



Warriors & Wildcats Report

No. 64 • May 15, 2017

It's getting to be graduation time at Uni! Hello from the Uni Hi Education Foundation, the official alumni support organization for University High School. Your comments and contributions make this report better, so send us a note at Connect@UHEF.org.

The **Warriors & Wildcats Report** is free for anyone who signs up: [click here](#) to go to the subscription page, fill in your name and e-mail address and you'll receive the WWR in your e-mail inbox! T-E-L-L your friends!

UHEF 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun. 03-43	Campus Gleaning	Campus	8:30-11:59 a.m.
Jun. 03	Nourish Your Senses seminar	Campus	12:00-3:00 p.m.
Jun. 09	Spring semester ends	Campus	

★ BULLETIN ★

**UNI TO BE HONORED AS ONE OF THE
TOP 20 SCHOOLS IN U.S.
FOR "LIFE-CHANGING INSTRUCTION"**

▣ Uni principal **Eric Davidson** received this message on Tuesday, May 9:

"The International Education Bureau of the nationally recognized Walt Disney Motif Awards has ranked University High School as one of the top twenty schools in the country to exceptionally expose students to high levels of life-changing instruction.

"Because of your push to generate positive productive citizens within our nation; the Walt Disney Motif Awards International Selections Committee has elected to honor the University High School during the 2017 Walt Disney Motif Awards Ceremony, 'The Nation's Highest Most Prestigious Honor For Youth Advocacy.'

“The Ceremony will be observed on Sunday September 10, 2017, 8:00 PM (PST) at the distinguished Walt Disney Concert Hall of Downtown Los Angeles, California.”

It’s a remarkable honor for Uni, as the [Motif Awards](#) program is “to promote and support the local and global community through optimum education and development of youth and to influence and honor the professional growth of educators, and others who are committed to the needs of children in a changing society.”

Uni was selected directly by the Motif Awards board; the school did not apply for the award. It was awarded, in part, because of Uni’s remarkable increase in its graduation rate in recent classes.

Davidson noted that “in the past several years we have been able to turn the graduation-rate stereotype on its head.” For the 2015-16 school year, Uni [compiled an enviable record](#) of a 90.8% graduation rate for its senior class, including this breakdown by ethnicity:

• African-American:	78/81	96.3%
• Hispanic:	200/219	91.3%
• Asian-American:	32/36	88.9%
• White:	26/34	76.5%

By comparison, Uni’s senior-class grad rate in 2009-10? A much more modest 74.8%.

To recognize the achievement, the entire Uni faculty and staff team is invited to the ceremony in September. Congratulations!

THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED “GREASE” TO RAISE FUNDS FOR UNI THEATER

- ▣ An enthusiastic crowd of parents, students and friends of Uni attended the April 29 fundraiser for Uni Theater Arts highlighted by the showing of the Sing-A-Long version of “Grease.”

In addition to the movie were costume and dance contests under the direction of Uni’s own **Ronnie Sperling** ‘76. *“The dance contest was a lot of fun. We had 20-25 kids on stage and played ‘Willie and the Hand Jive.’ We demonstrated what the Hand Jive was – a 1950s dance – and they all learned it and did it!*

“We also went into the audience and had a ‘Grease’ trivia contest and gave out lots of prizes. That included some gift certificates that were donated by Café ‘50s, which was founded by a Uni alum.”

The program, which was primarily an experiment to see if this kind of program could be organized successfully, ran smoothly and earned about \$500 for the Uni Theater Arts program. Next year: bigger and better!

UNI LIBRARY DONATIONS NOW UP TO 169; WELCOME TO NEW DONOR CARL HAGGE '53

- ▣ *"I can't overstate how great an impact these donations have on making the library relevant for students and in making the collection more valuable and worthy of protection in a time when library closures are afoot. Thank you so much to our devoted alumni!"*

That's Uni librarian **Tascha Folsoi** '86 on the continuing flood of books into the Uni library, which has now reached 169, with a new donor – **Carl Hagge** S '53 – joining the club of those who have helped out. He joins the prior eight named donors and some who wish to remain anonymous:

Jeff Deckman '76

Ivan Finkle '50

Barbara Wong Franklin '68

Judy Kleinberg '65

Ruth Albert Roberts '64

Robert Schrag '83

Judy Wolfenstein

Kevin Young '75

Ready to pitch in?

Folsoi – also a book donor – devised the donation process by using Amazon.com's "Wish List" function. Anyone can go to the list ([here](#)), purchase one or more books and they will be sent to Uni directly within two business days.

The "University Senior High Library" Wish List enjoys Amazon Prime status thanks to Folsoi, so that you (as the purchaser) **do not** have to be an Amazon Prime member to buy any of the books!

Folsoi asks for help if you buy a book: *"I think it would be better if we also asked people to email me their name and grad year along with items purchased, so I can email them back with the tax I.D. number and also remove the items from the list."* You can contact her at tascha.folsoi@gmail.com. Yes, your book purchase is a charitable donation!

All purchasers of books for the library are permanently recognized with a donor plate on the inside front cover of each donated book. Ready to help? Here's the link to the Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2907HPM85SFOW/ref=cm_sw_su_w

ON CAMPUS

- ▣ Folsoi also reports that under the direction of animation teacher **Danna Coonen-Lee**, "Uni students took top prizes in the [ACME Network](#) Story Pitch Competition Award event where they competed against hundreds of other students throughout LAUSD, Orange County, Glendale, San Diego School District, and other school districts. Students had to design and develop a TV animated series and present it online during the ACME live video broadcast.

“The winners were **Melissa Axume** (10th grade, 3rd place), **Sebastian Johnson-Deal** (12th grade, 2nd place) and **Iris Salazar** (9th grade, 1st place winner).”

Congratulations to these talented Wildcats!

- ▣ Uni’s indefatigable chief of health and environmental science programs, **Kerri Eich** is staging the second “Nourish Your Senses” seminar on campus on Saturday, June 3, with the public happily invited to attend. You’ll hear from Eich and:

- **Sarah Greenfield**, owner of FEARLESS FIG
- **Mindy Schleger**, owner of FOOD FITTER
- **Don Smith**, soil expert for KISS THE GROUND

The series will be presented from 12:00 -3:00 p.m. in the Amphitheater on campus, with thanks for grant funding from HMC Architects. You can learn how understanding food better can enhance and enrich your life, but please sign up in advance [here](#).

- ▣ For those who would like to help keep Uni beautiful, a “Campus Gleaning” program will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3 from 8:30 to noon each day. Sign-in will be on campus in The Grove. Students get four hours of community service ... be sure to get a form for your records, too!

- ▣ Uni sports report: *Follow the Wildcats on Twitter: [@Utownsports](#)*

- *Boys/Baseball:*

Uni won four of its last five regular-season games to finish 11-12 and 7-5 in the Western League. The Wildcats play all of their games on the road due to a lack of a facility on or near the Uni campus, but were seeded 20th in the City’s Division I playoffs and won a play-in game against Granada Hills, 3-1, on May 11. Uni, now 12-12, will play fourth-seeded San Pedro on May 16 at 3 p.m. Uni’s MaxPreps schedule and statistics are [here](#).

- *Boys/Golf:*

Eric Temena’s squad of all underclassmen was the second-best team in the Western League during the regular season, and proved it again in the League Finals as runner-up to LACES, 451-497. Uni had four players in the top 12 in the 18-hole Western League Finals: junior **Vishal Vinodh**, fifth (91); junior **Lawrence Kim**, eighth (92); freshman **Noah Flournoy**, 10th (97) and soph **Anuv Gupta**, 12th (98).

- *Boys/Tennis:*

The Wildcats finished 4-9 overall and 4-6 in the Western League, with wins over Venice, Westchester and two over LACES. For scores and schedule, click [here](#).

- *Boys/Volleyball:*

Uni’s volleyball squad ended its season with a 20-13-1 record and 5-5 in the Western

League, finishing the regular season with nine wins in its last 11 games. But the Wildcats lost in the opening Division I playoff round to Bravo, three sets to none. Scores and schedule are [here](#).

- *Girls/Softball:*

The softballers are 6-10 overall and had a 4-8 mark in the Western League, with wins over Fairfax, Westchester (2) and LACES. Uni, seeded no. 1 in the City's Division IV playoff bracket, won their first game, vs. Elizabeth HS, 11-1, on May 11. The Wildcats will next play Jefferson today at 3 p.m. For scores and schedules, click [here](#).

- *Track & Field:*

Uni competed in the Western League finals the week of May 11 and qualifiers will compete in the City Prelims at Birmingham High School on May 18 and the City Finals at El Camino College on May 25.

- ▣ Be sure to check out a great story by **Eric Sondheimer** on Uni's first alum to play in the NBA, **David Nwaba**, on the [Los Angeles Times](#) Web site, including a wonderful photo of Nwaba and his Uni coach (and still Uni coach) **Steve Ackerman** '89.

REUNIONS

- ▣ We're asked constantly about whether reunions of specific classes are happening. If they aren't listed below, we don't know about them, but are happy to list the information as soon as supplied to us.

Formal reunions and informal get-togethers get organized because [one person](#) decides it should happen and finds other classmates who feel the same way. Just decide that you're going to make it happen . . .

- ▣ Upcoming reunions that we know about include:

- Sep. 23, 2017: **CLASS OF 1954 (Capris) 63-YEAR REUNION**
At the Saticoy Golf Course Clubhouse, Ventura
Information: **Erin Boomer** (boomererin@gmail.com)
- Oct. 07, 2017: **CLASS OF 1967: 50-YEAR REUNION**
Hollywood & Highland Center, Los Angeles
Information: **Judi Astrachan Doling** (judidoling@sbcglobal.net)
Reservations and tickets: Please contact The Reunion Committee at (661) 259-5999 or visit www.reunioncommittee.com.
- Oct. 13, 2018: **CLASS OF 1968: 50-YEAR REUNION**
Hollywood & Highland Center, Los Angeles
Information: **Kathie Brown Marion** (marionmoses@me.com).
Reservations and tickets: Please contact The Reunion Committee at (661) 259-5999 or visit www.reunioncommittee.com.

Please send details of any and all reunions, meetings or informal get-togethers to Connect@UHEF.org for inclusion in future issues.

▣ **Class of 1957:**

Patty (Kelly) Froehlich (rmgrandy4@hotmail.com) writes that the “Uni Hi Manhattan class of 1957 60th reunion is in the planning stage.”

Great! If you want to know more, contact Patty right away at rmgrandy4@hotmail.com.

▣ **Class of 1987:**

A reunion committee is forming for a 30-year celebration later in 2017. Check out the class Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129073165787/> or contact **Marvina (Stephens) Miller** at marvina@centurycommercial.com.

▣ **Class of 1997:**

Kymia Jones ‘97 (kymiaejones@gmail.com) has already asked “I’m wondering if there is a 20-year reunion planned for the Class of 1997?” Why not contact Kymia and get the party started!

▣ **Class of 2007, are you holding a reunion in 2017?**

The Foundation can provide some help in locating classmates, if we have them as part of our database of 14,000+ addresses (online and postal). If you’re out there and want to know more, contact UHEF Co-President **Ivan Finkle** ‘50 via Connect@UHEF.org right away!

*If your class maintains a [Web site](#) or [Facebook page](#),
please send the address to Connect@UHEF.org
and we’ll add it to this list!*

Class of 1987:

- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129073165787/>

Class of 1981:

- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UNI1981Centurians/>

Class of 1977:

- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UniHigh77/>

Classes of 1966: Valcisians & Delphians

- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1092330424115492/>
- For questions, please contact Joyce Rangen at joyce.rangen@gmail.com

Classes of 1965: Artesians & Peleans

- <http://uni65.com> or <https://unihi65.wordpress.com>
- To join the Class Facebook page, send an e-mail to UniHi65@gmail.com

Class of Winter 1961: New Yorkers

- <http://www.unihw61.com>

Class of Summer 1961: Islanders

- <http://www.unihi61.com>

And Uni's theater-arts program is also on Facebook:

- <https://www.facebook.com/unihightheater/>

UNI HI EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS

- ▣ The Uni Hi Education Foundation exists to raise money to support the instructional programming at University High School. A new LAUSD policy allows *on-campus signage* to be available to recognize donations which assist the educational program. Interested for yourself or your company? Sent us a note and we'll help to get the ball rolling: Connect@UHEF.org.
- ▣ Contribute to Uni by linking your purchases on Amazon.com or at Ralphs to their contribution programs!
 - **Amazon.com:** Your purchases on **Amazon.com** can help Uni! Just go to the UHEF.org "[Donate Now](#)" page, scroll down and **click on the Amazon logo** to go to Amazon.com and your purchase will be credited toward rebates which go to support the school!
 - **Ralphs:** Use your **Ralphs Rewards Card**. Via its Community Contribution program, from 1-4% of monthly purchases made by members is sent to Uni, but by designating the school by linking it to your Rewards Card.

Have your card in hand (you'll need the number on the back), go to the Ralphs [Community Contribution page](#) and either **register** or **sign in** (Questions answered [here](#)); Uni's code for the Ralphs program is **93275**.
- ▣ The Foundation, created by committed Uni administrators, alumni and parents in 1985, has raised more than \$1 million to support Uni's mission of educational excellence, and to supplement the instructional budget in these lean times. You can donate to the cause by [clicking here!](#)

UHEF SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

- ▣ Did you know that the UHEF – thanks to your donations – supports these annual scholarships for Uni students:
 - **Community Service Scholarship:** \$1,000 awarded to a graduating senior who has shown exceptional dedication to community service during their tenure at Uni.
 - **Jack Moskowitz Principal's Award:** Named for one of Uni's most outstanding

principals (1984-93), a \$1,000 award to a graduating senior selected by Uni Principal **Eric Davidson** for exceptional achievement and service to the school.

- **Sharon Mednick Scholarship:** Created in 2004 from a \$10,000 bequest left by Uni counselor Sharon Mednick, this annual \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a senior interested in a career in education.

In addition, two new scholarships are set to be inaugurated in the coming year with your donations:

- **Coach Richard M. Kampmann Scholarship Fund:** Named for Uni's late, legendary cross country and track & field coach, to be awarded by the Stimming Family in coordination with the UHEF.
- **Violetta Ponce Scholarship:** a new scholarship created by the University High School faculty and staff in memory of the late **Violetta (Ponce) Pacheco**, a Uni English teacher who lost her battle with cancer in May, 2016 at age 40. Contributions to this fund can be made to the UHEF or sent directly to University High School.

To contribute to any of these scholarships, simply go to the [Donate Now](#) section of the UHEF Web site, make your donation and enter the name of the fund you wish to support in the Comments section. Thank you for your generosity.

UNI ALUMNI NOTEBOOK

*Reunion information and updates for the
Classes of 1954-1957-1967-1968-1987-1997:
Check the [Reunions](#) section above!*

▣ **Frances (Roberts) Conant** (francjohnw@gmail.com) writes:

"Thanks for the [Warriors & Wildcats Report]. I graduated in 1940. Are there any more members of the Class of Atlantians (1940) in the area?"

Frances, we don't have a contact list for that, but we're hoping that one or more of our readers will see this and get in touch!

▣ We noted these passings:

- **John Reynolds Van Atta** '57 (1939-2017) [passed](#) on May 16 at age 76. Born in Winchester, Massachusetts, he attended Emerson Junior High School, where he met his eventual wife **Pamela Kreis**. After finishing at Uni, he graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1962 and then earned a Ph.D. in Biophysics from the University of Michigan.

He came back to Los Angeles to join Carnation and then moved to Kenilworth, Illinois to work for Quaker Oats, where he was a member of the executive leadership team and supervised research and development. He retired after eight years in Illinois, and returned to California to Santa Barbara. Passionate about golf, piano playing, and wine making, he was one of five neighbors who created the wine label Los Cinco Locos.

- **Peter Choate** '58 (1941-2017) passed on March 31 at his home in Sullivan Canyon. He attended Uni and Stanford, where he was a All-American in golf, competed barefoot at times, set an amateur course record of 66 at Cypress Point and met his wife Patti. Although he briefly considered joining the PGA Tour, he pursued a career in architecture, founding Choate Associates Architects in 1971 and specializing in residential design. Most of Peter's work is located in California, but he also built homes and small hotels for clients in New Mexico, Wyoming, and Maryland. Peter's legacy lives on in the beautiful architecture that he created and left us all to enjoy.
- **Larry Porter** '50 reports that fellow Alohan **Beverly (DeVoe) Snell** (1933-2017) died this past April.

Our condolences to all of the family and friends of our departed Warriors and Wildcats.

- ▣ The massive plaques saluting Coach **Dick Kampmann**, Uni sprinter (and double Olympic gold medalist) **Mel Patton** '43 and the school's first principal, **Angus Cavanaugh**, are mounted outside the north side of the South Gym. If you would like to see them, please note that Uni is a closed school and requires visitors to register. Please arrange your entry by calling Uni – (310) 914-3500 – and ask to schedule a date to come to see the plaques.

Three copies of the souvenir DVDs of the May 15th Kampmann-Patton Honors Luncheon remain available. The full speaking program is included, along with personal messages to Coach K and the Patton family and a short highlights [video](#) of the event. The DVDs are \$20 each and can be ordered by going to the [UHEF.org "Donate Now" page](#) and under the "**Comments**" section, please enter "Kampmann-Patton DVD."

- ▣ We have received a number of inquiries about how one can obtain a copy of an old diploma or a proof of graduation. We have the answers (we think):
 - If you graduated within the past 10 years, call the Registrar's Office at Uni directly, and they can help you. Uni's telephone number is (310) 914-3500.
 - If you graduated before 2006, here's the link to the LAUSD Web page which includes instructions on how to obtain your records: <http://achieve.lausd.net/transcripts> . Please read the requirements carefully!

SIXTH PERIOD BELL

- ▣ Although Uni will complete its 93rd academic year as a Los Angeles School District high school in June, the graduation ceremony will actually mark the 92nd class to finish at Uni. Although the first academic year for what was then known as Warren G. Harding High School was in 1924-25, there was no senior class.

Instead, the oldest students on campus were the 11th-grade class of 40 boys and 38 girls, which went on to become the school's first graduating class ... of 1926!

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

Send a note to Connect@UHEF.org !

Be sure to give your full name and Uni graduating class!

*The **Warriors & Wildcats Report** is published by the Uni Hi Education Foundation, and is edited by Rich Perelman '74. Copyright 2017 by the Uni Hi Education Foundation; all rights reserved, but sharing with classmates, family and friends is encouraged.*

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