

## **Alumni Service Award: Herb Todd, class of 1982**



The University High School Alumni Association honors Herb Todd, class of 1982, as the 2014 Alumni Service Award recipient for his contributions to University High School.

Todd transferred to University High School from Fairbury-Cropsey prior to his senior year. He was active in both the Clarionette and the yearbook, serving as a photographer. He was also a member of the Science Club. He fondly appreciated all of his teachers and thought they were great. Those that stood out to him were Peter Parmantie, who encouraged excellence and great grammar; Dr. Michael Surma, who instilled a love of science and original thought; Michael Briggs, who made learning math fun; and Peggy Scott, one of the most caring teachers to walk the halls of University High School.

After graduation, Todd enlisted in the Navy and conducted two Pacific cruises – attaining the rank of Electronic Warfare Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class. He later earned a Bachelor's degree in Applied Computer Science in 1994 and a Master's degree in Information Assurance and Security in 2013. He earned both degrees from Illinois State University.

Todd started working at State Farm over twenty years ago. He is currently located in one of their Dallas, Texas area offices working as a Security Analyst Technician. While at State Farm, Todd has earned the following industry certifications:

- Associate in Information Technology
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional
- Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional
- Giak Security Essentials Certification
- Giak Web Application Penetration Tester

On the side, he is also a member of Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). He is an assistant instructor and for many years helped teach SCUBA classes at Wild Country in Normal, Illinois.

Todd has also been very active with the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as a committee member as well as a leader. In 2008, he attended Wood Badge, a high level leadership training course. He has served as an assistant scoutmaster for the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) camps and received the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, considered to be the Boy Scouts "honor society".

Todd met his wife, Heidi (Semmler)'83 at U-High during his senior year. Todd's family is rich in tradition at U-High, as many family members have graduated wearing the Green

and Gold. His mother, Esta (Baker) Wessels, graduated in 1959; his brother, Patrick, graduated in 1983; and his son and daughter, Ian and Amanda, graduated in 2013 and 2014, respectively. Additionally, Todd's two sisters-in-law, Tracey (Semmler) Shuler and Jacqui (Semmler) Crutchely, and a brother-in-law, David Crutchely, are also U-High graduates.

Todd and his wife Heidi were married in 1988 and recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Todd has proudly served U-High as a member of the Alumni Board. His hard work and dedication to the school and its alumni is forever appreciated.

*Develop of love of learning – you'll be doing it the rest of your life.*

– Herb Todd