

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Alison Hitner Mouton, class of 1982



The University High School Alumni Association honors Alison Hitner Mouton, class of 1982, as a 2014 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

With over twenty-seven years of teaching experience, Mouton is recognized as a passionate educator and mentor to both students and other educators. She graduated from University High School in 1982 in which she took French with Mr. Boyd. During her junior and senior years, she joined an AFS program and she studied abroad in France. It was during this time that her passion for the culture and language of France was cultivated.

After graduation she studied at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. It was there that she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and graduated in 1986.

Mouton then continued her journey in foreign language by moving to France in 1986. In 1987, she started working at Saint Felix School in Nantes, France. In 1989 she moved to Lyon, France and gave birth to her first child. A year later, she was hired by Institution des Chartreux in Lyon, where she currently works. It was there she worked to help start their bilingual program which is still going strong after 24 years. The exchange program partnered with Central Catholic High School, initially, and then with University High School, giving back to the school where her passion began.

In 1999, Mouton left France for her husband's job. They lived in Thailand, Taiwan, and Tunisia. In Bangkok, from 1999 to 2001, she taught at the Lycee Francais de Bangkok. After that, in Taiwan, she taught at the Taipei European School from 2001 to 2004.

Returning to France in 2006, the Institution de Chartreux asked her to come back. She accepted and currently teaches there today. She also currently works at another school, Notre Dame de Bellegarde, in Neuville sur Saone, France, teaching English to children from age two to ten.

Today, her exchange program works with Thomas Metcalf School and runs every other year. The program currently is designed for a sixth grade class and brings 32 French children to the twin cities.

The exchange program with the Illinois State University Laboratory Schools makes the experience for Alison come full circle, as her passion began with an exchange program through U-High in 1981.

Her parents are Larry Hitner (deceased in 2013) and Dolores Hitner. She has one sister. She is married to Philippe Mouton, and they have three children, Madeleine, born in 1992, Jeremy born in 1999, and Francois, born in 2000.

"I am forever thankful to U-High and its teachers for the chance I got while studying there, to go on the AFS program, a turning point in my life!"

– *Alison Hitner Mouton*