

Friend of U-High: Michael Sondgeroth



The University High School Alumni Association honors faculty member, Michael Sondgeroth, as the recipient of the 2012 Friend of U-High Award. Sondgeroth currently serves as a mathematics teacher and the Assistant Athletic Director at U-High.

Sondgeroth joined the U-High faculty in 1985. For nearly three decades, Sondgeroth has taught mathematics to generations of U-High students. He was instrumental in the development of the Freshmen Block program, teaching in "Project FIRST" from 1993-1997. Replacing longtime U-High teacher Al Eckert, Sondgeroth has evolved into the resident Geometry "expert" in the math department. At some point, he has taught nearly every math class U-High has to offer.

His current curricular project focuses on the implementation of a senior course that explores the mathematics behind the current topics of social choice, management science, population growth, and statistics. Other academic interests include U-High's netbook initiative, "U Learn Anywhere," where he uses interactive software to assist his students in the exploration of the foundations of Geometry. Sondgeroth is also an initial member of the Assessment Initiative, where he hopes to develop grading methods and assessments that better reflect what students actually know.

Beyond the classroom, Sondgeroth has been thoroughly immersed in U-High extra-curricular programs. He has coached a multitude of sports, ranging from freshmen football to Varsity softball. One of the highlights of his coaching career was the 3rd place finish of his Varsity Girls Basketball team in the 1995 IHSA State Tournament. Through the years he has been the "Voice of the Pioneers," serving as the public address announcer for hundreds of athletic contests and school activities. He has given back to the students of U-High through leadership roles in numerous school organizations and college committees. He has even performed in several theatrical productions, singing and dancing his way to honorary induction into U-High's Thespian troupe.

U-High has given back to Mr. Sondgeroth, as well. He met his wife of 22 years, Debra, while she was serving as college intern in the counseling office. Their three children – Morgan '11, Cole '13, and Erin '14 – have all benefited from the wonderful opportunities that U-High has to offer. As is the case with so many of us here today, milestones in the Sondgeroth family can be marked by special occurrences here at U-High.

Sondgeroth graduated from Mendota Township High School and received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Illinois State University in 1985.