ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Nomination forms for all awards will be published in The Pioneer newsletters. Nomination forms can also be found at the registration table during the pre-game mixer.
• Visit our website at www.uhighilstu.edu/alumni

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U-HIGH ALMA MATER

Proudly hail our Alma Mater.
To her e’er be true.
Sing her praise in mighty chorus,
Laud and glory too.
 Cheer the team. Support its standards.
Back the Pioneers.
Gladly say that you’re from U-High.
Uphold her through the years.
NORMAN J. MCCORMICK, CLASS OF 1956

The University High School Alumni Association honors Norman J. McCormick, class of 1956, as the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

With over forty years of experience as a professor at the university level, McCormick is recognized as a nationally renowned educator and mentor to both students and educators. He graduated from University High School in 1956 and attended the University of Illinois to study Mechanical Engineering. Graduating in 1960, he quickly earned his Master’s degree, also at the University of Illinois, in Nuclear Engineering in 1961. Then four years later, at the University of Michigan, he earned his Ph.D. in 1965 with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering.

After receiving his doctorate, McCormick began teaching as an assistant professor in Nuclear Engineering in 1966 at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. In 1970, he was promoted to associate professor in Nuclear Engineering. In 1974 and 1975, he also served as a risk analyst for Science Applications, Inc. From 1975 to 1990, McCormick served the University of Washington as a professor of Nuclear Engineering. In 1990, his job changed again when he became a professor of Mechanical Engineering. And since 2003, he has served the University of Washington as Professor Emeritus in Mechanical Engineering.

McCormick’s principal research activity has involved solutions of linear problems of transport theory. After 1990, he began to focus on analytical methods for solving inverse radiative transfer problems for oceanic, atmospheric, and biological applications. Specific projects where his solutions were applied included the development of inversion algorithms for in-situ ocean measurements and for remotely sensing the optical properties of seawater and clouds, and the estimation of the optical thickness of clouds.


McCormick has also been active with the community, serving as a youth advocate in King County Court for Family Law, as well as a tour guide for high school students interested in the University of Washington Medical School.

Over the course of his career, McCormick has received the following awards and recognitions:

- Fellow, American Nuclear Society
- Outstanding Alumnus, University of Michigan Department of Nuclear Engineering
- Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Illinois Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Fellow, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, University of Ljubljana

While at U-High, McCormick received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. His favorite teachers were Dr. Douglas Bey, Dr. T.E. Rine, and Miss Ruth Stroud.

He is married to Mildred McCormick, a 1960 graduate from Illinois State University. They have two children, Kenneth McCormick, who graduated from Central Washington University in 1986 with a Business degree, and Nancy McCormick, who graduated from the University of Washington in 1991 with a Civil Engineering degree.
**2014 ALUMNI SERVICE**

**HERB TODD, CLASS OF 1982**

The University High School Alumni Association honors Herb Todd, class of 1982, as the 2014 Alumni Service Award recipient for his contributions to University High School.

Todd transferred to University High School from Fairbury-Cropsey prior to his senior year. He was active in both the Clarionette and the yearbook, serving as a photographer. He was also a member of the Science Club. He fondly appreciated all of his teachers and thought they were great. Those that stood out to him were Peter Parnante, who encouraged excellence and great grammar; Dr. Michael Suma, who inspired a love of science and original thought; Michael Biggs, who made learning math fun; and Peggy Scott, one of the most caring teachers to walk the halls of University High School.

After graduation, Todd enlisted in the Navy and conducted two Pacific cruises—attaining the rank of Electronic Warfare Petty Officer 2nd Class. He later earned a Bachelor’s degree in Applied Computer Science in 1994 and a Master’s degree in Information Assurance and Security in 2013. He earned both degrees from Illinois State University.

Todd started working at State Farm over twenty years ago. He is currently located in one of their Dallas, Texas area offices working as a Security Analyst Technician. While at State Farm, Todd has earned the following industry certifications:

- Associate in Information Technology
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional
- Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional
- GIaK Security Essentials Certification
- GIaK Web Application Penetration Tester

On the side, he is also a member of Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). He is an assistant instructor and for many years helped teach SCUBA classes at Wild Country in Normal, Illinois.

Todd has also been very active with the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as a committee member as well as a leader. In 2008, he attended Wood Badge, a high level leadership training course. He has served as an assistant scoutmaster for the National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) camps and received the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, considered to be the Boy Scouts “honor society”.

Todd met his wife, Heidi (Semmler)’83 at U-High during his senior year. Todd’s family is rich in tradition at U-High, as many family members have graduated wearing the Green and Gold. His mother, Esta (Baker) Wessels, graduated in 1959; his brother, Patrick, graduated in 1983; and his son and daughter, Ian and Amanda, graduated in 2013 and 2014, respectively. Additionally, Todd’s two sisters-in-law, Tracey (Semmler) Shuler and Jacqui (Semmler) Crutchely, and a brother-in-law, David Crutchely, are also U-High graduates.

Todd and his wife Heidi were married in 1988 and recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Todd has proudly served U-High as a member of the Alumni Board. His hard work and dedication to the school and its alumni is forever appreciated.

“Develop of love of learning—you’ll be doing it the rest of your life.”
- Herb Todd

**CHASE M. HILGENBRINCK, CLASS OF 2000**

The University High School Alumni Association honors Chase M. Hilgenbrinck, class of 2000, as a 2014 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

Hilgenbrinck graduated from University High School in 2000 after a very successful soccer career which included state and national honors, as well as various academic honor awards. In high school, Hilgenbrinck twice made the United States Under-17 National Team, in 1997 and 1998. He was a First Team All-State in 1997, 1998, and 1999, named as a member of the NSCAA All-Midwest Team in 1998 and 1999, and was an NSCAA All-American in 1999. He was also named an ADIDAS Elite Soccer Program All-Star in 1997, 1998, and 1999. After graduation, Hilgenbrinck continued his soccer career at Clemson University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Trade. He was a three-year starter and a member of the 2001 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship team. He was also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a National Leadership Honor Society. During college, when many students exercised their independence and skipped Mass, Hilgenbrinck continued to go to Church, out of habit. It was then that he realized what his faith was all about. He started having a passion for Scripture.

After graduating from Clemson University in 2004, Hilgenbrinck left for South America and played professional soccer for Club Deportiva Huachipato in Talcahuano, Chile. In 2005, he played for Club Deportes Naval, also in Talcahuano, Chile. In 2006, he played for Club Deportivo Nublense, in Chillan, Chile. Two years later, in 2008, Hilgenbrinck returned to the United States and played professional soccer for the Colorado Rapids in Denver, Colorado and the New England Revolution, in Boston, Massachusetts. In his professional soccer career, Hilgenbrinck was voted the “Best XI” in the Chilean Second Division in 2005 and 2006, an award distinguishing the best player in the Left Fullback position.

In 2008, Hilgenbrinck made the decision to resign from professional soccer and follow a calling to another profession, priesthood. The passion for Scripture he gained during college called Hilgenbrinck, a lifelong active Catholic, to enter the Catholic Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland in order to become a priest. He spent the next six years studying theology and philosophy with the hopes of being ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest. Hilgenbrinck was ordained a deacon for his home diocese of Peoria, Illinois and was ordained a priest in that diocese on May 24, 2014.

While studying to become a priest, Hilgenbrinck volunteered his services to the community. In 2010 and 2011, he served as a volunteer assistant in the Theology Department at St. Maria Goretti High School. In 2011 and 2012, he provided prison ministry at the Maryland Correctional Institute. And in 2012 and 2013, he volunteered time to an immigration lawyer, preparing Unlawful Presence Waivers on behalf of illegal immigrants in Washington, D.C.

He is the son of Mike and Kim Hilgenbrinck and brother to Blaise ’99. Both Hilgenbrinck and Blaise served as altar boys at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington, Illinois.

“Even though I didn’t spend a lot of time with him and I didn’t play a lot with him, the impression he leaves on people is lasting. Chase isn’t only my friend, but he’s a role model to me. I respect the man that he is and what he’s doing in his life.”
- Wells Thompson, former Revolution teammate
POKEY LAFARGE, CLASS OF 2001

The University High School Alumni Association honors Pokey LaFarge, class of 2001, as a 2014 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

As a young boy, LaFarge was impacted profoundly by both of his grandfathers, each of whom influenced him with their own passion. One was a musician in St. Louis and gave LaFarge his first guitar. The other was an amateur historian and taught LaFarge about important historical events, such as the Civil War and World War II. With a passion for history and literature, LaFarge effectively combined his grandfathers’ passions with blues music.

After graduating from U-High in 2001, LaFarge hitchhiked throughout the United States and earned a living playing for the public on sidewalks and streets. In 2007, LaFarge released Marmalade, his first album. Shortly after that, LaFarge released Beat, Move and Shake (2008) and Riverboat Soul (2010). He was well on his way to becoming a well-known figure on the music scene. He has since traveled to all lower 48 states, 15 countries, and 7 Canadian provinces.

He has played in some of music’s most famous halls, including The Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee, Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colorado, and has played twice at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. During this time he also assembled his band, named Pokey LaFarge.

In 2010, Pokey LaFarge was named Best New Band at the Newport Folk Festival in Newport, Rhode Island. The Riverfront Times in St. Louis named Pokey LaFarge the Best Americana Band in 2010 and 2011. Additionally, Pokey LaFarge won Best Americana Album with Riverboat Soul at the Independent Music Awards in 2010. In 2011, the band won Independent Music Awards for Best Americana Album with Middle of Everywhere and Best Americana Song with Ain’t the Same.

The band has toured with Jack White and Old Crow Medicine Show and has also made their rounds on late night television, appearing on Conan O’Brien and the Late Show with David Letterman. In 2013, LaFarge and the group made an appearance on the APM “live” radio broadcast of A Prairie Home Companion, with Garrison Keillor. They performed four selections, including Central Time, What The Rain Will Bring, Garbage Man Blues, and Close the Door. LaFarge has been featured in Bloomington, Illinois’ local newspaper, The Pantagraph, as well as radio stations WGLT and WBNQ.

LaFarge is a preservationist and proponent of traditional American music and values. He credits his family, University High School, and growing up with Midwestern values with making him what he is today - a successful, internationally renowned musician, performer, songwriter, producer and entertainer.

LaFarge has also given back to the community, donating his talents to The Strings Attached project in St. Louis, Missouri. This program provides guitar lessons and music education as well as musical mentoring opportunities for youth.

Pokey LaFarge is on a mission, encouraging fans worldwide to think differently about what it means to celebrate musical traditions. Simply put, Pokey explains, “It’s not retro music. It’s American music that never died.”

ALISON HITNER MOUTON, CLASS OF 1982

The University High School Alumni Association honors Alison Hitner Mouton, class of 1982, as a 2014 Hall of Fame Alumni Award recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

With over twenty-seven years of teaching experience, Mouton is recognized as a passionate educator and mentor to both students and other educators. She graduated from University High School in 1982 in which she took French with Mr. Boyd. During her junior and senior years, she joined an AFS program and she studied abroad in France. It was during this time that her passion for the culture and language of France was cultivated.

After graduation she studied at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. It was there that she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and graduated in 1986.

Mouton then continued her journey in foreign language by moving to France in 1986. In 1987, she started working at Saint Felix School in Nantes, France. In 1989 she moved to Lyon, France and gave birth to her first child. A year later, she was hired by Institution des Chartreux in Lyon, where she currently works. It was there the she worked to help start their bilingual program which is still going strong after 24 years. The exchange program partnered with Central Catholic High School, initially, and then with University High School, giving back to the school where her passion began.

In 1999, Mouton left France for her husband’s job. They lived in Thailand, Taiwan, and Tunisia. In Bangkok, from 1999 to 2001, she taught at the Lycee Francais de Bangkok. After that, in Taiwan, she taught at the Taipei European School from 2001 to 2004.

Returning to France in 2006, the Institution de Chartreux asked her to come back. She accepted and currently teaches there today. She also currently works at another school, Notre Dame de Bellegarde, in Neuville sur Saone, France, teaching English to children from age two to ten.

Today, her exchange program works with Thomas Metcalf School and runs every other year. The program currently is designed for a sixth grade class and brings 32 French children to the twin cities.

The exchange program with the Illinois State University Laboratory Schools makes the experience for Alison come full circle, as her passion began with an exchange program through U-High in 1981.

Her parents are Larry Hitner (deceased in 2013) and Dolores Hitner. She has one sister. She is married to Philippe Mouton, and they have three children, Madeleine, born in 1992, Jeremy born in 1999, and Francois, born in 2000.

“I am forever thankful to U-High and its teachers for the chance I got while studying there, to go on the AFS program, a turning point in my life!”

– Alison Hitner Mouton