

Urbana Alumni Association



The Urbana Alumni Association was established in 1995 to enhance the quality and scope of the educational experiences of students in the Urbana school district. We have renewed our efforts to bring our alumni together with an Annual Homecoming Football Game Party, a website www.urbana-alumni.com to keep those far away more connected, and are looking to send out an annual or semi-annual summary of District achievements, honors and Alumni updates to all **current members**. We welcome any updates or information on Alums that people wish to add. Still going is our specific fundraising for the sophisticated High School improvements (you can still buy a brick on the *Athletic Complex* walkway or a seat plaque in the new state-of-the-art *Auditorium*). Recently added to specific improvements are:

The John Gremer Strength and Conditioning Facility – a modernization and upgrade is long overdue

The Hall of Fame Wall – this will be a new wall to recognize Urbana Alumni for their lifetime work. Urbana will plaque alumni and their story onto a wall where students will be inspired by the achievements of our alumni (should you have a nomination, please submit it to us via email or mail).

November 24, 1914 to today, 100+ years of excellent public education! While over the years many of our students have had significant achievements (reason to build our Hall of Fame Wall), below is a list of some of the most recent:

Board of Directors:

President

Joyce Hudson
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C. K. Gunsalus

Angie Armstrong

Achim J von Bodman

Cynthia Coleman

Terry Ragle

Jeff C. Facer

I. Steven Beckett

Carmen Kirby

- 2015 Two National Merit Semi-Finalists
- 2014 National Merit Finalist
- Students in the Social Justice class received national recognition from American Education Research Association (AERA) Leadership for the 2014 Social Justice Bridge People Award for their action research on social justice issues at UHS
- 2013 Illinois State Chess Champion
- Over the past five years, UHS had students accepted to numerous universities and colleges including the University of Illinois, Johns Hopkins, Illinois Wesleyan, Brown, Washington, Juilliard, UCLA, Grinnell College, Caltech, Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Dartmouth, Tufts, Scripps, University of Miami, Drake, Boston College, BYU, University of Massachusetts, Northwestern, and the University of Chicago.
- Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School band and orchestra students regularly qualify for the Illinois Music Education Association state ensembles
- The 2014 student production of *Little Women the Broadway Musical* and the 2012 student production of *Chicago: The Musical* were featured at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival
- The 2014 Rosemary Yearbook staff received the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence
- The overall graduation rate for UHS is 90.2%; the graduation rate for African American students is 89.4%; the graduation rate for Hispanic students is 88.2% (2013 data)

Recent Staff achievements:

- US News high school rankings bronze medal winners in 2010 and 2012
- 25 teachers in the district are Nationally Board Certified, and UHS is home to a National Board Cohort program.
- 55% of our educators hold advanced degrees

We are asking some UHS students to put together a nice summary of all recent UHS concerns for a letter to our alumni. If you would like to submit relevant alumni information and/or updates to be included in the next newsletter, please submit via email or mail. **This would be a great way to let your class know about a reunion! Remember that if you are organizing a reunion, please consider the Homecoming weekend (check our Website for the date) as various reunions will occur and attend a UAA special event.**

Please renew your membership or consider a tax exempt donation to the UAA. Every dollar goes directly to improving the education experience in Urbana. Large naming rights and permanent name plaques on the new seats are available to create exposure for your business or to honor your family name. Please contact us at info@urbana-alumni.com or visit our web site www.urbana-alumni.com.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hudson, President