



UNI HI EDUCATION FOUNDATION The sole, officially-authorized alumni support organization for University High School

# Commemorative plaques honoring L.A. City prep legends **Dick Kampmann** and **Mel Patton** to be unveiled at campus luncheon on May 15

LOS ANGELES, May 5, 2016 – Two men who made Los Angeles City High School sports history will be honored with massive plaques commemorating their achievements at University High School at an on-campus luncheon on May 15.

In 1943, **Mel Patton** completed his second straight sweep of the 100-yard and 220-yard City titles and set school records that would not be broken for more than 30 years. Five years later, after completing his service in World War II, "Pell Mel" was the "World's Fastest Man" heading into the 1948 Olympic Games in London and won two gold medals, in the 200 meters and 4x100 m relay. He is the only Olympic gold medalist in Uni history.

**Dick Kampmann** never ran as fast as Patton, but he followed Patton's legendary coach, Jim Pursell, at the West Los Angeles campus and went on to even greater heights. As mentor of the cross country and track & field teams from 1960-85, Kampmann brought eight All-City team championships to Uni, 77 Western League titles and 875 dual-meet victories. His athletes won 24 individual All-City championships and 252 league titles, in all divisions.

For these achievements, the school's new football field and track & field facilities were named "Kampmann Stadium" and "Patton Track" in ceremonies in October 2015.

The naming effort was led by the **Uni Hi Education Foundation** (UHEF), devoted to supporting the school's curriculum and programs in a time of diminished public funding. Over the course of the last year, some \$47,906 has been raised for the naming of the two facilities, nearly all of which will be used to fund Uni programs in the future.

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Less than 10 percent of the total went into the production and support of four massive plaques, each 30 inches wide and 40 inches tall, commemorating the namings. In addition, a plaque commemorating Uni's first principal, **Angus Cavanaugh**, for whom the football field has long been named, and a plaque listing the leading donors, will be installed on the north wall of the school's South Gym, facing the football field and track.

The May 15 luncheon will be held in the South Gym, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A formal program will include, but is not limited to:

- Presentation of a plaque and letter of recognition from the Los Angeles Unified School District Alumni History and Hall of Fame to both Kampmann and Patton;
- Remarks from Patton classmate **Craig Dixon** '44, who won a bronze medal in the 110 m Hurdles in 1948, Uni's only other Olympic medalist, and Patton biographer **Larry Booth**, who profiled the sprinter in his 2015 book, *World's Fastest Humans*;
- Remarks from Patton's widow, Shirley Patton;
- Remarks from University High School principal Eric Davidson, remembering Cavanaugh;
- Remarks from four Kampmann cross country and track & field alumni: **Harvey Stein** '60, **Steve Baum** '69, **Konrad Trope** '73 and **Heidi Howell** '80;
- Remarks from Kampmann, now 91 years old;
- Unveiling of the plaques.

Tickets to the event are available to the public, at \$60 per person through May 10, but online only at *www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2533630*. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The luncheon is being held on the same day as the UHEF's All-Classes Picnic and Car Show, a free event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on other areas of the campus.

Notice:

"Use of these school premises has been granted pursuant to the provisions of Sections 17400 et seq., of the Education Code of the State of California to the Uni Hi Education Foundation from the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The Board of Education does not sponsor or take responsibility, not does it necessarily endorse any of the activities, statements, or opinions which may be expressed at this meeting or activity."

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### About the Uni Hi Education Foundation

Since its founding as Warren G. Harding High School in 1924, what is today University High School has always been a center of excellence. Re-named in 1929 in honor of the move by UCLA to its Westwood campus, Uni's faculty and staff have given tens of thousands of students a rock-solid foundation for their future. The University High School Education Foundation (UHEF) is helping ensure that today's students are able to continue to excel in academic, arts and athletics, as have those of the past.

The UHEF was created as a 501(c)(3) charitable, tax-exempt corporation in 1985. Its purpose is "to raise funds for University High School, Los Angeles, California to help maintain the high standards of education in the school and the community by supplementing funding which has been substantially reduced since [passage of California] Proposition 13." The Foundation is a volunteer organization and has raised more than \$1 million in support of University High School.

#### Media Support Services

Media are welcome to cover this event. Please note:

- Media wishing to attend should contact **Rich Perelman** at (310) 308-7523 or *rperelman@perelman-pioneer.com* for information and reservations.
- Pre-arranged interviews with Coach Kampmann, Shirley Patton and Larry Booth are possible; please contact Mr. Perelman to inquire.
- Plaque artwork (in jpg format) for media use is available upon request.

Thank you for your support.

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