



# Warriors & Wildcats Report

No. 1 • September 1, 2014

Welcome to the *Warriors & Wildcats Report*, a new publication of the Uni Hi Education Foundation, designed to keep its members and friends up to date on what's happening at Uni – past, present and future.

It's free for anyone who signs up at [www.UHEF.org](http://www.UHEF.org) – just hit the orange “Subscribe Now” button in the middle of the home page, fill in your name and e-mail address and you'll receive the *WWR* in your e-mail inbox!

## ON CAMPUS

- ▶ Uni opened its 91st academic year to students in grades 9-10-11-12 on Tuesday, August 12. The Fall semester will continue through December 19.
- ▶ A strong program of Advanced Placement courses continues at Uni for the 2014-15 academic term. At least 20 courses are planned this year; Uni has traditionally been one of the leaders in AP course offerings. In the 2013-14 term, 28 courses were offered in 18 disciplines:

• Art & Music:	5 courses total	• Language & Culture:	3
• English:	7	• Mathematics:	4
• History & Politics:	6	• Science:	3
- ▶ Save the Date(s)! Uni Director of Theatre Arts Ronnie Sperling has announced the schedule for this year's performances: November 14-15-21-22 for the fall and May 8-9-15-16 for the spring show. All events will be on-campus at the Stivelman Auditorium; full details in the next issue!
- ▶ Construction will be a constant on the Uni campus for more than a year, with two major projects now underway on the south end of campus.
  - What was an asphalt parking area at the corner of Westgate and Ohio Avenues has been torn up to start the building process for the new Collins & Katz Family YMCA, replacing the old Westside Family Y on Stoner Avenue.

This new, 62,000 sq.ft. facility will be shared with Uni students, and cater to non-Uni members and guests during non-school hours. The planned facilities include an aquatics center with two pools, fitness rooms, a gymnasium, child activity center, teen leadership center, multi-purpose rooms, a rooftop basketball court surrounded by a jogging track, locker rooms and on-site parking.

- At the same time, the L.A. Unified School District has approved a remodeling of the Uni football field and, after a lot of lobbying, a new running track. Both have been in disrepair for years, but a \$2.6 million project that will include (1) a full replacement of the infield with FieldTurf and (2) installation of an all-weather, eight-lane track, has been approved. Grading is slated to begin in September with the project to be completed in time for the 2015-16 school year.

Because of the project, there will be no home football or baseball games this school year; the new track will allow home meets at Uni for the first time in more than a decade.

Combined with the renovated tennis courts along Westgate and the existing gymnasium along Ohio, Uni will soon – for the first time in decades – have one of the finest sets of athletic facilities in the City system.

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## REUNIONS

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▣ Upcoming reunions that we know about include:

- October 18, 2014: CLASS OF SPRING 1954  
At the Crowne Plaza Hotel Los Angeles Int'l Airport  
*Information:* Carla Sampson Lowe  
(916/965-4825 or [carladlowe@aol.com](mailto:carladlowe@aol.com))
- March 21, 2015: CLASS OF 1985  
At Mountain Gate Country Club  
*Reservations:* Visit [www.ReunionCommittee.com](http://www.ReunionCommittee.com)
- March 28, 1985: CLASS OF 1975  
At Mountain Gate Country Club  
*Reservations:* Visit [www.ReunionCommittee.com](http://www.ReunionCommittee.com)

Please send details of your reunions to [Connect@UHEF.org](mailto:Connect@UHEF.org) for inclusion in future issues!

- ▣ The Class of 1974 reunion, also held at Mountain Gate Country Club last March 29, not only had a capacity crowd of 182, but raised \$1,074 via an impromptu raffle to benefit the Uni Theater Arts Department. Presentation of the donation was made to Uni Theater Arts chief **Ronnie Sperling** at a subsequent Uni Hi Education Foundation meeting.
- ▣ The Classes of 1965 (Artesians and Peleans), getting ready for their 50-year reunion in 2015, has established a “class challenge” goal of \$1 million! More than \$100,000 has already been raised and a Web site with the details has been created at [www.UniHi65.com](http://www.UniHi65.com).

## **UNI HI EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS**

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- ▶ The UHEF is now online!

An extensive Web site launched in mid-August, with news of Uni, the Foundation, past newsletters, projects to be funded and much more. Visit the site at [www.UHEF.org](http://www.UHEF.org) and tell your classmates to sign up for the *Warriors & Wildcats Report* and volunteer for UHEF activities.

The Foundation, now in its 29th year, has raised more than \$550,000 to support Uni's mission of educational excellence, and to supplement the instructional budget in these lean times. You can donate to the cause right on the site.

## **UNI ALUMNI NOTEBOOK**

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- ▶ Uni's greatest-ever athlete, **Mel Patton**, passed away at age 89 on May 9, 2014. He was, in his time, the "World's Fastest Human," and set world records in the 100-yard dash (9.3 in 1948) and 220-yard dash (20.2 in 1949).

Patton was, of course, a star at Uni in 1941-42-43, setting school records that stood for decades: 9.8 in the 100 yards (not broken until 1974), 21.2 in the 220-yard straightaway (never broken) and 21.5 in the 220-yards around a curve (broken in 1977).

He won two gold medals in the 1948 Olympic Games in London, in the 200 m and the 4x100 m relay, and finished fifth in the 100 m. After finishing his track career as a senior at USC in 1949, he never raced again, but became a coach and worked in the electronics sector before retiring to his home in Fallbrook, California. Check the UHEF Web site for a fuller look at Patton's achievements.

- ▶ Remember the spectacular Opening Ceremonies of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia? Much of the choreography in the Russian history sequence was created by renowned dancer, producer and Uni alum **Danny Ezralow** '74.

He was profiled at length in a February 7 front-page story in the *Los Angeles Times*, noting that he spent nearly six months on the project, moving to Sochi six weeks before the Games to supervise rehearsals. During that time, he met Russian President Vladimir Putin, who quizzed him extensively on the plan for the program. Putin was satisfied, as was the crowd in the Fisht Stadium, which cheered loudly for Ezralow's Russian-history segments.

## **SIXTH PERIOD BELL**

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- ▶ Emerson Middle School, long a crucial feeder school for Uni, is also getting a major renovation. An \$18+ million project that includes a turf athletic field, new gymnasium, upgraded science classrooms, new drop-off zones and parking areas is now well underway.

The drop-off zones along Selby Avenue are already complete and the structural steel for the new gym is easily visible. Construction work will, however, continue for most of the school year. It will be worth it, as it's the first major upgrade of the campus since 1940!

Contribute your comments, ideas and news  
to the *Warriors & Wildcats Report!*

Send a note to [Connect@UHEF.org](mailto:Connect@UHEF.org) !

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