University City High School Volume II Issue I

December 2001

A publication for and about University City High School Alumni

"Growing up, you think the whole world is like U. City. When I got out there (Los Angeles)... I realized that I came from a magical place."

Actor Gregory Sporleder, class of 1982, returned to U. City to conduct performance workshops for students.



From the PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

This issue is the second edition of the Class Acts alumni magazine and commemorates the District's 90th Anniversary. Established in 1911 (the high school was established four years later), the District has had a long history of excellence in education, and I am pleased to say, the tradition continues.

Since the introduction of our first Class Acts alumni magazine, we have been inundated with calls, e-mails, and even visits from alumni wanting to show support to the effort. I thank you

> for your feedback and for your encouragement. It is very important to the success of our magazine.



Dr. Elizabeth Bender **UCHS** Principal

Our first issuance proved to be an interesting experience! After our initial bulk mailing, many alumni called to add names to the list. Second and third mailings were done which will explain why some of you received your magazine a bit later than we had planned. As we work to firm up our mailing list, please do e-mail, write, or call to us to let us know if the magazine is something you want to continue seeing. Also, let us know if you are receiving a duplicate mailing (husbands and wives may each be getting an issue), or if you know of others who are not on our mailing list that should be getting a copy.

The idea is that after the initial launch of the magazine, it will be mailed as a perk for members of our newly reorganized Alumni Association. Of course, those of you who have corresponded recently will be added to that list. Those who joined an earlier version of the Alumni Foundation have been transferred to the list of new members, and I thank you for your support. Contributions made to the Alumni Association help us

to pay the magazine's printing and mailing costs and to support student and alumni activities such as the Hall of Fame event and Homecoming. If you have a special interest that you would like to support at the high school, please contact me directly and I will ensure that the proper contacts are made.

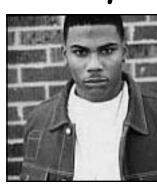
Once again, this is a very new venture and we are proceeding with a limited staff. We continue to urge you to communicate your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to us as we work to tailor this publication to your needs. We are also finding that parents and friends are great sources of information for this publication, so we encourage them to reach out as well. Our practice will be to send confirmation letters or cards to everyone who joins the association. In addition, we are trying very hard to answer letters and follow-up on requests for information on teachers, administrators, and alumni, but we ask that you please be patient with us.

Recently, I received a particularly heartwarming letter from alumnus Kenneth Hartmann, class of 1948, who was kind enough to update us on his most fascinating life. (See highlights of other alumni in the Alumni Class Notes section on page 8 of this issue.) He is yet another fine example of how UCHS alumni have made significant contributions to their professions and to our world. Current students are encouraged by the news they read about alumni, and to some extent, they are being influenced to take their education seriously early on. You help them to believe that the kind of success they have heard about is indeed within their reach. For providing that inspiration and support, I thank you.

These are indeed exciting and rewarding times in the School District of University City. As principal of University City High School, I am pleased to be a part of such an important era. G

The road home for Rap Star Nelly

Emerging rap star Nelly's CD "Country Grammar," was recently nominated for a Grammy Award His songs are characterized by hard driving beats and edgy lyrics which often reference University City. Although we have not yet found the U. City English teacher that wants to take credit



Cornell Haynes, Class of 1993

for influencing "Country Grammar," students and teachers across the District are wishing this hot new artist the best of success!

One indicator that Nelly had "arrived" was when in November 2000, prior to the announcement of his nomination, Nelly (formerly Cornell Haynes, class of 1993), was interviewed by reporters from MTV's "The Road Home" show on the steps of University City High School. While in town for the segment, Nelly visited with former teachers and graciously accepted U. City spirit wear from Principal Elizabeth Bender.

Nelly appeared at the 43rd Grammy Award ceremony broadcasted live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles on February 21, 2001.

In early July 2001, Nelly again returned to UCHS, but this time with an entourage of cameras, producers, directors, dancers, and all the other necessities for making a music video. G

UCHS Alumni Association Registration For

PLEASE PRINT	Graduation Date	
Name	First	Maiden
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Phone: Day	Evening	
E mail Address		

Please return this form with check for \$15 or more to: UCHS Alumni Association c/o Michele Ludwig, Division of Communications & Media Services, McKnight Administration Building, 8346 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO 63124-2195.



Keeping U in The LOOP

with Larry Lieberman

Census 2000 figures show a population of 37,428 in U. City, a 6.6% drop from 1990.

The former home of Pratzel's Bakery has a new owner, rehab completion expected in Spring 2002.

Chaney's BarBQ on Olive has shut its doors after 56 years of serving the community.

U. City received preliminary approval for a \$1.4 million bicycle and pedestrian walkway project on Olive, linking our parks with Forest Park.

Washington University installed a blue light/push button system to enhance security in the Parkview Gardens area, where they purchased a large number of apartment buildings.

A new White Castle Restaurant on Olive is now open for business.

Following a major fire and renovations, Cicero's reopened in September 2001.

A new medical office building is being constructed at 6850 Olive, adjacent to the newly developed University Square Shopping Center (Schnucks).

The Bi-State study of the vintage trolley possibility for the Loop-to-History Museum run is nearing completion, with options for either rubber-tired or tracked trolleys.

The Saxony Apartments (23 units) at 8631 Old Bonhomme are being redeveloped into 21 condo units. Another condo project is being developed for the 7200 block of Forsyth.

Millbrook Blvd. is now officially Forest Park Parkway. The overpass at the greenway will take that name (Millbrook Overpass). G

Pianist Stan Ford to play benefit concert

University City High School Principal Elizabeth Bender reports the administration is currently negotiating with UCHS Hall of Famer and internationally renown pianist Stan Ford, class of 1975, for a concert next year to benefit the UCHS music department. If all the details are worked out, Ford

will be accompanied by the Parkway Central Orchestra under the direction of Winifred Crock, one of Ford's college classmates. An evening performance will be open to the public on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, in the newly renovated UCHS Auditorium.. G

Sporleder

U. City Actor Plays Role of Teacher in Returning Artist Series

Actor Gregory Sporleder, class of 1982, may not be a household name, but his highly expressive, boy-next-door face is quickly becoming recognizable thanks to pivotal and sometimes quirky roles on both television and the big screen.

As part of the University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters' Returning Artist Series, Sporleder returned to U. City in

Gregory Sporleder, Class of 1982

October 2000 to share his perspective on acting with students. According to Mary Schuman, chairperson of the series, "The program began seven years ago as a way to encourage interest in the arts, to support arts education curriculum in the schools and to celebrate the successful careers of some of our graduates." Schuman continued, "We want our graduates to emphasize (to students) that success, in the arts or otherwise, begins right here in the classrooms and neighborhoods of U. City."

As an actor, Sporleder has amassed an impressive list of credits from appearances on weekly television shows like "NYPD Blue," "Chicago Hope," and "Friends." The 37-year-old has also shared the big screen with actors Sean Connery and Nicholas Cage in "The Rock," Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton in "Twister" and John Cusack, Cameron Diaz, and John Malkovich in the academy awardnominated movie, "Being John Malkovich."

"When I left school, if you had told me I would be in movies, I wouldn't have believed you!" He added, "Now I'm doing exactly what they taught me to do... to be versatile,

experiment, and develop different facets of a character." Comparing past performances, Sporleder said, "I can iron it out pretty flat... I can be that guy (comic health inspector) in "Friends" or the psychotic guy whose head melts off (in "The Rock"). I find it fascinating to be as many different people as I could be rather than to be one person all the time."

That fascination with different types of people probably stems from being raised in the diverse and neighborly University City community and attending a predominantly African American high school. These translated into unique and culturally rich educational experiences that, no doubt, have helped to bring depth to the characters he portrays.

Sporleder summed up high school in one word, "Cool as in interesting." He continued, "I don't know if that's what it was, but that's what I took from it. I wasn't always super cool in high school (but) I was allowed a certain 'coolness' that I had learned from U. City. When I left, I took that coolness with me." He added, "Living in Chicago and Los Angeles has helped me to realize and appreciate where I came from. Growing up, you think the whole world is like U. City. When I got out there (Los Angeles)... I realized that

Sporleder continued on page 6

Sporleder's career highlights

Movies:

Black Hawk Down (2001) - Soldier

Being John Malkovich (1999) - Bar Patron

Never Been Kissed (1999) - Coach Romano

Andersonville (1996) -Dick Potter

The Rock (1996) -Captain Frye

Twister (1996) - Willie

Renaissance Man (1994) -Private Mel

Fatal Instinct (1993) -Court Clerk

A League of their Own (1992) - Mitch Swaley

TV Guest Appearances:

"Friends" (1994) "Chicago Hope" (1994)

"NYPD Blue" (1993)



Class ACTS is NOW on-line!

Although we are not fully interactive, check out the District's website at <www.ucityschools.org> and download or print the Acrobat (.pdf) file of our Class Acts newsletter or PRIDE newspaper to share with family or friends.

Let us know where you are working... what's going on in your life... what lessons from high school were particularly helpful along the way. Tell us about your family, where you are living, etc... anything you want to share. We love hearing and reporting about alumni! G

2000-01 UCHS Athletics

It was another outstanding year for University City High School (UCHS) athletics. All our teams continue to improve as the number of students participating in athletics increase. We are proud of the quality of the athletic program at UCHS. Here are some of our outstanding highlights:

Fall 2000

- Girls Volleyball: District Champs (UCHS hosted Volleyball Districts)
- Boys Soccer placed third in Districts (UCHS hosted Soccer Districts)
- · Cross Country boasted one State Qualifier

Winter 2000-01

- · Wrestling placed second in Districts (UCHS had eight Sectional Qualifiers and five State Qualifiers) (UCHS hosted Wrestling Districts)
- Girls Basketball: District Champs

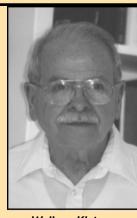
Spring 2001

- Track: UCHS hosted District Track in the new Muhl-Schemmer Stadium. UCHS had 11 Sectional Qualifiers, five male State Qualifiers and two female State Qualifiers. UCHS won State Championship in the male discus throw.
- Girls Soccer placed third (UCHS hosted Soccer Districts)

The UCHS Athletic Department is conducting several fundraisers to generate money for new weight room equipment, as well as new varsity uniforms and warm-up uniforms. For more information about these fundraisers, contact Kim Loomis at 314-290-4106 or <kloomis@u-city.k12.mo.us>. G

Reflections of an Alumni COORDINATOR

It is hard to believe that I have been retired for 18 years. Perhaps the reason is that I am still actively involved with the school system, with UCHS graduates I see at their reunions, with newsworthy items about UCHS alumni I clip from the newspapers, with telephone and email conversations I have with former students, and with my regular visits to the high school itself. Occasionally, I like to astound current students at the high school with the fact that I have been walking those stairs for 64 years! I started there as a student in 1937, graduated in 1940, came back to teach German and English in 1954, and retired in 1983.



Wallace Klein Alumni Coordinator

The following well-written article (despite a few inaccuracies and some unavoidably outdated material) appeared in the Tom-Tom in 1988. It encapsulates my alternative "career" as UCHS archivist/historian.

Herr Klein Keeps UC Legends

by Andrew Wilson, UCHS Tom-Tom: March 1, 1988 edition

Mention the name Herr Klein to any UCHS graduate who attended the high school before 1984, and they will tell stories that make him sound like a living legend. Perhaps it is fitting then that Wally Klein has been made the keeper of UCHS' legends as the District's new alumni coordinator. Klein, himself a 1940 graduate of UCHS, was the German teacher here for 30 years, from 1954 through 1983. During much of this time, he was the Senior Advisor, a position that allowed him to get to know many of the alumni that he now keeps track of.

As alumni coordinator, Klein's main purpose is to keep the innumerable UCHS alumni informed about UCHS and each other. In doing this, Klein gathers records of the alumni and sets up reunions and other alumni gatherings. Last year, for instance, he set up class reunions for all of the classes with 10-year intervals, from 1937 to 1977. Similarly, when he was visiting California last month, Klein set up an alumni party which drew 35 UCHS graduates at which he told them about developments at the high school. Klein is currently trying to form a nationwide UCHS Alumni Association to increase the number of graduates he can reach. Apparently, all of the graduates Klein has met with have been very enthusiastic about his efforts. "They all feel so terrific about U. City," he says.

Klein's job of keeping track of alumni is made even more exciting by the great successes that UCHS graduates have met with. Gerald Greenwald (class of 1953 and 1999 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee), the former vice president of Chrysler Corporation and president of United Airlines, is a UCHS graduate; as is Harvey Eisen, president of Integrated Resources Asset Management Company, a large Wall Street firm. Bob Gale (1999 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee), writer of the hit movie "Back To The Future," was a 1969 graduate. Indeed, it is said that his first movie, "The 1969 Senior Movie," was produced by none other than Herr Klein. Dave Garroway (class of 1931 & 2001 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee), an early TV star, was a graduate, and Stephanie Williams (class of 1977), a current soap opera star, is another alumni. The founder of Tandem Computers is a UCHS graduate, as are boxer Arthur Jimmerson (class of 1981) and pro football player Kevin House (class of 1976).

U. Citians have done even better in the media and liberal arts. The renowned playwright Tennessee Williams (class of 1929 and 1999 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee) graduated from UCHS, where he wrote for the predecessor of the Tom-Tom known as Pep. Jason McManus (2000 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee), a 1952 graduate, is the new editor-in-chief of Time magazine. McManus was also a winner of the rare Rhodes Scholarship. Professor Leonard Levy (1999 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee) of Claremont College, a 1940 graduate, won the Pulitzer Prize for a book on Thomas Jefferson. Frank Richards Jr. (class of 1971) is a doctor at the Centers for Disease Control. UCHS has also produced successes as Robert Cohn (class of 1957 & 2001 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee), editor-in-chief of the St. Louis Jewish Light; Dale Singer (class of 1967), the assistant editorial editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Sara Wykes (class of 1968), a feature writer for the San Jose Mercury News. G.



Raziq Hosts Journalism Workshop at UCHS

U. City grad discusses report that led to largest tire recall in history

Award-winning journalist David Raziq (Rah-Zeek), class of 1978 and 2001 Hall of Fame inductee, hosted a journalism workshop at UCHS on April 5, 2001. Raziq, an investigative producer at KHOU-TV in Houston, Texas, and two of his colleagues, photographer Chris Henao and reporter Anna Werner, were members of the station's new investigative team called "The Defenders" when they started making headlines of their own. The trio made KHOU-TV the first news organization to draw the public's attention to the national trend of defective tires on Ford's popular Explorer vehicle. Their reports led to the largest tire recall in automotive history. The story made front-page news across nation and has since led to reforms of automotive safety standards. Blowouts were said to have been responsible for more than 119 deaths.

Comparatively speaking Raziq says the Firestone story, while hard hitting and controversial, was actually tamer than many of his other efforts. Other reports have put him right in the middle of the action with con artists, mobsters, and pedophiles. The former "20/20" investigator has won many national awards for his investigative reporting including the I.R.E.Award and Medal, the George Polk Award, the National Headliner's Award, the Scripps Howard Award for Investigative Journalism (twice), the UPI Award for Investigative Reporting, and the Society of Professional Journalist's Mark of Excellence Award.

This last award was for stories written while studying at the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Journalism (where he also taught writing) and its Institute for Computer-Assisted Research. Raziq continues to teach from time-to-time and was recently a guest instructor at the Poynter Institute. He is also a quick study when it comes to the behavioral sciences such as cybernetics, criminal psychology, and particle physics. True to his U. City roots, Raziq also finds time to pursue interest in the arts of film and jazz.

UCHS Principal Elizabeth Bender recalls, when Raziq returned to U. City in April, he talked about investigative techniques and writing. He also shared with students the importance of "just plain ol" activism in the world they will inherit. Raziq explained, "On one hand, I don't want to prematurely jade them, but on

the other, I think it doesn't hurt to let them know that they need to be independent thinkers and question everything they read and hear, no matter the source. And, finally, he added,"...if they want something to change, they can't wait for someone else to do it for them."

On January 17, 2001, one month shy of a year from the time they first reported the story, Raziq, Henao, and Werner received the prestigious Alfred I. DuPont Columbia University Awards in Television and Radio. Another U. City graduate, Eric Mink (class of 1965) of the New York Daily News, served as a juror in the DuPont Award process. Mink, himself, had received the award earlier in his career. CA

" It (Class Acts) was great! I read it from cover to cover and I am keeping them all! Keep up the good work."

Mimi Fiszel, Class of 1966



David Raziq, Class of 1978

From the ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

I have been the athletic director for UCHS for four years. I really would like to see the rich traditions that our school and especially the athletic department were founded on continue to develop and enhance. We have done some wonderful things in the past couple years based on the established pride of the past and the promise of a strong future, including investing in new uniforms, fundraising for much needed equipment, hosting tournaments for game experience, and providing for teams to participate in community service projects to help develop our student athletes character through service to others. And of course, we can't forget to mention the newly renovated Muhl-Schemmer Stadium and Track.

Our student athletes excel in the classrooms as well as on the fields, courts, pool, or track. We developed a "Code of Ethics" to enhance positive behaviors in and out of school and in

> and off season. We expanded the after-school athletic study hall to provide tutoring to any student seeking assistance - all with teacher volunteers. We partnered with the National Football Foundation by becoming a "Play It Smart School," meaning we now have an individual (sponsored by grant funding) specifically hired to provide academic services to student athletes at UCHS. Participation numbers are up. Team grade point averages are up. We expanded our program offerings and our teams are lead by some of the best coaches in the state!

It takes time to be involved, it takes determination to be successful, and it takes dedication to make a positive difference in the life of another. I invite you to spend a little time at a game, order a "Walk of Pride" brick, or become an athletic booster. Please give me a call. We can discuss how your time, determination, and dedication an help the athletes of UCHS in the 21st century.

Kim Loomis 314-290-4106 or e-mail <kloomis@u-city.k12.mo.us>.

p.s. Look on page 11 for more information about our "Walk of Pride." G



Sporleder continued from page 3

I came from a magical place."

Sporleder's parents were both social workers whose work in the community inspired him to consider teaching. "Acting," he observed, "is very childlike as well. I had always thought I would fall back on being a teacher or working with youth, so when the (Arts & Letters) opportunity arose, it was a no brainer because I had always loved working with kids and being around them."

Sporleder was surprised to see that in 19 years neither the school nor the students have changed much."I had heard about the different issues facing kids (today) and I thought it must be kind of scary." He continued, "(But) it looks the same!" The visit brought back memories of playing fifth chair trumpet for Mr. John Brophy, performing for Ms. Dolores Kane, and dancing for Ms. Andrea Lebowitz. "I came down to look at girls in the dance studio and she said," he mimicked, "'You can't just look. You must dance." This was easy enough for the young man, voted second best dancer in his senior class and, who later performed on the television show "Soul Train." He says these skills have enabled him to take on the more physical roles. "I owe it (success) to a lot of people."

Among those people, he counts Kane who still teaches drama at UCHS. In 1982, Kane suggested Sporleder enroll in Webster College (now Webster University). "Before Ms. Kane, I thought a monologue was what David Letterman did! I didn't know it was part of a play!" Kane remembers helping Sporleder (who was at that time, more of a dancer than an actor) prepare for an audition at Webster. "He was a sweet kid... really creative and open to ideas." Those attributes, plus his now fearless nature, helped him to become one of the best students in his class at Webster. However, he was eventually dropped from the program after administrators decided he wasn't good enough to continue. Sporleder laughed, "It will be a good story to tell one of these days!"

Kane says he's turned into a fine actor. She particularly recalls his performance in the 1994 movie "Renaissance Man" which is about an instructor (Danny Devito) who teaches a class of dim-witted army recruits to appreciate literature by allowing them to be innovative and, among other things, convert Shakespeare's writing to rap music. Kane said, "Ironically, in the movie, Greg (Private Mel) tries to rap and, of course, he's the one white boy who has no rhythm at all! At the end of the movie, they all leave feeling good about themselves."

Despite his initial disappointment, Sporleder

now realizes that leaving Webster set into motion a critical chain of events that eventually led him to Chicago and to his first great break. Once there, he supported himself by waiting tables. He seriously studied acting and helped create a local theater group that included his friends, actors John Cusack and Jeremy Piven (star of the sitcom "Cupid"). Director and actor Tim Robbins even stopped by to teach them a "...cool style of theater." Sporleder said, "A lot of it is who you know and what they are willing to teach you." These connections led to his first acting role, a

supporting role in the movie "Say Anything" which starred his friend John Cusack."They paid me all this money! It wasn't really that much, but for someone waiting tables, it was a gold mine!"

However, he is quick to add that an actor must first fall in love with the craft. "It can't be just about money, fame or glory. You have to really figure out if you can do it, if you love doing it and if you have to do it. If it's all about the 'bling, bling,' to quote Nelly (rap artist and UCHS grad) it ain't gonna

work out." He warns, "As easy as they make it look in the movies, it takes a lot of skill and patience. You have to hope for the opportunity and then be able to deliver."

"I've always said this (acting) is what I am supposed to do because the doors just keep opening and I am prepared to step through them." He said, "I am a man of faith and a believer of destiny. It just seems like everything is happening as it is supposed to happen." But, he doesn't believe in sitting around and waiting. He's at work on his latest project, an original screenplay based on the marathon race that was a highlight of St. Louis' 1904 World's Fair.

Trading on his own experiences as a marathon runner, Sporleder immersed himself in the research needed to write his first ever movie project. Because he has struggled with

dyslexia since childhood, writing the script has been one of the biggest challenges he has had to face. He explains, "You can hide behind your insecurities or meet them head on. If you overcome them, they are usually your greatest accomplishments. I hope this script will take things to the next level."

Contemplating, perhaps, that next level, his voice slipped into a more nostalgic rhythm, "The only place I ever wanted to be famous was U. City." That's why, returning to his high school as a successful actor and helping to

Alumni return to visit UCHS

- ➤ Rap music sensation **Nelly**, graduated Cornell Haynes, class of 1993, was nominated for a Grammy for his critically acclaimed CD entitled, "Country Grammar." Recently, Nelly was the subject of an MTV production, "The Road Home." (see page 2)
- ➤ Actor **Gregory Sporleder**, class of 1982, has appeared in a number of movies and situation comedies. (see page 3)
- ➤ Marlon West, class of 1981, is an animator for Walt Disney Feature Animation, supervising two teams of animators in Paris and California. He shared previews of his latest project, the Disney movie, "Atlantis: The Lost Empire." (see page 10)
- ➤ Investigative reporter **David Raziq**, class of 1978 and 2001 Hall of Fame inductee, is one-third of the KHOU-TV investigative team in Houston who broke the story that led to the recall of Firestone Tires -the largest recall in automotive history. (see page 5)
- ➤ Philanthropist **E. Desmond Lee**, class of 1936 and 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, has established a charitable foundation designed to promote music education for teachers and students. Participating school districts include St. Louis City, Lindbergh, Normandy, Hazelwood, University City, and the Archdiocese. G

motivate students was so important to him. "And, if a couple of kids were really inspired, then that's all that matters." He added, "Your art is so much about your youth and developing a perspective. I had wanted to be an artist since I was a skinny white boy growing up in U. City... it was a perfect place for the whole thing to start."

Just after his Fall 2000 visit to UCHS, Sporleder was cast as a principal character in the new Jerry Bruckheimer film, "Black Hawk Down," directed by Ridley Scott (Gladiator, Alien, Hannibal). The film is based on the bestselling book that chronicles one day in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia. Sporleder spent several months filming in Morocco, returning the end of June 2001 just in time for his wedding. "Black Hawk Down" will open across the country on January 18, 2002. G



UCHS Hall of Fame continues to grow movers and shakers" join the list of outstanding grads

The Hall of Fame at University City High School is home to 14 new inductees. On Friday, October 5, 2001, these UCHS graduates were honored with a reception and dinner at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel.

This year's master of ceremonies, worldrenowned trumpeter Wayne du Maine, class of 1983 and 1999 Hall of Fame inductee, introduced the 2001 honorees. The inductees for 2001 include St. Louis Jewish Light publisher Robert Cohn, class of 1957; jazz musician and singer Jeremy Davenport, class of 1988; U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ronald Gould, class of 1964; professional baseball pitcher Ken Holtzman, class of 1963; long-time UCHS teacher and District volunteer Wallace Klein, class of 1940; surgeon Dr. Ira Kodner, class of 1959; artist and professor William Kohn, class of 1949; OASIS founder Marylen Mann, class of 1954; mathematician and Princeton professor William Massey, class of 1973; award-winning journalist David Raziq, class of 1978; and award-winning author Howard Schwartz, class of 1963.

The following persons were inducted posthumously: first host of NBC's "Today Show" David Garroway, class of 1931; community volunteer Charles Ochs, class of 1932; and foreign correspondent Alvin Rosenfeld, class of 1937.

Following a dedication ceremony of the Hall of Fame on Saturday morning, October 6, photos of these 14 joined the faces of others inducted in 1999 and 2000. That afternoon, the U. City Lions beat the Seckman Jaguars in the Homecoming football game.

UCHS is preparing for next year's festivities by releasing the 2002 Hall of Fame nomination forms (see form to right). The District's division of Communications and Media Services is now accepting nominations for next year's event. The Hall of Fame selection process involves a committee of education, community, civic and student leaders from University City.

Commemorative Hall of Fame Dedication books with bios of all 1999-2001 Hall of Fame inductees can be purchased from the UCHS school store for \$3 a book. Please send a check or money order to UCHS Hall of Fame Book, c/o McKnight Administration Building, 8346 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO 63124.

Celebration 2002 is scheduled to be held on Friday, October 18, 2002, at the St. Louis Zoo's Living World. For a 2002 invitation with R.S.V.P. or more information about nominations, selection process or Hall of Fame committee, please contact Principal Beth Bender at 314-290-4100. G



Alumni CLASS NOTES

Mark Steinberg, class of 1947, is chairman of the board and co-founder of Environment Associates, Inc., a West Coast aerospace testing firm. He produced "Sugar Daddy" filmed in Wales and Los Angeles. His son, Michael, has written, directed and/or produced "Something About Mary," "Water Dance," "Wicked" and others.

Carolyn Losos, class of 1950 and 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, was elected president of the Parents as Teachers Board of Directors.

Fred Shectman, class of 1950, was the Barbara Davis Spencer Professor of Psychology at the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and Mental Health Services.

Carol Fleischmann Diaz-Granados, class of 1960 and a research associate in the department of anthropology at Washington University, has documented 135 sites in Missouri of petroglyphs and pictographs, which are carvings and paintings (using rock) used by primitive people more than 1,000 years ago. Her son, Carlos Diaz-Granados Duncan, class of 1987, is an assistant principal at Brittany Woods Middle School.

After graduating from Washington University (bachelor's degree in Business Administration), Jerry (Slumpsky) Summers, class of 1961, began a career in the real estate and mortgage banking industries in St. Louis and Florida. He owned a food distribution and brokerage company in Miami. Soon after returning to St. Louis, he married Renee Bidnick Katcher, class of 1966. He is president and broker of Galaxy Realtors.

Larry Bluestone, class of 1966, now owns an architectural firm in Cambridge, MA.

Steve Schankman, class of 1966 and 2000 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee, has started Contemporary Events, a special events and entertainment company. He produced inaugural balls for Governor Bob Holden and the Pope's visit to St. Louis. He handled entertainment for The Pageant and Fair St. Louis. Additionally, Schankman was named chairman of the St. Louis Zoo.

Jacqueline Levy, class of 1974, has released her new CD of original comedy songs entitled "Not About Me." Visit her website at www.jacquelinelevy.com.

Sam Stang and David Levi, both class of 1977, exhibited blown glass works at the 2001 Smithsonian Craft Exhibition. Chosen from

over 1,600 applicants in a grueling three-day juried selection process, Stang and Levi individually demonstrated their remarkable level of technical proficiency and expression and met the highest standards of excellence in glass blowing.

Gregory Barnes, class of 1988, is Governor Holden's new chief of staff in charge of commissions. Barnes received BS in economics from Morehouse University, Juris Doctorate from Washington University and a master in public policy from Harvard University.

Jazz trumpeter Jeremy Davenport, class of 1988 and 2001 Hall of Fame inductee, and bassist Neal Caine, class of 1991, performed an evening of sophisticated jazz sounds at the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis during the summer of 2001 to benefit the Sheldon Art Gallery's Educational Programming. Caine is

currently playing with Harry Connick Jr. and has appeared with the Boston Pops and on the David Letterman Show. Davenport, also a New Orleans Jazz Hall of Fame inductee, was featured in GQ, made People Magazine's "America's Top 50 Bachelors," and appeared regularly on NBC's fall sitcom, "Emeril." He and Caine performed at St. Louis' Jazz at the Bistro during Thanksgiving weekend 2001 and can be heard regularly at the Ritz Carlton in New

Deborah Baldini, class of 1974, has been teaching in the department of Foreign Language and Literature at the University of Missouri-St. Louis since 1980 and is currently serving as associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Christine Scheller Fleming, class of

Alumni Class Notes continued on page 9

Documentary centers on growing up in U. City

Aaron Michels and Naima Wartts, both UCHS class of 1995, are directing a documentary project which focuses on race and diversity. They are looking for UCHS alumni willing to be interviewed.

Esteemed reader:

We believe University City is an exceptional case, a place where people are unusually open, caring, and willing to reflect. Yet the race rift still thrives among us. Why? To tell that story, we need your stories stories about growing up with race in University City.

What does race look like in our community? When we first stopped to think about it, an image came to mind - the Loop. It is a place that represents a racial ideal a diversity we are proud of. And then there's the rest of U. City. Some neighborhoods are nearly monochromatic; bordering the Loop, you have Ames Place and Eastgate. Mixing doesn't happen everywhere, and we have not escaped the inheritance of history. Socio-economic divides, housing segregation, and conflicts of interest are embarrassingly predictable.

Still, the U. City experience is far from the national average. We grow up mixed together and cradled in the race discourse of America. Most U. City graduates can probably remember the black or white friends we had in elementary school. We can also remember when we went separate ways and now our friends look just like us. For many of us, that process of growing apart is a mystery. Why didn't it go right? Didn't we have the recipe for understanding? For communicating? From innocence in childhood, how did we get to this point of uncertainty, "Do you respect me? Resent me?"

As we grew up, we became familiar with many messy scenarios. Did you ever look across the cafeteria and wonder at the self-segregation? Or walk into the wrong class/the wrong club/the wrong sport and feel out of your element? Or consider the racial affront of "acting white" or "acting black?"

Maybe sometime in your jaded teen years, you were surprised by a glimpse of mutual caring beyond race and class. Or perhaps you don't recognize this U. City from 1995, and you have entirely different stories. We want to hear them.

In April we are going to begin filming a documentary based on U. City life. Our focus the formation of race identity and the process of growing up racial. Each one of us has stories. Our U. City perspective is unique in the national dialogue. Please help us tell the U. City story by volunteering to be interviewed (Uc_racial@yahoo.com or 800-549-9144). G



UCHS Hall of Fame Dedication Ceremony Come visit the UCHS Wall of Fame which now boast 43 Hall of Fame Inductees



Photo left: Representing the UCHS Hall of Fame inductees were (left to right) Wayne du Maine, class of 1983 and 1999 inductee; Charles R. Ochs, class of 1956 and son of 2001 inductee Charles F. Ochs, class of 1932, along with 2001 inductees: Robert Cohn, class of 1957; William Kohn, class of 1949; William Massey, class of 1973; David Raziq, class of 1978; Marylen Mann, class of 1954; and Wallace Klein, class of 1940.



Photo above: Adele Fordyce (left), who accepted on behalf of David Garroway, and Robert Cohn (right) class of 1957.

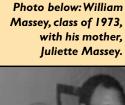




Photo above: Those who attended the UCHS Hall of Fame Dedication Ceremony were delighted by the stories told about the inductees and the high school.

The **E-MAIL** Connection

Lee F. Martin e-mailed this note:

I received a call from a Ronald Meyer, class of 1952. This was not the one I was looking for. He said that he thought the Ronald Meyer I was looking for is in the class of 1953 and Ronald K. Meyer. Thanks for your help. If you are able to contact the Ronald K. Meyer I am looking for, I would appreciate it. Phone: 573-365-083 I. E-mail: <leemartin@onemain.com>

Kenneth Fischer e-mailed this note:

Class Acts is outstanding, simply outstanding! He observed, "Only in U. City can you go to a 40-year reunion and see so many people."..."Whatever happened to Ms. Bowers?"

Editor replies: Here's the answer! Former UCHS English teacher Ms. Wanda Bowers is in her nineties, doing very well and living in the St. Louis area.

Fisher's reply: Thanks for the update on Wanda Bowers. Yes, please contact her and wish her well for me. She was such a great teacher and here is the proof. I never got better than a "C" in her English class and have spent some part of the last 35 years in business seeing and correcting all of the correspondence from my salesmen (college grads) that went out to the public. I breezed through English 101 at Mizzou and that was directly attributable to Ms. Bowers. Regards, Kenny Fischer, 11628 Montana Ave. #303, Los Angeles, CA 90049. E-mail: <Ovrbrk@aol.com>

Connie Maschan e-mailed this note:

I am the mom of a 2-year-old son, Noah, and a database manager at a high tech channel sales and marketing company. I earned my BA from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL and live in Santa Cruz, CA. I would love to hear from other UC graduates. Connie Maschan <conniemm@pacbell.net> G

Alumni Class Notes continued from page 8

1970, is a professional cellist, performing with the Bach Society of St. Louis, Ethical Society and Union Avenue Opera Theater. Fleming began her music education at the Juilliard Preparatory School; graduated magna cum laude with a bachelors in Music Performance from the University of Utah; and a masters in performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the director of orchestras at Ladue Junior and High Schools.

Judith Schwartz Harmon, class of 1973, management analyst from the office of Epidemiology, Public Health Division, New Mexico Department of Health, nominated the state of New Mexico on behalf of the DWI Interagency Work Group and the 33 County DWI programs for the National Commission Against Drunk Driving's Sixteenth Annual Awards Program. As a "finalist," the state is being honored for the most comprehensive state impaired driving prevention program. Harmon also presented information on the statewide DWI screening and tracking system while attending the National Conference held in Washington D.C. G



Disney Animator Marlon West Revisits Alma Mater



During his March 2001 visit, Disney animator Marlon West spoke with high school art students about how he prepared for his career as an animator and demonstrated how a special effects are created for popular Disney features as "The Lion King," "Tarzan," and "Atlantis: The Lost Empire." He is currently supervising effects for Disney's next feature, "Sweating Bullets."

On March 22, 2001, fans of animation from throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area attended a presentation by Disney animator Marlon West, class of 1981, in the newly renovated University City High School auditorium. Sponsored by the Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters, this event was the public component of a weeklong residency in University City classrooms.

During the week of March 19-23, West conducted workshops on art and animation for students in preschool through twelfth grades. He talked about how he prepared for his career as an animator of scenes in such popular Disney features as "The Lion King" and "Tarzan." West has risen to Head of Effects at Feature Animation and, as such, supervised a team of 30 animators in Los Angeles and a team in Paris, France, for Disney's June 2001 release of "Atlantis: The Lost Empire." He is currently supervising effects for Disney's next feature, "Sweating Bullets," which is in production.

West's visit was special because, typically, the Commission sponsors only one Returning Artist each school year (Gregory Sporleder visited the previous October). However, as Mary Schuman, chairman of the Series explained, "Art teachers had been asking for Marlon's return for years. This was the first time he had a break in his

frenzied work schedule, so we jumped at the opportunity." The City of University City, individual contributors and local businesses who support the program each year were willing to increase their support believing, like Schuman, that students would be intrigued with the man who has contributed to some of their favorite movies.

According to West, "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" is probably the most

ambitious effects film Disney Feature Animation has ever made, its first science fiction/action film. West was responsible for planning the effects in each scene and for their creation, using traditional drawing techniques and computers for effects such as tidal waves, sea storms, bubbles, cascading lava, fire-setting fireflies, lots of explosions, glowing crystals, and laser blasts. As West explained, "The visual effects department is responsible for everything that moves except the characters themselves. And that means everything from the smallest prop to the giant submarine, the Ulysses."

West's work on "Atlantis" was nominated for an ANNIE Award, which is given for excellence in animation by the international academy of animators, ASIFA. He was one of three nominees in the category "Outstanding Individual Achievement for Effects Animation." G

Education Foundation

The University City Public Schools Education Foundation,

Inc. was established to enhance the educational programs in all of the schools in the District. By involving the community and attracting private funds to supplement state, federal, and local revenues, the Foundation can provide support for the development of enrichment programs and services which can help make the difference between a very good education and an excellent one.

To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$63,000 to classroom teachers and schools through grants and special programs.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Missouri as a method of providing a long-term, self-sustaining program to enhance the University City public schools beyond the limits of normal tax support. It is governed by a self-perpetuating Board comprised of private citizens who are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the District. Although the District and the Foundation function as separate entities, they are working toward the same end striving for excellence in education for all children. The University City Board of Education incorporated the Foundation and strongly supports its efforts.

If you are interested in supporting the Foundation, we will be pleased to mail you an informational brochure or put you in contact with a representative who can answer any questions. Please call 314-290-4037 or write to the University City Education Foundation, Inc., c/o School District of University City, McKnight Administration Building, 8346 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO 63124-2195. G

Returning Artist Series

Lisa Wilkerson, class of 1991, returned to local classrooms December 17-21, 2001, as a University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters' "Returning Artist Series." Wilkerson is a dancer, singer and actress who has performed with various musical productions and tours. In spring 2001, she performed in St. Louis as a principal character in the highly acclaimed Black Repertory Theater's production of "Godspell." In February 2002, she will begin rehearsals for the touring production of "The Lion King." Wilkerson will talk with students about her career and about other career possibilities associated with performing arts, such as business and marketing. She has a degree in journalism from Northwestern University, with an emphasis in broadcasting. G



Recent Retirees

Our distinguished retirees have provided years of dedicated service to the District. Below, you will find a list of our most recent retirees, with their years of service and the initials of the school in which they last worked.

2001 Retirees: Andrea Bowden, 28, NH; Velma Conrad, 28, JP; Mary Hall, 17, BJ; John LaGrone, 30, UCHS; Julia Oyen-Keller, 20, JP; Lee Tyus, 30, Per; and Marcia Ward, 10, UCHS.

2000 Retirees: Dr. Lynn Beckwith Jr., 8, McK; Genell Bess, 26, NH; Howard Cohen, 35, DH; Connie Harris, 28, UCHS; Annette Hudson, 24, JP; Roberta Kelley, 29, JP; Ilene Murray, 28, BW; James Murray, 31, McK; Patricia Perryman, 31, UCHS; Joyce Sabine, 34, JP; Herman Shaw, 32, UCHS; and Carolyn Wren, 25, BW.

1999 Retirees: George Baker Jr., 22, UCHS; Vernon Beard, 28, UCHS; Charles Beck, 31, UCHS; Annie Berry, 22, BJ; Katherine Billingsly, 31, BJ; Nathaniel Burger, 12, UCHS; Barbara Carr, 14, NH; Delores Dean, 16, McK; Marian Falconer, 20, UCHS/Alt; Rosalie Gale, 30, JP; Earnestine Hudson, 20, BJ; Juanita Jackson, 19, NH; Harriet Lippert, 30, BW / McN; Elease Little, 6, BJ; Luther Maufas, 29, UCHS/Alt; Michael McEvoy, 16, BW; Sigrid Renner, 20, UCHS; Bernice Rubinelli, 20, UCHS; Lillyan Scott, 26, UCHS; Priscilla Sigh, 20, BJ; Shirley Simmons, 21, Per; Bertha Smith, 25, UCHS; Andrea Tkach, 18, UCHS; and John Winecoff, 34, BW.

1998 Retirees: Allie Allmon, 23, JP/NH; Lillian Atchison, 25, UCHS; Dr. Gloria Ferguson, 29, UCHS; Earnest Fields, 25, BJ; Randolph Furch, 30, NH; Marie Goggins, 28, BW; Justine Greene, 24,EC; Emily Logan, 20, UCHS; Doris Renaud, 30, UCHS; Patricia Royston, 26, EC; Lynne Schneider, 20, McK; Elnora Scott, 18, UCHS; Mariano Valdeabella, 21, UCHS; Mary Watson, 28, BW; Sharon Watson, 30, McK; and Jo Ann Williams, 12, BW.

1997 Retirees: Willie Acoff, 19, Per; Jacquillin Bardley, 16, DH; Linda Bethane, 22, UCHS; Mary Anne Buege, 15, JP; Edward Crenshaw, 23, UCHS; Ethel Crenshaw, 18, BJ; Jeannette Essen, 28, DH; John Fitzgerald, 25, BW; Suzanne Gilden, 30, McK; Evelyn Hinton-Cook, Ph.D., 21, Per; James Hoskins, 28, BW; Ellinder Murray, 28, BW; Arline Noise, 17, JP; William Pell, 10, McK; Susie Petty, 25, UCHS; Tommie Pillers, 22, BW; Carol Roberts, 31, BW; Burks Ross Jr., 28, UCHS; Barbara Weeden, 23, BW; Melvin Weisbrod, 26, UCHS; and Junetta White, 25, UCHS. G

Years of service listed denotes years of consecutive service to the School District of University City. Information was provided by the department of Personnel. Retirees listed are only those who submitted retirement by the school year's deadline and were qualified for the annual Honorces. & Retirees Reception. EC is Early Childhood. BJ is Barbara C, Jordan Elementary (formerly Daniel Boone). DH is Delmar-Harvard Elementary. FP is Flynn Park Elementary. JP is Jackson Park Elementary. NH is Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary. Per is Pershing Elementary. MCN is Ronald E. McNair 6th Grade (formerly Brittany Woods Annex and Blackberry School). BW is Brittany Woods Middle. UCHS in University City High School. Alt is Alternative School Program (8-12). McK is McKnight (formerly Elementary, now Administration Building).

AUTHOR, Author!

In addition to sending news of your accomplishments, Wallace Klein and the Municipal Public Library have come up with a way to showcase the writing talents of UCHS alumni.

If you are the author of (or significant contributor to) one or more books, please send us a book jacket or a photocopy of the cover or title page with your name and any information you wish to offer. If you are generous enough to send a copy of the book(s), the librarian will set aside a UCHS Alumni section in the library. You may also send bibliographies of articles written for professional or literary journals or newspapers. \Box

Become part of our WALK through history with the UCHS

As a part of the University City High School heritage, you have helped the School District of University City build a strong foundation for the future of education, brick-by-brick. Now, in much the same way, you can become a part of our distinguished history as well.

For a tax deductible contribution of as little as \$50, you can personalize a brick in the "Walk of Pride" that will become part of the paved walkway leading toward the newly refurbished Muhl-Schemmer Stadium and Track arena. Engrave your name, your child's name, or your former teacher's name in brick and make that person a lasting part of District history. Just think, you can immortalize the words of your favorite coach or teacher in a brick for years to come!

The first set of bricks were in place for visitors to see during Homecoming Week 2001. Bricks will be laid periodically throughout the school year. All profits from the program will go to fund improvements and purchase equipment, uniforms, and supplies for the high school's athletic department.

Simply call Athletic Director Kim Loomis at 314-290-4106, to order a brick, preserve your place in history, and pave the way for tomorrow's students. G

OBITUARIES

Joseph Blasingame was a former middle school teacher who retired from Ronald E. McNair School in 1977. Blasingame was an active volunteer in the District.

Earl Bonner was a principal of Blackberry Lane Elementary School from 1971-73 and served as project director of Intercultural Education from 1973-76.

Sharon Tully Dorsey, Ronald E. McNair and UCHS nurse since 1985, died in November 2001.

Patricia Doyle, taught foreign language at UCHS beginning in 1958 and retired in 1976. She died November 2001 at age 87.

Edgar George Goedeker, a veteran attorney in St. Louis who prepared evidence for the Nuremberg war crimes trials, died August 2001.

Virginia Horner served on the Board of Education for the School District of University City from 1958-64, died January 2001.

Mary (Ziercher) Lasley, class of 1950, died August 2000.

Rosalia Rosenbaum, taught Russian at UCHS 1955-85, died June 2001.

Rosalie Lite Rosin, class of 1957, died September 2000.

Gail (Weinberg) Tobin, class of 1967, died January 2001.

Glenys Unruh served the District for 30 years as an elementary and special education teacher, assistant to the superintendent for curriculum & Instruction, assistant/deputy superintendent, and interim superintendent. She retired from the District in 1980 and died in Sullivan, MO, in December 2001 at age 91.

James Howard Wilson, class of 1971, a producer with KSDK Channel 5 in St. Louis, died February 2001. G



GIVING BACK

The University City Reunion Scholarship Fund, the successor to the Kettelkamp Scholarship Fund, awarded scholarships to two graduates from the UCHS class of 2001. The Reunion Scholarship Fund was started by the late Michael Kovac and a group of his 1955 classmates for their 40th reunion. The project is now open to other classes whose members see that it is important to "Give Something Back," the 1955 reunion theme and motivating concept behind the fund. The fund is based on the principle, "to promote, foster and encourage student scholarships by collecting funds from reunion graduates solely for the purpose of funding scholarships for qualified students."

If you or your class are intrigued with the idea of "Giving Something Back," please contact Arnold Gast, 314-997-0700; or Wallace Klein, 314-863-8314. All gifts are tax deductible and should be made payable to: Reunion Scholarship Fund c/o School District of University City, 8346 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO 63124-2195. G

REUNION News

The class of 1951 hosted its 50th reunion the weekend of September 28-29, 2001. The class of 1961 hosted its 40th reunion the weekend of August 31 - September 2 at Ces & Judy. The class of 1971 hosted its 30th reunion the weekend of August 3-4 at Ces & Judy. The class of 1981 hosted its 20th reunion the weekend of August 17-19 at Harrah's.

The class of 1932 is organizing its 70th reunion for June 2002. For more information, please contact Al Fleischer at 314-569-0003.

The class of 1936 is organizing its 66th reunion for June 14-15, 2002. For more information, please contact Richard Goyer at 314-961-0518.

The class of 1952 is organizing its 50th reunion for September 2002. For more information, please contact Myrna Gerstein Steinback at 314-993-5413 or Evangeline Tolentino Groth at 314-842-7440.

The class of 1962 is organizing its 40th reunion. For more information, please contact David Faintish at 314-997-6245.

The class of 1976 is organizing its 25/6th reunion. For more information, please contact Donna Hudson at 314-355-3712.

The class of 1992 is organizing its 10th reunion. For more information, contact Quoran Hayes Brownel at 314-921-9923 or 314-812-1770. G

Thanks

Principal Bender would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 1970 on their successful 30-year reunion and for their kind contribution of \$1,970 to UCHS. G

2001-02 **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Edgar Burnett, President Rory Ellinger, Vice President Barbara Santoro, Secretary David Harris, Director Joy Lieberman, Director E. G. Shields Jr., Director Kristin Sobotka, Director

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COVER PHOTO

Gregory Sporleder photo by Todd Davis

or photos for publication in this magazine, please mail to Class Acts c/o McKnight Administration Building, 8346 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO 63124-2195 E-mail <mludwig@u-city.k12.mo.us>

Call 314-290-4000 or fax 314-872-1916 or contact Wallace Klein at 314-863-8314 <wgk4uchs@aol.com>

The School District of University City is accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

CALENDAR

January 10, 200	22 Alumni Panel Discussion
January 20	MLK Celebration
February 9	Sweetheart Dance
March 15-16	Spring Musical
March 19	Music in Our Schools (Vocal)
March 21	Music in Our Schools (Instrumental)
May I	Spring Choral Concert
May 3	JROTC Banquet National Honor Society Induction
May 4	Junior/Senior Prom
May 10	Senior/Faculty Game
May 14	Annual Awards Night
May 18	Kinesis Dance Concert
May 28	Graduation at UMSL

University City High School Alumni Association

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