



Pioneer

VOL. 22 NO. 1 SPRING 2017

Alumni Newsletter

The Martin Family Inspires Donations for Giving Tuesday

By Lisa Kowalski



Pictured: David Martin with his daughter Brooke (7th grade, Metcalf) and his son Brad (Freshman, U-High)

David Martin '83 and his mother, Mardell Martin, motivated donors on Illinois State University's Giving Tuesday on November 29, 2016. They pledged to donate \$30,000 to both Thomas Metcalf and University High School if 500 or more donors contributed to the cause that day. Our parents, alumni, faculty, and community came together through donations and met the challenge, and before noon the Martins' donation was a reality. Thanks to both David's and Mardell's generosity, among many others, Illinois State was able to raise more money on Giving Tuesday this year than we did in 2015!

The Martin family has filled University High School's hallways for years, beginning back in 1979 with David Martin. Since then, his nieces Katie Telling White '09 and Sarah Telling '12 have graduated; another niece Grace Telling is a senior. David's son Brad is a freshman and his daughter Brooke is in seventh grade at Metcalf. David and Mardell appreciate the opportunities U-High has afforded the Martin family and enjoy contributing to help future Pioneers.

Mardell lives in Bloomington. David and his wife Margo also live in Bloomington with their four children—Brad, Brooke, Haley, and Parker.

STATE your Passion. STATE your Pride.

Please share news about yourself, your family who attended U-High, or a classmate so that it can be published in the next issue of **The Pioneer**. This publication relies on the efforts of all alums to alert the editing staff of newsworthy tidbits. Please send information and photos to UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu or mail to University High School Alumni Association, Campus Box 7100, Normal, IL 61790-7100.



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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HOME COMING Social

2017

FRIDAY

-September 29-

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

Disability parking at F82
adjacent to Horton Field
House

Open to ALL U-High alumni and their families!

Varsity Football
Kickoff against
Jacksonville
at 7 p.m.



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



2016 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Pictured (left to right): John Zimmerman,
Karl Eigsti, Melissa Smith, Judy Regnier,
Neil Styczynski, Diane Black.



Everyone is Welcome! | AWARDS & RECOGNITION PROGRAM
9:30 a.m., Stroud Auditorium, University High School

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ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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2017 U-High Reunions

Class of 1946

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Luncheon at Jim's Steakhouse second Wednesday of the month at noon

Class of 1947

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Westminster's every fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m.

Class of 1950

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

CJ's Restaurant every fourth Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact: Donna Mae Geske Jordan at (309) 662-9345 or

Gordon Schroeder at (309) 452-2875

Class of 1967

50-YEAR REUNION | Date to be announced for 2017

Contact: Margaret Theis Bratcher at margaretbratcher8849@gmail.com

Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS)

Everyone is welcome

Annual REUNION | September 16-17

September 16-Eastland Suites 5-10 p.m. | September 17-ISSCS lunch at noon

Contact: Bernie Latta '60 at (309) 829-1991 or (309) 261-4272

or bern.latta@comcast.net

Debbie Burt Macchiaroli '73 at (312) 758-0321

or homersatisses@gmail.com

Facebook group: UHIGH AND ISSCS MEMBERS GROUP



Pictured (left to right): Roger Bayston '82, Dianne Deavers Siverly '81, Shelley Livingston '81, Kurt Wolter '82.

Your U-High Alumni Relations Committee coordinators are, by decade of graduation:

'40s and '50s	Tricia Braid	(309) 275-0064	tricia.j.braid@gmail.com
'60s and '70s	Pete Pontius	(309) 261-3331	pete.pontius@gmail.com
'80s and '90s	Eric Schlipf	(309) 310-5269	eric.schlipf@gmail.com
'00s and '10s	Anne Fairbairn-Gullixon	(309) 664-1737	gullixon@gmail.com

Best Practices for Planning a Class Reunion

By Tricia Braid '93

Want to have a class reunion but don't know where to start? Take heart that you are in the same boat with many of your fellow Pioneers. Luckily, you have a team of people on the U-High Alumni Board's Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) that is here to help.

If you haven't already touched base with someone on the ARC, that's your first step. ARC representatives are assigned by graduation decade. See the information below for the proper contact.

After making that initial contact, you'll get some key support. First, we will help you get a copy of the most current contact list we have for your class. Second, we will begin keeping records on our end so that if another member of your class contacts us, we can put them in touch with the appropriate organizers of your reunion. It is important to note that neither U-High nor the Alumni Board has a budget to send invitations to your class members. That responsibility falls on your class itself.

So now what? Well, we've seen success happen in several ways, but the most common way people are reaching out these days is through Facebook. Many classes are forming special Facebook groups that they can then maintain even when a reunion isn't in the works.

If you're interested in doing that but don't know where to start, consult with your ARC representative (listed below). Here are some other things to consider:

- Cross-check the class contact list you receive from us with any information you have. Update both lists as necessary and send changes back to ARC so we can help maintain information on our end.
- Join the We Are One: U-High Pioneers Facebook group, and then post in the group that you are working on setting up a reunion.
- Ask for help! Form a committee of class members (four to six people) to reach out to other class members. Many are still local, but some are far away and may need plenty of time to make travel plans.
- Determine one point of contact for your class. That person should be the one who works with the ARC. That helps us maximize what we can do for you.
- Consider using an Internet-based system to share information. This could be a Facebook group or Google Drive. Use what feels comfortable to you.
- Determine your reunion date. Many classes are using Homecoming weekend as their go-to reunion date, but some are choosing another time of year. If you're not sure, you could use an online polling system like www.doodle.com to find out when most people in your class are available for a reunion.
- At your reunion, ask for updated contact information and share that with your ARC representative.
- Take photos and share them with us, too, so we can put them in our newsletter.

We hope you have a great experience with your reunion! And in case you haven't heard, the 2017 U-High Homecoming date is September 29.

President's Letter



As the 2016-2017 school year began, those of us with school-age children began making preparations for returning to school. In August, this situation was no different in my house—our two youngest children returned to Metcalf for third and seventh grade, and our oldest started his freshman year at U-High.

As our oldest son began his journey at U-High, it also marked a return of sorts for me to U-High, as I assumed the presidency of the U-High Alumni Association. As I began my preparations to return to U-High in this role, naturally I began reflecting on my time at U-High, while at the same experiencing what it's like as a parent for an incoming freshman at U-High.

During freshman orientation in the spring of 2016, students and parents were told that the average U-High student is involved in four or five extracurricular activities. We often hear about the benefits of involvement in extracurricular activities when applying to colleges and how it helps in the development of self-esteem and learning about teamwork, to name a few. These activities provide an amazing opportunity to begin developing these skills at a critical juncture in their lives, as well as a developing friendships and experiences they will treasure as years pass by. These friendships, developed throughout all of their school activities during their high school years, will provide a lifetime of memories that can be revisited whenever they see each other, hopefully at U-High events!

I believe that another benefit of extracurricular activities is strengthening the ties that bind one to their school, especially through the passage of time. There are plenty of opportunities to “return” to U-High, such as involvement in the UHS Alumni Association as a board member, volunteering for committees, etc. One of the things that sets U-High alumni apart from others is their continued commitment to the school, regardless of the number of years since graduation. We have a solid alumni loyalty. Should you have any questions, or if you would like more information on how to become involved, please don't hesitate to contact us at UHighAlumni@ilstu.edu. We hope to see you at upcoming events this spring.

Go Pioneers!
Erik Anderson '89
Alumni Board President



Letter from the Superintendent

Welcome from University High School! It was great to see a big crowd at Homecoming to help cheer on the Pioneers and catch up with former classmates! I have found that the U-High Homecoming celebration is unlike any other, and this year's Homecoming did not disappoint. We owe our gratitude to our Alumni Board, which was instrumental in the planning of this year's event and a big reason for its success. The tradition of success that our alumni have created over the years is being continued by our current students. Most recently University High School was ranked 13th in the state of Illinois, and ranked 56th Nationally by *Niche* magazine. Our students had the following observations to make regarding University High School: “I would definitely choose to go to my current school again! Not only is the educational system great, but also the school spirit is fantastic!”

Sincerely,
Jeff Hill, Ed.D.
Laboratory Schools Superintendent

Alumni through the decades

Virginia Kennick Emery '56 graciously provided a few pictures from a ninth grade U-High Class trip that she took in 1953. The students went to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.



Above left: Virginia Kennick Emery '56 with Donna Tynan Hundman '56

Above right: Emery with Tami Sherer '56



Deborah Hill Frock '59 completed a Super Seniors Age 70+ DeMar Marathon on September 25th in Keene, New Hampshire. Participants ran the

first 25 miles in 1- mile segments over the summer months, and then dashed the final 1.2 miles on Marathon Day. Congratulations Deborah on this huge accomplishment!



Jeffrey Shane '85. After some investigating, Kennel tracked Shane down in Texas and returned the class ring that had been lost for more than 30 years.

In September, U-High Alumni **Kevin Kennel '80**, avid treasure hunter/metal detector, located a 1985 U-High gold class ring. The name inscribed on the inside of the ring was

Alumni through the decades



Corey Christenson '92 went to Augustana College after leaving U-High, where he had won an undefeated wrestling state championship at 160 pounds and was also one of the

captains of the state runner-up wrestling team as a senior. As a junior he was a state runner-up in wrestling, a state pole vault indoor champion, and state runner-up outdoor. He was also an all-conference running back and defensive back for the Pioneers and a two-time Bigger, Faster, Stronger All-American in football. He left his mark in three sports at Augustana from 1992-97, winning a total of four individual College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championships in track and field and wrestling and playing on teams that won three conference titles in football and wrestling. He earned five letters in track and field, where he was a five-time All-American and his 16'7" pole vault at the 1994 CCIW Championships still stands as a school record 22 years later. He was a four-year letter winner and three-year starter in football. His wrestling career, although short, was filled with success as well, winning a CCIW Championship at 158 pounds and he was also part of the team title while qualifying for the NCAA National Championships. He qualified for the NCAA National Finals in football, wrestling, and track a total of nine times.

After graduating from Augustana in 1997 with degrees in physical education and secondary education, Christenson received his master's in recreation and sports sciences from Ohio University. After teaching and coaching stints at Augustana College, as well as Moline, Seneca and Leyden high schools, he's currently at Pontiac Township High School in Pontiac where he is the head wrestling and track coach, as well as an assistant coach for the Indian football program.

Christenson and his wife Heather live in Pontiac with sons Aiden, Hunter and Cale. He serves on the executive board of the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association and the Boys and Girls Club of Livingston County developmental board. He has also served a term on the IHSA Advisory Board for wrestling.



Katherine Steele Brokaw '98 recently published her first book, *Staging Harmony: Music and Religious Change in Late Medieval and Early Modern Drama*.

She is an assistant professor of English at the University of California-Merced, where she teaches medieval and renaissance literature. She attributes her success to the education she received at U-High in English, theatre and music.



One of St. Louis' favorite musical sons **Pokey LaFarge '01**

recently released a new single and video "Goodbye, Barcelona" from his latest album "Something in the Water."



University High School Alumni **Joshua Phillips '02**,

recently published his second book *Homeless: Narratives from the Streets*. In the last six years, in addition

to his work on the homelessness issue, Phillips received his Ph.D., began teaching at Penn State, and is now a wrestling coach at a local high school.



Graham Schenck '04 is now a Gillette speech-language pathology specialist on the Gillette cranio-facial team in St. Paul, Minnesota. Schenck, as a child, had a mild

stutter and worked with a speech therapist. His experience working with a speech therapist inspired him to enter the speech-language pathology field to help others. Schenck graduated from University High School in 2004, and went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He then went on to complete his Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders in Speech-Language Pathology from Illinois State University in 2011. He just recently received his Doctor of

Philosophy in communication sciences and disorders: speech-language pathology from East Carolina University in 2016. Schenck says "I also really like working with kids. My favorite part of my job is being part of that moment when a light goes off in a kid's mind and they have a breakthrough in correcting a speech issue. It's a great experience."



Bloomington native **Gordon Vayo** (attended U-High '04-'07) did not come away from the World Series of Poker's Main Event with the championship bracelet. Instead,

he settled for more than \$4.6 million as the runner-up after the longest heads-up matchup in tournament history. Vayo, 27, is a professional poker player who attended University High School and now lives in San Francisco. He was the youngest player among the final nine.



Michelle Mora '07 obtained her M.A. from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and just completed her Latin American Studies Program summer internship in Lima, Peru, where she worked with the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service office at the U.S. Embassy.



In our last Pioneer, we mentioned **Lance Cpl. Duncan Harris' '12** bravery in rescuing a drowning victim in July 2015 during a weekend vacation with his family. We have since learned that Harris had the honor of being awarded the highest non-combat medal called the Navy-Marine Medal for his efforts. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller (member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) flew to Honduras to present the medal to Duncan for his life-saving actions.

In the halls of U-High

Sarah LaFayette was named this year's *Pantagraph* Intercity Female Soccer Player of the Year. Last season she led intercity with **56 goals**—a record that only eight others in state history have beat. She has 110 career goals.

Jessica Huber was selected to be a member of the **2016 NafME All-National Honor Ensembles Symphony Orchestra**. Being selected to play in this ensemble is a reflection of Jessica's high level of dedication and skill as a viola player and correlates with her previous **high placement in our District 3 IMEA Music Festival and the IMEA Honors Orchestra at All-State**. Jessica traveled to Grapevine, Texas, in November to join excellent young musicians chosen from all over the U.S. to participate in the festival.

Recent graduate **Samara Ribbens** was selected to serve with the **Illinois Ambassadors of Music**. She toured Europe with the group, visiting seven countries and performing in many different venues. Their farewell concert was held on June 24 in Edwardsville.

Eight students were named **Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program**. These scholastically talented seniors were among 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they did not continue in the 2017 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The eight students were: **Samuel Fansler, Colin Hardman, Simon Heinrich, Jessica Huber, Matthew Messman, Emily Rodriguez, Deanna Trofino and Nicole Walker**.

Mark Adams, one of U-High's speech and debate coaches and a recently retired English teacher, was honored as one of 12 people nationwide to receive a **Diamond Coach Award by the National Speech and Debate Association Honor Society**. This makes the second time he has received the award. Adams has coached at U-High for 10 years.

The **U-High boys' golf team won the Class 2A State Tournament** held at ISU's Weibring Golf Club. The team finished day one in third place and surged to a first-place finish on the second day of play. This marks the **10th championship in school history and the first title since 2009**. The guys shot 308 in the second round for 624 total. Dallas Koth tied for runner-up with a 74.

The **U-High boys' soccer team** made it to the **Class 1A state tournament**. They de-

feated Waterloo Gibault 1-0 in the semifinal and came back for the finals where they beat Westchester St. Joseph 3-1 to claim the **state title**. **JD Kelley** was the first to score for the Pioneers with **Nathan Clay** scoring the next two goals. The victory brought the successful season to a great close with a **17-6-5 record and the first state title in school history**.

The **U-High boys cross country team** competed in the **Class 2A state meet** held at Peoria's Detweiller Park. The team finished in **third place** led by senior **Jack Franklin** who also claimed **third place** individually. The team had placed 10th the previous two years.

In tennis, the doubles team of **Isabel Schaeffbauer** and **Abby Totten** finished in **third place** among doubles at this year's Class 1A state tournament in Buffalo Grove. Overall the Pioneers finished in ninth place with 13 points at the tournament.

The **U-High Marching Pioneers** ended their competition season on a high note. The **State of Illinois Invitational High School Marching Band Championship** was held in October at ISU where the band received **First Place in Music Performance and Second Place overall in Class 1A**. This year's marching band received the **highest number of points of any U-High marching band at previous ISU/State competitions**. In every competition this year, the Marching Pioneers placed **first in at least one category**.

The **Illinois High School Coaches Association** released its all-sectional soccer selections and U-High's **Nathan Clay** and **Cayden Redd** were recognized at a banquet in Elmhurst in November.

The **U-High boys tennis coach, Jon Friesen**, was selected by the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association as the **2016 Regional Coach of the Year**. Friesen was honored not just for the great success he had this past spring but for the incredible improvement in his players from the beginning of the season through the state tournament. He was honored at the **Awards Luncheon of the IHSTCA Workshop** in early February at the **Vaughan Center in Aurora**.

The education-ranking firm **Niche.com** placed U-High as **one of the top public high schools in Illinois and among the best in the nation**. Under the ranking of **Best Public High Schools**, U-High came out as the **13th best in the state of Illinois and was ranked 56th nationally**. Academic rigor accounted for half the total score in the firm's methodology. Also included are a variety of factors, including health and safety, student culture and diversity, teachers, resources and facilities, extracurricular activities, and

sports. Sports and extracurricular activities amounted to **2.5 percent each**. Schools ahead of U-High on the Illinois list are in the Chicago area. *Niche* ranks 18,793 high schools based on dozens of key statistics and over 60 million opinions from students and parents. A high ranking indicates that the school is an exceptional academic institution with a diverse set of high-achieving students who rate their experience very highly.

The following U-High musicians were selected to participate in the **2016 Illinois Music Educators Association District Festival**. Band: **Jonathan Boudreaux, Anastasia Ervin, Veronica Ervin, Matt Messman, Jenny Park, Rosa Rolon and Sebastian Nassar**. Choir: **Allie Beam, Lauren Du-bravec, Drew Johnson, Josh Kuhn, Ellie Landes, Caroline McKinzie, Catie Mussey, Abby Naden, Gabe Pfister, Lianna Pfister, Kevin LeMentec, Logan Piker, Daniel Ray, Stephanie Soukup, Leah Taylor and Catherine Winger**. Orchestra: **Sam Fansler, James Han, Jessica Huber, Kristen Koehler, Joshua Nepomuceno, Irene Park and Matthew Suh**. The festival was held in November and concluded with a concert at Olivet Nazarene University.

Senior **Lake Williams** was named the **2016 Mr. U-High**. With everyone's help, the **U-High Student Senate** and **U-Build Club** raised over **\$5,800** that will be used to help construct a home in Haiti over spring break.

Lester Hampton was inducted into the ITCCCA 2017 Hall of Fame. He has served at University High School for 29 years as head boys and girls cross country coach and head boys track & field coach. A former school record holder in the 800 meters at Illinois State, he has coached his teams to a remarkable 10 IHSA state trophies, including two state championships and coached athletes to all-state honors 78 times. Four individuals and one relay have won state titles and set two state records. Lester's teams have won 20 sectionals championships and 30 Regional titles. It is quite apparent that Lester cares



about every single one of his athletes. He is able to motivate his runners to care about each other and for parents to pour their hearts into cheering for entire teams.

Time Capsule Reinsertion 2016

By Wilma Bates



Homecoming at U-High is always a spirit-filled, high-energy week of Pioneer Pride that culminates with the Alumni Awards ceremony and the Friday night football game. Homecoming 2016 had an extra event packed into the week. On September 23, before the Alumni Awards ceremony, approximately 20 guests gathered at the Gregory Street entrance. The

occasion for the gathering was to replace what was removed during Homecoming 2015. The solid copper box that was inserted in 1965, and removed in 2015, was used again to keep the treasures safe for another 50 years.

Contents included play bills, musical and theatre programs, *Clarion* yearbooks 2015 and 2016, Life in the Lab Schools,

Brome and Beyond 2015 and 2016, a Student Planner and School Handbook, Teacher Master Schedule 2015-2016, U-High lapel pin and key chain, the list of items from the original time capsule of 1965, the letter from the class of 1965 to the class of 2065, a new letter from the senate and class of 2016 to the class of 2065, fun cultural/social items such as Pokémon cards and a “Hamilton” issue of *Rolling Stone Magazine*. Given the pristine condition the items of 1965 were in when the box was opened in 2015, the students of 2065 should find a treasure trove of information to allow them to learn about our students and community. On hand for the reinsertion were Superintendent of Lab Schools Jeff Hill, Principal Andrea Market and Student Senate President Nia Gilbert, along with faculty and staff members. What made the event truly special was the participation of John Wroan, class of '45. Wroan was the building contractor of the school and originally inserted the time capsule in 1965 with auditorium namesake Ruth Stroud.

School Spirit Shines Brightly

By Wilma Bates



John Handy '92, a member of the 1991 U-High state champion golf team, and the 1992 state basketball runner-up team, loved golfing with his father, David. When David passed away in April 1992, that love of golf between a father and son inspired the creation of the David G. Handy Golf Award. Friends and family made gifts to create a scholarship fund to honor and acknowledge a U-High golfer, and recognize their com-

mitment and passion for a sport that meant so much to John and his father. John is proud that his dad's name is associated with the showcase of U-High's sports excellence, including teams he was a part of.

For over 20 years the award was distributed to golfers and the family was extremely pleased that the scholarship was available to help students. In 2014, the Handy family, led by John's mother

Linda, decided that they wanted to focus on larger, more immediate needs at the school. They recalled how the presence of trophies throughout the school helped create a culture of school spirit and pride that made and continues to make U-High so special. Given the important role that sports played in John's life, the Handy family were moved to help the school by providing funds to have a new trophy case built to house the numerous state trophies that our talented students have earned over the years.

Next time you are on the lower level, for a performance in Stroud or an athletic event in the gym, be sure to check out the attractive handmade case. We are truly appreciative to the Handy family, members of the class of 1992 and members of the class of 1987 for their generosity.

If you are interested in other funding opportunities at U-High, please contact Wilma Bates, associate director of Development, at (309) 438-4304.

Distinguished Alumni Award Judy Greenes Regnier '58



The University High School Alumni Association honors Judy Greenes Regnier, class of 1958, as the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service. Regnier has had a widely varied life, and nearly all her experiences have helped improve others' lives in some way. She has been the first female computer programmer at two companies, a wife and mother, an interior designer, a registered nurse, a speaker/volunteer for Donate Life California, and a watercolor artist. Regnier is also a liver transplant recipient and breast cancer survivor.

Regnier participated in a variety of school activities and earned numerous distinctions: National Honor Society, Student Council secretary, class officer, cheerleader, Thespians, Clarion staff, academic clubs, and Homecoming queen. After graduation, she attended Northern Illinois University for two years, was chosen to be a CWENS honor society member her sophomore year, and was a proud member of Sigma Kappa sorority. She then continued her education at Illinois State University while she worked as a computer programmer. Regnier later was active as a Sigma Kappa Alumnae Advisor at Purdue University, while living in Lafayette, IN.

It was during her nursing career that Regnier contracted Hepatitis C while working in intensive care, which she was completely unaware of until she developed symptoms 20 years later. As a result, she was told she was terminal unless she received a liver transplant. Luckily, on Mother's Day 1998, Regnier received the gift of life through organ donation from an anonymous family. This second chance on life is what fueled Regnier to help impact others' lives by becoming an active speaker and volunteer for the Donate Life California organization and assisting with registration of other potential organ donors. Regnier and her husband, Ken, were married in 1995, and together have three children and seven grandchildren. Her other hobbies include music, local dramatic productions, reading books, travel, fishing, and golf.

Hall of Fame Award John D. Zimmerman '84



The University High School Alumni Association honors John Zimmerman, Captain U.S. Navy, class of 1984, as a 2016 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service. Zimmerman demonstrated leadership qualities in both his academic and extracurricular activities. His accomplishments and distinctions included: Student body president his senior year, National Honor Society, Boys State delegate, team captain and two-time state qualifier for wrestling, and team captain for cross country.

After high school, Zimmerman attended the U.S. Naval Academy, where he obtained his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering in 1988. He later went on to earn an M.A. in national security and strategy from the U.S. Naval War College in 2001. While earning these degrees, Zimmerman was awarded the following notable distinctions: Graduated with Merit, U.S. Naval Academy, 1988; Top Graduate, U.S. Naval War College, 2001; William Sowden Sims Leadership Award, U.S. Naval War College, 2001.

Throughout his 28-year Navy career, Zimmerman has always demonstrated great

leadership qualities and takes pride in having a positive impact on the lives of others. In addition to his career accomplishments and other personal awards, Zimmerman also received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for various community service efforts during his Naval service. In his spare time, Zimmerman also enjoys running, where he was a silver medalist in the 3K and bronze medalist in the mile at the 2013 USA Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships. Zimmerman and his wife, Leah, have two sons, Tyler, attending the U.S. Naval Academy, and Connor, attending Langley High School.

Hall of Fame Alumni Award Karl Eigsti '56



The University High School Alumni Association honors Karl Eigsti, class of 1956, as a 2016 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for his contributions

to his profession and civic service. Eigsti enjoyed participating in the following school events: Thespians, Debate Team, basketball, and state dramatic reading. After high school, Eigsti attended Indiana University and American University (Washington D.C.), where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962. He was a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to England that same year, and later went on to earn a master's in theatre from the University of Bristol (England) in 1964. During his career, Eigsti has worked as a designer in the American theater for five decades. After spending two years on a Fulbright Scholarship to England, he returned to America in 1964 and became resident designer at The Arena Stage in Washington D.C.

Eigsti has designed 20 productions on Broadway and numerous plays off-Broadway that include: the original productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Arthur Miller's *American Clock*, John Guare's *House of Blue Leaves*, Athol Fugard's *Boesman and Lena*, and Isaac Basheva Singer's *Yentl*. He was nominated for a Tony Award for his designs for *Knockout on Broadway*, for which he also won the

Clarion Yearbooks Needed!

If you come across an extra *Clarion*, please pass it on to the UHSAA. There are many anxious alumni wanting to have a yearbook from their era. There are a limited number of *Clarion* yearbooks for purchase for \$10 each. To donate or purchase yearbooks, please contact the UHS Alumni Association at UHighAlumni@IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-8542. Donations can also be left at the school library.

Joseph Maharam Award. Eigsti is currently a voter for the Tony Awards.

Throughout his design career, Eigsti has taught in graduate programs throughout the country. He was appointed as adjunct to the design faculty of The NYU School of The Arts at its inception, and continued teaching there for 19 years. Eigsti left to become head of the Graduate Design Program at Brandeis University, a position he held for 21 years. At Brandeis, he was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Creative Arts Award for significant contributions to the Arts at Brandeis. Eigsti was promoted to professor emeritus at the presentation of the award. After his tenure at Brandeis, he was appointed The Visiting Professor of Theater Design at Ohio University and taught in that capacity for two years. Eigsti has been married to Amela since 2006. He has one son, Chris.

Hall of Fame Award Melissa Alyson Smith '02



The University High School Alumni Association honors Melissa Alyson Smith, class of 2002, as a 2016 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for her contributions

to her profession and civic service. Smith participated in a variety of school activities and earned numerous distinctions: National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, WYSE Academic Challenge for three years (numerous individual medals on regional, section, and state level in chemistry, physics, and computer-aided drafting), and varsity track and field during her junior/senior years. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she posted a 3.72 GPA with honors and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in materials science and engineering in 2006. Smith went on to earn a Doctorate in Philosophy, materials science, and engineering from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2012.

She is a technical staff member in the chemical, microsystem, and nanoscale technologies group at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, where she is exploring new methods and strategies to build integrated microfabricated devices that are highly scalable. She

has enjoyed publishing and presenting her work, which includes a paper as first author and two conference presentations on devices for high-voltage systems on flexible substrates. She holds numerous awards and distinctions, and has been the inventor or co-inventor of five filed patents and several other intellectual property disclosures. While at IBM, she earned a First Plateau Invention Achievement Award and a First Patent Application Award.

Smith has also demonstrated great leadership and service in community activities. During her time with IBM, she served as a mentor for both the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and the MindsMatterNYV program (high school sophomores/juniors). Through her dedication to these programs, Smith has been able to encourage, prepare, and support motivated high school students from low-income families in the achievement of their college aspirations.

Alumni Service Award Diane (Davis) Black '79



The University High School Alumni Association honors Diane (Davis) Black class of 1979, as the 2016 Alumni Service Award recipient for her contributions to University High School. Black has fond memories of participating on the Speech Team, and received two awards for a speech presented during her sophomore year.

After high school, Black earned an associate's degree in applied science—court reporting from Illinois Central College. Utilizing her educational experience, she has enjoyed a very long and successful career (31 years) as an official court reporter with the 11th Judicial Circuit in the State of Illinois. She is also currently licensed by the State of Illinois as a certified shorthand reporter, and is a member of both the Illinois Court Reporter's Association and the National Court Reporter's Association.

Over the years, Black has volunteered many hours back to her alma mater. She is an active member of the University High School Alumni Association Board, and has donated a lot of time serving as the Board

Check All Posts for Notifications

If you aren't getting the postings from the "We Are One: U-High Pioneers" on your newsfeed on Facebook, fine tune your newsfeed by clicking on the "Join" tab displayed on the group's banner in the upper right hand of the page. Bring up the drop down choices; select "follow group." If you want to have postings from the group page emailed to you, then you need to check "all posts" when you click on NOTIFICATIONS also in the banner of the 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 2000+ 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.

secretary and helping with the organization of the monthly board meetings. In addition to her contributions to U-High, Black has also given back to her community by volunteering and serving in the following capacities: Vacation Bible School team leader and committee member on the Assimilation and Nominating Committee for Trinity Lutheran Church, meal preparation and service efforts at Salvation Army, and volunteer efforts for the Back to School Block Party. Black and her husband, Scott, have two daughters, Lauren and Megan.

Due to our 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.

U-High School Alumni Association award recipients 2016 (continued)

Friends of U-High Award Neil R. Styczynski



The University High School Alumni Association honors Neil Styczynski as the 2016 Friends of U-High Award recipient for his contributions to University High School. Neil and his wife, Joan, became members of the University High School family in 1996 when their oldest son entered U-High. They are now parents to four U-High alumni, Matthew '00 Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2004); Maura (2004 and Duke University 2008); Mitchell (2012 and Washington University in St. Louis 2016); and Michelle (2016 and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 2020). Their children earned 22 U-High varsity letters in cross country, volleyball, basketball, swimming, and track with Neil

and Joan's support of each team. All of their children participated in band, chorus, and/or musicals and plays.

As U-High parents, Neil and Joan have made donations that included more than 50 computers to the Lab Schools and were recognized as charter members of the ISU Lab Schools' Legacy Society and ISU's 1856 Society. In April of 2012, Neil was inducted into the ISU College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Neil also served on the U-High committee to determine the parameters for the initial rollout of laptop computers to U-High students. Neil has been a substitute teacher at U-High since 2006, and has enjoyed getting to know a broad spectrum of U-High students and teachers through interactions across each subject area. He has chaperoned U-High Spanish trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador, and The Galapagos Islands, and a choir trip to New Orleans.

Neil is a native of Polo, and graduated from Polo High School in 1970. He

received his undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University in mathematics and economics in 1974, and participated in Western's initial relationship with Montana Native American communities as a teacher's assistant in mathematics on the Crow Indian Reservation in Lodge Grass, Montana. He continued his education at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana receiving an MBA in finance and accounting in 1976, while substitute teaching in Champaign schools. After receiving his MBA, he immediately went to work for IBM (International Business Machines) in Chicago, moving to Bloomington in 1977 where he was a representative for IBM until his retirement in 2006. In retirement, he has continued his education developing competencies in Spanish, French, Italian, and German at Heartland Community College, in addition to substitute teaching at all three of Normal's high schools.

Address Updates

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

Our goal is that every Pioneer gets their free copy of *The Pioneer* 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, email address, and telephone number for each alum in our database.

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

So please help us 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!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Gary L. Anderson '62
died 8/24/16

Jean Ann Bates '44
died 1/27/17

Winnifred Ann Elvidge Clauson '41
died 11/6/16

Mary Louise Demetrulias Crain '39
died 12/31/16

Darlene Coleman '53
died 1/18/16

Kent Bradley Deffenbaugh '61
died 10/18/16

Shirley Rose Day DeVary '50
died 12/9/16

Sandra M. Jenkins Doty '57
died 2/11/17

Betty Ann Green Franks '53
died 8/15/16

David L. Gaddy Sr. '77
died 10/8/16

James Ray Howard '52
died 10/12/16

Peggy Minch Rust Johnson '46
died 11/26/16

Maurice Elmo Jones '47
died 8/30/16

Natasha Ann Levandowski-Fleer '93
died 9/25/16

George Franklin McCoy,
Lab School psychologist
died 2/6/17

Erma Luella Steele Meindl '48
died 10/20/16

Patricia Lee Mann Mertz '57
died 6/5/16

Ruth Thomasine Sherer Rolley '56
died 11/2/16

Ann Kathryn Roop '65
died 12/10/16

Lise Jeanne Winterroth Tuttle '74
died 12/19/16

Norma J. Glasscock Well '57
died 11/7/17

Jon Frederick Westcot II '80
died 10/24/16

Robert R. Whited, former band director
died 10/28/16

U-High Memorabilia

So you're cleaning out closets and sorting through old files and you find a cache of papers and memorabilia from your U-High days. Instead of shredding those 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 syllabuses, 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. 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 autobiography 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 composite 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, or funding priorities, please contact Wilma Bates, associate 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

- | | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> U-High Alumni Association—7105274 | <input type="radio"/> U-High Stroud Auditorium—7015936 | <input type="radio"/> Lab Schools Performing Arts Endowment—7105267 |
| <input type="radio"/> U-High Athletics and Recreation—7105267 | <input type="radio"/> Faculty Enhancement Endowment—7015435 | <input type="radio"/> Lab Schools Student Life/Wellness—7105267 |
| <input type="radio"/> U-High Facility Updates and Renovations—7015928 | <input type="radio"/> Metcalf Building Updates and Renovations—7005430 | <input type="radio"/> Metcalf Hayden Auditorium—7015937 |
| <input type="radio"/> U-High Science Laboratories—7015931 | <input type="radio"/> Lab Schools Classroom Technology—7015930 | <input type="radio"/> Other_____ |