bloomington
Contact: Jill (Pierce) Campbell at Uhigh79@gmail.com or (630) 488-9699

Class of 1999

20-YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1999 will have its 20-year reunion on Saturday, October 12 from 7–11 p.m. at BraiZe in Bloomington. For more information, please contact Kate Toering at ktoering@hotmail.com or (309) 706-7726

Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) Everyone is welcome

ANNUAL REUNION

Contact: Bernie Latta '60 at (309) 829-1991 or (309) 261-4297 or bern.latta@comcast.net
Debbie (Burt) Macchiaroli '73 at (773) 775-4272 or debbiemacchiaroli@hotmail.com

Facebook group: UHIGH AND ISSCS MEMBERS GROUP

If you want to get more involved, please contact the Alumni Board at UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu. If you are planning a reunion this year, contact a coordinator listed. The Alumni Board always wants to help alumni. Your U-High Alumni Relations Committee coordinators are:

Pete Pontius	(309) 261-3331	pete.pontius@gmail.com
Eric Schlipf	(309) 310-5269	eric.schlipf@gmail.com



Think about a gift to the Alumni Association. We are raising funds to cover the costs of the Homecoming activities. Homecoming is all about food, fellowship and fun, and connecting with other alumni and friends of U-High!



Make your class reunion a reality, and step up to get the ball rolling by contacting one of the alumni relations coordinators. Gatherings can range from simple to elaborate. Customize your celebration. And, remember that reunions don't have to be on milestone years or limited to one class. Be creative and imaginative to organize a reunion of Pioneers who were sports teammates or cast members and crew of a play or an alliance that published the *Clarion* together. Let the UHS Alumni Association assist in the process to locate classmates. Email the UHSAA at UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-8542.

Superintendent's letter

Having now been at the Lab Schools for one year, I have a few reflections I'd like to share with you as alumni and supporters. I've visited many classrooms, and I've attended lots of functions and events for Metcalf, U-High, and ISU over the past year. I've met many people who are part of the Lab Schools community, in one way or another. I've heard lots of wonderful stories about the benefits of the Lab Schools, from the lifelong relationships formed to the quality of education that provides our students with unbelievable post-secondary opportunities in colleges and careers. My visits and conversations have only confirmed my decision to come to the Lab Schools last year. So, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your superintendent, and thank you for your contributions to making the Lab Schools what they are today. I metaphorically hear the Pioneer spirit in Sir Isaac Newton's words, "If I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." We are a community of rich traditions and innovative thinking, and my goal as the leader is to maintain our reputation of excellence while preparing our students and staff for tomorrow's leadership roles.



What I now know for certain is that:

- Our administrators, faculty, and staff are highly talented and engaged in their craft of teaching and learning;
- Our students show us innovation of thought, as well as humanity every day;
- Our parents are actively involved in school life, and they demonstrate their commitment by working in partnership with faculty and staff to provide the best opportunities to our students; and
- Our alumni are proud and active supporters.

Finally, I hope you can join us for Homecoming 2019. In addition to the traditional festivities of the Alumni Awards Ceremonies, the social gathering in Horton Field House, and the Friday night football game on October 11, Metcalf and U-High will both host open houses for all alumni and families on Saturday, October 12. Both schools will welcome visitors. Metcalf will be open from 9–11 a.m., with guided tours at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. U-High will be open from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and host guided tours at 11 a.m. and noon. The open houses are new events to Homecoming this year, so I hope you will come and reminisce with us with a memory walk through the halls of Metcalf and/or U-High.

Best regards
Dana F. Kinley, Ed.D.



Class of 1974

The Class of 1974 held its 45th reunion at the Ironwood Golf Course Clubhouse on Saturday, June 22. There were 55 people in attendance; one from as far away as Berlin, Germany! The evening began with a short welcome, icebreaker game (Truth, Truth, Lie) and a memorial recognition for classmates who have passed. It was a fantastic evening of fun, laughter, and smiles.

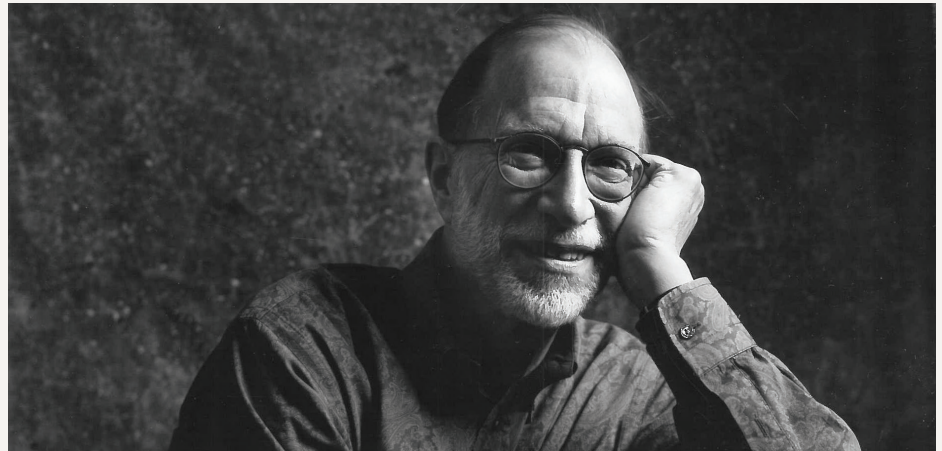
Alumni through the decades



Christopher Smith '77 is spending four months working in Los Angeles to urge the city council to renovate city-owned, vacant buildings to house the homeless. The former organizer for the Seattle Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) joined the L.A. branch of the FSP to help launch their campaign. Los Angeles County is thought to have 58,000 people surviving in vehicles, tents, shelters, and on the streets of the second largest U.S. city. This concept of permanent, publicly owned social housing is a practical solution to a devastating problem.



Deborah (Hill) Frock '59 and son, Ethan, at the finish line of the Demar Senior Marathon in September 2016.



Carlton Gamer '46 announces that Colorado College presented a retrospective concert of his music on February 13, 2019 at Packard Hall. It featured works for strings and woodwinds; a work for piano, narrator, and dancers; and orchestra and band compositions, arranged for two pianos.



Patrick McGuire '85 recently presented at the ISU Physics Lecture series on Land/atmosphere interactions on the Earth and Mars. He is involved in several projects related to modeling the land-surface processes on supercomputers, mostly for the Earth but also for Mars. For the Earth, three of his projects are modeling the response of soil and vegetation to the European drought in 2018, computing improved soil-hydraulics parameters to be used in global land-surface models for use in understanding the weather and the climate. Another project is modeling the hydrology and soils of the Pang River to the west of Reading (England). McGuire is a land surface processes computational scientist, located in the Department of Meteorology, at University of Reading, United Kingdom. He studied physics at the University of Chicago and the University of Arizona.



On August 29, 2019, Mark Brown was honored with induction into the Bakken Society. The Bakken Society is an honorary society that recognizes employees of Medtronic for their outstanding contributions to Medtronic's technical or scientific progress. Membership in the Bakken Society is Medtronic's highest honor for technical contributions. The society is named after Earl E. Bakken, founder and director emeritus of Medtronic and charter member of the society.

“I have to be so precise in my movements on the screen that any other input method I’ve tried just slows me down,” he said. To meet his own high expectations and professional standards, Hill has to be deliberate in how he creates his models with the minimum number of steps. “Despite the additional physical effort that I have to put into my work, the pride I get when I finish a job more than makes up for it, and having the ability to create basically anything I can envision in my head is all the motivation I need.”

“Necessity is the mother of invention” is what pushed Hill to become an inventor.

“Having that ability to translate ideas I come up with into objects I can bring to life has spurred me to design mechanisms that help me in my own daily life,” he said. “I can’t afford around-the-clock caregiving

services, so I had to design several devices that give me the ability to accomplish daily tasks independently that most people take for granted such as brushing my teeth, applying deodorant, getting dressed, and transferring into bed.”

His parents helped turn these concepts into real equipment he uses every day.

“When it came to taking control of my own independence, probably my greatest personal achievement was when I decided to design and build my own two-story house,” he said. “I laid it out in such a way that would help me maximize what I could do for myself with features like adjustable countertop heights and an open floor plan for my wheelchair.”

He takes great pride in that he only needs five to six hours of assistance per week and is completely independent the

rest of the time. In addition, he feels right at home in Western Washington.

“The natural beauty of the area is just overwhelming, and nothing gives me more pleasure than exploring the many accessible beaches and mountain trails,” he said. “Besides that, my other extracurricular activities include spending time with friends, hanging out at the park across the street which overlooks Puget Sound, sampling microbrews, and writing.”

His goal when he retires from Boeing is to one day become an author. And, while he’s experienced many challenges, he has made great contributions through his incredible drive. Just as he’s done with every other obstacle he’s faced in life—like designing a 44-foot ramp to go between floors in his home—Hill finds a way.



Congratulations, Graduates!

On May 19, University High School hosted its annual graduation ceremony, where 143 seniors walked across the stage and achieved alumni status. These students will enroll in colleges and universities near and far, exploring careers and majors from accounting to urban development. We are proud of their accomplishments as students and can’t wait to see what their futures hold! Congratulations, Class of 2019!

In the halls of U-High

U-High's **Cybersecurity Team** took first place at the 2019 Central Illinois Cyberdefense Competition. The day-long competition required teams to successfully defend a computer network from attacks by cybersecurity professionals from State Farm. U-High beat out 10 other teams from the area to take the top honor. Team members were **Tucker Carlson-Huber, Owen Keene, Michael Kirkton, Suhlas Nelaturi, Nathan Pritts, Dylan Wagher,** and captain, **Daniel Rugutt.**

The U-High **WYSE team** finished in third place at the state competition at Eastern Illinois University in April. Special congratulations went to **Alanna Liu, Calis Lim, Amit Sawhney,** and **Jonah King** on individual placements.

Students selected for the **2019 Prom Court** were: **Paul Africano, Christian Amble, Kai Bates-Diop, Jimmy Mohila, Cayden Redd, Nathan Torres, Abby Klein, Calis Lim, Jessica McDowell, Selah Schieber, Emily Schoenig,** and **Nicole Schoenig. Nathan Torres** and **Calis Lim** were selected as king and queen!

The U-High **Speech and Debate team** competed at the Tournament of Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking. Junior **Nick King** was in the quarterfinal round of Extemp, automatically qualifying him for next year, and placed fourth in Impromptu Speaking. Senior **James Han** advanced to the semifinals in Extemp and

placed second in Impromptu. The two-man squad placed third as a team, making them the smallest entry in the top three.

With 41.5 points, the U-High **girls track and field team** finished in third place at this year's Class 2A state meet in Charleston. The 3,200-meter relay team captured first place, running a new season best time. The team consisted of **Kendy Ummel, Emmy Mussey, Mackie Madix** and **Ella Bittner.** Top scorer Jessica McDowell finished second in the 200 in a *Pantagraph* record time, second in the 400, and fifth in the 100 in a lifetime best time. **Ella Bittner** finished the 1,600 in third place. **Lindsey Shouse** placed sixth in the pole vault.

University High School finished the 2018-2019 school year in first place in the Central State 8 conference in overall rankings. The Pioneers finished the year with 175.5 points. Last year, the school finished in second place, just shy of first place. Rankings are based on how sports team and scholastic bowl finish in the conference. This year, U-High took first place in boys and girls cross country, boys and girls golf, boys soccer, girls swim and dive, girls tennis, volleyball, softball, and boys tennis.

The U-High **boys tennis team** once again won the Class 1A state tennis title. This was the second year in a row that the team won the title. The team clinched the

title on Friday of the tournament with 39 points. In the end, **Thomas Moh** and **Tyler Bowers** claimed the doubles title, the second title in doubles for U-High. **Dorath Chamarthi** finished in second place in singles. **Carter Burk** and **Brevin Knight** finished in fifth place in doubles.

U-High Alma Mater

Proudly hail our Alma Mater.

To her e'er be true.

*Sing her praise in mighty chorus,
laud and glory too.*

Cheer the team.

Support its standards.

Back the Pioneers.

Gladly say that you're from U-High.

Uphold her through the years.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Joanne (Kinneman) Allen '47
died 07/26/2017

David D. Ayers '55
died 05/21/2019

Donald L. Christianer '72
died 08/22/2003

Lisa Cumpston '77
died 07/24/2019

Roger E. Doman '64
died 06/25/2019

Richard Thomas Dunn '36
died 04/24/2019

Darlene Mae (Sheppelman) Hinshaw '50
died 04/03/2019

James Lynn Huffman '67
*ISU Class of 1972, B.S. agriculture
died 03/19/2019*

Debra L. (Jones) Hufford '70
died 02/15/2019

Britiney Marie (Alt) Johanson '03
died 05/14/2019

Robert Sumner Johnston '45
died 05/09/2019

Milton J. Kadlec Sr. '48
*ISU Class of 1955, B.S.E. health physical
education and recreation
died 03/01/2019*

Lee Kuhfuss '64
died 02/14/2019

James R. Laible '48
died 03/13/2019

Robert Thomas Landes Sr. '47
died 06/21/2019

Patricia A. (Million) Littlefield '39
died 05/28/2019

Lorna (Hagele) Ludwig '43
died 08/02/2017

Richard C. Olson '49
died 01/24/2018

Justin G. Palm '04
died 07/20/2019

Nancy S. (Mathis) Tettenhorst '55
died 03/10/2019

Creating your impact

By Wilma Bates

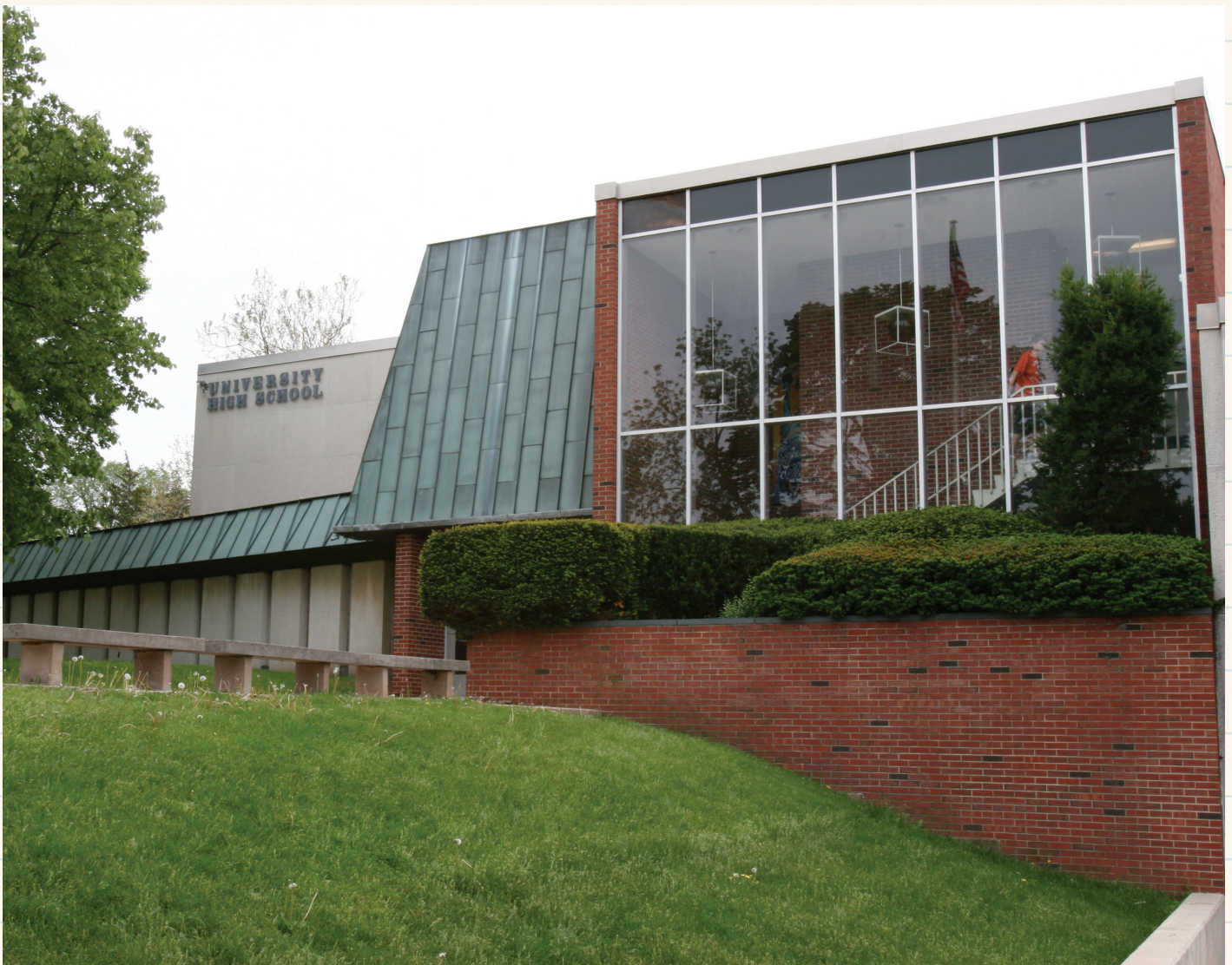
Student scholarships. Stroud Auditorium. Speech and debate. Music Room 101. Wroan Technology Center. These are just a few of the many areas that have been impacted by the generosity of U-High alumni and friends. As a high school, the loyal and committed alumni base supports efforts in ways that most high schools can only hope for. In addition to the volunteer support that many alumni provide through their time and talents, countless U-High alumni support their beloved high school through financial gifts. Over the last year, U-High has received gifts from over 500 alumni and friends, for gifts that total over \$454,000. These donations come in all amounts and are earmarked for a variety of projects. What all the gifts have in

common is that they are given to support and impact U-High Pioneers. The current identified priorities for U-High and Metcalf are the updating and renovation of the science and chemistry rooms and installing air conditioning in the gyms. The science and chemistry classrooms are used by all students starting from freshman year and are in use every hour of the day. Since the opening of the building in 1965, there has not been a complete renovation of these spaces, so it makes sense to update these areas that are so vital to the experience of our students. Our gym is in use from early morning to late evening, every day of the week, including Sundays. If you have ever attended an event at certain times of the year, you have likely experienced the swel-

tering temperatures of 100 degrees. With your support, we can provide a healthier, better environment for our students, families, and community members.

Our Lab Schools have the benefit of passionate and committed supporters, and our current and future Pioneers appreciate the dedication and generosity to ensure they have the best possible experiences and opportunities a high school can offer.

If you are interested in supporting U-High or Metcalf, please contact Wilma Bates, director of development for the Lab Schools at (309) 438-4304 or wbbates@IllinoisState.edu.



U-High Science Labs

Our biology, chemistry, and physics rooms are in desperate need of renovations. With your support, we can update the following spaces into something all U-High students can enjoy for years to come.



Due to limited space in *The Pioneer*, and to keep costs of publishing to a minimum, we will now be providing our Donor Roll on our U-High Alumni webpage. Please go to UHigh.IllinoisState.edu/Blogs/Alumni for a complete listing of all donors.

Yearbooks

Did you know that all the U-High Clarion yearbooks have been scanned, uploaded and are online? If you have misplaced your yearbook and want to take a walk down memory lane, visit the U-High website, click on the Alumni tab, and then follow the "Search Yearbooks" portal, and you will find all our yearbooks.

We Are One: U-High Pioneers Facebook page

Anyone can start a group page, so please note that the group that the University High School Alumni Association endorses is "We Are One: U-High Pioneers." This is the group that the UHSAA will be posting information on throughout the year.

Currently we have over 2,200 members in our Facebook group "We Are One: U-High Pioneers." This is an open group, and all may join and post notifications of interest to fellow Pioneers.

History of the ISU Laboratory Schools

Announcing the creation of the first edition and first volume of the *History of the Illinois State University Laboratory Schools*. We are seeking your stories, pictures, and news articles. If you have stories to tell, pictures or news articles to share, please send them to the Lab Schools using the online form at Forms.IllinoisState.edu/Forms/Lab_School_History, or mail them to: Illinois State University Laboratory Schools, Attention: Stacey Meyer, Campus Box 5300, Normal, IL 61790

Address updates

We need your help updating addresses. Please send Pioneer address updates to UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu, or use the mailing address and telephone listed on the upper left hand corner of Page 2 in this newsletter.

Our goal is that every Pioneer gets a free copy of *The Pioneer* newsletter in their mailbox. But try as we might, there are many alumni who do not have a current address listed in our database. Ideally we like to have a mailing address, an email address, and a telephone number listed for each alumni in our database.

Our database is used for the newsletter mailings and to contact classmates who are planning a reunion. We understand and respect the sensitivity of such information.

So please help by sending your own address or addresses of fellow Pioneers. Parents, please update your children's current addresses. Remember, UHS has been at the same address for over 50 years while most of you have not!

Need U-High Memorabilia

Don't shred old grade reports and student senate meeting minutes; please consider donating them to U-High to help preserve some of our history. Memorabilia may include prom tickets, student IDs, yearbooks, photos, parking tickets or placards, event programs, letterman U's or letter jackets, cheer pins and banners, class syllabi, and just about anything you may have saved to remember your days at U-High. If you can include names, dates, or history of the items it would be greatly appreciated but certainly not required with the contributions. Recently we received a number of items from a 1960 graduate, including a Pioneer Diary, pictures, programs, Illinois History books, a U-High letter, and even dance cards with a list of who she would be dancing with throughout the evening. Please feel free to drop off donations to the U-High office or library. The Illinois State University archivist will be documenting and storing submitted items.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ALUMNI DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT, CONTRIBUTIONS, DEDICATION, GENEROSITY, AND COMMITMENT TO U-HIGH AND ITS STUDENTS. WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS, PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SUPPORT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, UPGRADE EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS, FACILITIES, AND OFFER ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS IN NEED WITH FEES AND SCHOOL EXPENSES.

U-High Alumni Association Awards nomination form

Distinguished Alum • Pioneer Hall of Fame • Alumni Service • Friend of U-High

NOMINEE'S NAME

GRADUATION YEAR (OR YEARS ATTENDED)

PERSON MAKING THIS NOMINATION

()
PHONE

EMAIL

All nominees will be contacted to **accept the nomination** and to send a detailed biography to aid the awards committee in the selection process. All completed nomination forms will be retained and re-evaluated each year. Selection of recipients is completed in the spring, and the awards presentation is held in the fall at Homecoming. Nominees are encouraged to update their information periodically.

A list of past recipients and award definitions is available at UHigh.IllinoisState.edu/Blogs/Alumni. You will also find an online nomination form.

RETURN ALL NOMINATIONS TO
Attention: Awards Chairperson
University High School Alumni Association
Campus Box 7100
Normal, IL 61790-7100

Or email to
UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu





ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

University High School
 Campus Box 7100
 Normal, IL 61790-7100

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Gladly say you're from U-High.
 Uphold her through the years!**



NAME _____ MAIDEN NAME (IF DIFFERENT) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

U-HIGH GRADUATION YEAR _____ () _____

() _____ PHONE _____

FAX _____ EMAIL _____

Special giving opportunities for alumni and friends

The University Laboratory Schools, U-High and Metcalf, are grateful to alumni and friends of the schools who make donations to support and enhance the educational experiences for our students. All gifts are welcome. Please use this form if you would like to make a gift at this time. Several priorities are listed. If you prefer, please specify your own amount.

\$1,000___ \$500___ \$300___ \$100___ Amount of your choice _____

If you would like to speak to someone about making a gift, an estate gift, funding priorities, or how your funds will be used, please contact Wilma Bates, director of development for the Lab Schools at (309)438-4304. Please send your donations to Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Please designate my gift to

- U-High Alumni Association—7105274
- U-High Athletics and Recreation—7105267
- U-High Facility Updates and Renovations—7015928
- U-High Science Laboratories—7015931
- U-High Stroud Auditorium—7015936
- Lab School Administration/Operations—7015435
- Metcalf Building Updates and Renovations—7005430
- Lab Schools Classroom Technology—7015930
- Lab Schools Performing Arts Endowment—7105267
- Lab Schools Student Life/Wellness—7105267
- Metcalf Hayden Auditorium—7015937
- Other _____