



# UHSFAA 2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## UHSFAA Board

### President

Chris Baker '89

### Vice President

Amy Hartmann-Gordon '89

### Treasurer

Darin Guthrie '95

### Secretary

Daniel Tellez '09

### Members

Michelle Mixer '95

Leibe Schuneman '96/UHS Faculty

Kerri Sierra '95

### Ex-Officio

Principal Alberto "Beto" Ranjel '00



**FOUNDATION &  
ALUMNI ASSN.**

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

To all who have supported University High School,

On behalf of University High School, including the administration, teachers and staff, as well as the entire UHSFAA board, I would like to thank every one of our alumni, parents and friends of University High School who have supported the school in any way. The impact of your support is evident as UHS continues to graduate well-rounded students who excel inside and outside of the classroom.

Whether you are an alum, parent of a UHS alum/student or someone who has interacted with the school, you know that it is a special place. The school is filled with alumni and parents of penguins among our faculty and staff. Regardless of their alumni status, UHS teachers and staff are dedicated to providing a world-class experience and our goal is to provide them with the tools to continue the tradition of excellence.

Throughout the past decade plus, the UHSFAA has funded technology upgrades including computers, classroom A/V upgrades and document cameras. We have sponsored bus tours of UHS students visiting in-state universities, purchased classroom books and other supplies, provided professional development opportunities, awarded college scholarships, and this year helped to sponsor the all-important Mock Elections. When various UHS clubs needed funding for equipment, travel expenses for students who didn't have the means for an out-of-town competition or even matching t-shirts for a competition they qualified for, the UHSFAA was there for them.

None of this is possible without your incredible support. We are grateful for every gift given, be it \$5 or \$5,000. Each time you contribute to the UHSFAA Campaign for Excellence, it is a recognition of how UHS has personally impacted you, your family and our community. You can feel confident that your gift will impact current and future students of UHS.

I hope that you find the information in this report useful as you decide whether to include University High School in your philanthropic giving plans for 2024. If you have any questions left unanswered, have suggestions for the UHSFAA or are interested in joining the board (you need not be located in Tucson), please feel free to reach out at any time at [president@uhsfaa.org](mailto:president@uhsfaa.org).

With Gratitude,



Chris Baker '89  
President, UHSFAA



Classroom grants are available to any UHS faculty member with the intent of bettering the classroom experience of UHS students as a whole. We encourage faculty to think big (and small) to find ways the UHSFAA can impact the learning experience for students.

The following pages are a selection of classroom grants awarded this year:

## Co-sponsoring the UHS Mock Elections



**From UHS AP Government teacher, Jacob Ollanik:**

*The UHSFAA grant this past year was a huge success. Our students were able to use the given gift cards to purchase supplies and materials for their "propaganda" in an open and transparent way. With this grant, and without the equity issue of having to grovel for cash from classmates, our parties were able to make some outstanding decorations, backdrops, and posters.*





## Learning Materials for the Spanish Class



**From UHS Spanish Teacher, Alaniz Valenzuela:**

*This past year, I was honored to receive a grant from the University High School Foundation and Alumni Association, allowing me to purchase an incredible collection of books for my in-class library. These books have been specially written for learners of the Spanish language, ensuring that students not only enjoy the stories but also develop their language skills as they read and make connections. Our daily reading sessions, where students engage with these books for 7 to 10 minutes at the beginning of class or whenever they finish their work early, have been transformative. The response from students has been overwhelmingly positive.*

*Many shared that reading these books helped solidify the grammar concepts we were working on in class, and it allowed them to experience success and fun in Spanish every day. Having a variety of engaging titles tailored to student interests has had a significant impact on their learning experience. This grant has not only enriched the learning environment for my past and current students but will continue to benefit many future generations as these books remain a part of our classroom library.*



## Classroom Set of TI 30x IIs Calculators



### From UHS Math Teacher, Rogelio Lara:

*I received the class set of calculators originally requested by my colleague, Michelle Reed. These are used daily in class, and 140 students each year benefit from this purchase, as many students do not have the means to purchase their own a personal calculator. In College Algebra, the students use the calculators for in-class activities and assignments. In addition, they sometimes check the calculators out to use them in other classes such as Physics, Chemistry, and Economics and have also used them for the PSAT exam.*

*The calculators have been an invaluable resource for UHS students and have enhanced students' learning!*



## (4) Singer 4432 Heavy Duty Sewing Machines



### **From UHS Engineering/MakerSpace Teacher, Mike Schmidt**

*On behalf of all of the students that utilize the T8 Makerspace at UHS, I'd like to acknowledge the generosity of those who give to the UHASFAA and that allowed us to increase the number of available sewing machines. For the first two and a half years of our program, we only had enough machines to have students double up while completing the sewing unit. Now with a 1:1 ratio, the MakerSpace students are able to use their extra time on the machines to produce more complex and a larger quantity of sewing projects. Thanks to the additional machines, hundreds of students per year will be able to reap the rewards of your generosity.*



## Support for a UHS Student Retention Program

From MTSS Facilitator, Kirsten Pelot

*MTSS supports all students, but especially when students find themselves derailed by academic, behavioral or attendance issues. Each student's needs are different, of course, but generally speaking, I like to say that MTSS helps to bridge the gap and navigate how to redirect around the hurdle or speedbump that is impeding student progress and success. Part of that may be taking the time to work on organizational skills or implement strategies to modify habits that do not serve the student's goals. We also work on goal setting in order to help students clarify their choices and how to manage their own expectations and how they choose to spend their time.*

*In addition, MTSS relies on the idea of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) wherein we reinforce the positive behaviors, choices and progress of students in the classroom, on campus and in our community. Teachers are given cards to recognize students for the UHS values we hope to reinforce and build upon. At that point, students bring that card to MTSS and exchange it for a reward - snacks or various UHS themed items.*

The grant from the UHSFAA has allowed the MTSS program to increase the quantity and quality of the incentives provided to students.



Additional grant were provided for:

- **Annual two-day trip for college bound (primarily first gen) students to visit the University of Arizona, ASU, & NAU**
  - Allowing students to learn about their respective honors colleges, admissions and financial aid. This grant was used to support students on their endeavor to explore and learn about opportunities at the instate universities.
- **Three-dimensional molecular designing kits,**
  - 3D molecular designs to study and understand the medical biotechnology process, CRISPR. The name of the kit is "Making The Cut With CRISPR-Cas9©". The CRISPR technology is used for gene editing. Specifically, CRISPR is commonly used in the present time to fix a defective gene in microbes, plants, and animals. Fixing the gene by CRISPR can cure many genetic illness and conditions.
- **High capacity/high fidelity HDMI cable**
  - Used to connect screens in the Environmental Sciences class to enhance classroom learning.
- **New books for the RUHS library**





UHSFAA seeks to support UHS students, particularly those who are first generation college bound and who are focused on building opportunities for themselves. Microgrants are awarded to students in need of anything that furthers their educational development. Grants of up to \$500 per student per year are available and can be given for many different kinds of needs: classroom needs including costs associated with internet access, textbooks or personal academic supplies, summer programs, professional education and internship needs, such as travel and public transportation costs, lunch costs, supplies or clothing needs, immunizations, and more.

This year, microgrants were provided to UHS students for the following:

- **Fees to pay for a marching band trip (3 students)**
- **Fees to pay for Colorguard participation**
- **Calculator**
- **Enrollment deposit for college**
- **Home internet connection**
- **Airfare to attend National Science Olympiad**
- **Pre-college program tuition for overseas college**



This 4-year college scholarship is awarded annually to one UHS student applicant who best exemplifies the criteria set out by founder and former Principal Dr. Henry J. Pilote, Jr. and his wife, Angelina E. Pilote.

The objective of the Dr. Henry J. Pilote, Jr. and Angelina E. Pilote Scholarship is to recognize all-around excellence and achievement by high school graduates. The character and integrity of the student are among the most important criteria sought after by the Pilote Scholarship. The student should be a “doer” known for honesty, leadership and the ability to take responsibility for his/her actions.

For school year 2024-25, the scholarship provides a one-time payment of **\$10,000**.

## **Recipients**

<b>2014</b>	<b>Natalie Scibilia</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Ryan Yee</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Cole Hoffer</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>Amanda Wong</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Sophia Lewandrowski</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>Kayla Bowen</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>Reia Li</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Benjamin Steller</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Chloe Pesqueira</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>Malcolm Barrios</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>Lena Nguyen</b>

*As a first-generation college student, I have faced several daunting challenges throughout high school, one of them being the cost of attending college and more specifically, an out-of-state private institution. Thanks to the generosity of the Pilote Scholarship, my dreams of attending Duke University are more attainable! At Duke, I plan to double major in Economics and Public Policy on the pre-law track. With my current interest in pursuing international business law, my aspirations involve contributing to both the sustainable development of economies and the management of globalized issues like equity and equality. Again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for supporting my journey into post-secondary education. As a native Tucsonan, I never thought I would be presented with the opportunity to expand the impact I know I can make on other communities outside of Arizona. With this scholarship, I hope to do exactly that—expand my impact on North Carolina and larger East Coast communities by bridging gaps in education, culture, and development.*

**2024 UHS Pilote Scholarship Recipient, Lena Nguyen**

## For Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

### FY24 Operations

FY 24 Fundraising income	\$ 25,877
FY 24 Investment income	\$ 60,561
FY 24 Expenses	\$ 43,517
<b>FY 24 Net income</b>	<b>\$ 42,931</b>

### Fund Balances *as of June 30, 2024*

Operations	\$ 18,920
Designated for Faculty Grants	\$ 15,558
Student Support Fund	\$ 8,279
Capital Fund	\$106,490
Pilote Scholarship Endowment	\$321,599
Carolyn Kemmeries Fund	\$ 19,279
Sandeep Deshmukh Fund	\$ 6,937
Other funds	\$ 6,597

### FY24 Fund Disbursements

Classroom Grants	\$ 5,659
Student Micro Grants	\$ 3,781
Key for College	\$ 4,896
Pilote Scholarship	\$ 10,000
Pass Through Scholarship	\$ 10,000
Principal's Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,200

In 2016, as part of the 40-year anniversary celebration of University High School, the inaugural class of the UHS Hall of Fame was inducted. This inaugural class included many who were instrumental in the creation of the school, originally called Special Projects High School.

2016 UHS Hall of Fame Inductees:

**Reginald Barr**

**C. Diane Bishop**

**Leo Croteau**

**J. Magee (Mac) Evans**

**Aleida Gehrels**

**Sally Higgins**

**Carolyn Kemmeries**

**James Madden**

**Allan Sandum**

**Robert Thomas**

As we look to the future (and UHS's 50-year university celebration in 2026), the Hall of Fame will likely expand and induct a second class of honorees. Please look for future announcements.





As one of the top schools in the nation, University High School offers advanced learning opportunities, including (29) Advanced Placement courses and full honors curriculum for students. UHS also offers a range of electives which span from engineering design to a full fine arts roster, to yoga and AP Art History. With a complete athletics program that spans all through interscholastic seasons, our students have the opportunity to enrich both mind and body alike - and can explore all of their interests in a safe and encouraging learning environment.

**Total Students                      991**

Class of 2025	205
Class of 2026	245
Class of 2027	267
Class of 2028	274

**Administration**

**Principal**

Alberto Ranjel  
(UHS '00)



**Assistant Principal**

Jeanette Apaez-  
Gutierrez



**Assistant Principal**

Jason Miller



**Department Heads**

<b>English</b>	David Sudak
<b>Mathematics</b>	Leiba Schuneman (UHS '96/UHS Parent)
<b>Science</b>	Elyse Wexler (UHS Parent)
<b>Social Studies</b>	Megan Cassidy
<b>World Languages</b>	Austin Morris
<b>Fine Arts/Electives</b>	Mike Schmidt



UHS students continued to achieve in and out of the classroom. The following are their individual and group recognitions:

## **Vex Robotics**

Earned the Think Award at the State competition. Two teams qualified for the State Championship. One team qualified and participated in the VEX World Competition in Dallas.

## **Future Business Leaders of America**

Competed in the National Conference.

## **Science Olympiad**

Regional champions. State Champions. Participated in Nationals.

## **Math Club**

State Champion 9th Grader, State Champion 10th Grader, 2nd place Overall Winner, 3rd Place Team Award.

## **Mock Trial**

Darren Chen earned the All-State Award. Aidan Goldberg earned the Justice Ryan Award of Special Merit. The team secured 2nd place at Regionals and 4th place in the State Championship.

## **SARSEF**

6 first place projects, 5 second place projects, 7 third place projects. 2 qualifiers to ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair)

## **Athletics**

2 students have committed to being student athletes at college next year.  
Nina Perkins - Tennis - Grinnell College  
Kaci Kelaher -Swim - Northern Arizona University

## **Fine Arts**

Seal from the State of Arizona on their diploma for demonstrating high levels of proficiency and completing a capstone project in their artistic discipline. UHS had 36 students earn this seal.

Arizona Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma for having achieved proficiency in both English and at least one additional language as demonstrated through examination. UHS had 60 students earn this seal.



## Scholars

### Advanced Placement

**AP scholars** – (56) students received a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

**AP Scholars with Honors** – (25) students received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams.

**AP Scholars with Distinction** – (93) students received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams.

### College Board National Recognition Programs

(39) students were recognized by The College Board's National Recognition Program, honoring students from underrepresented groups who have excelled on their PSAT and AP exams, and in the classroom. These awards often lead to significant scholarships opportunities and the title of National African American, Hispanic, and/or Indigenous Scholar.

### National Merit Scholars

(18) Students were semifinalists in the National Merit Scholars Program, which identifies students scoring above a set percentile on their PSAT. Students meeting the requirement compete for a National Merit Scholarship and be named a National Merit Scholar.

### Flinn Scholarship

(2) UHS students, out of the 20 awarded, received the prestigious Flinn Scholarship. Since 1986, the Flinn Foundation has supported Arizona's most promising young adults through the Flinn Scholarship. To date, there are more than 670 Flinn Scholars - extraordinary people drawn from throughout Arizona and representing virtually every field of interest.

### Questbridge Scholars

(3) UHS students were Questbridge finalists. These are exceptional individuals who have achieved academic excellence and overcome obstacles. Questbridge Scholars come from all over the United States and represent a variety of racial, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. Over 70% of scholars are among the first generation of their family to attend college. These students go on to pursue careers in many different fields and distinguish themselves through leadership, a positive outlook, and passion for giving back to others



# UHS - CLASS OF 2024



Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We wish you much success as you continue on at:

Arizona State Univ.  
American Acad. of Dramatic Arts  
Bates Coll.  
Baylor Univ.  
Boise State Univ.  
Boston Univ.  
Bucknell Univ.  
Cal Poly - SLO  
Carleton Coll.  
Case Western Reserve Univ.  
Chapman Univ.  
Colby Coll.  
Colgate Univ.  
Colorado Coll.  
Colorado Mesa Univ.  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State Univ.  
Columbia Univ.  
Dartmouth Coll.  
Duke Univ.  
Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.  
Emerson Coll.  
Emmanuel Univ.  
Emory & Henry Coll.  
Florida Inst. of Tech.  
Fordham Univ.  
Furman Univ.  
George Washington Univ.  
Grand Canyon Univ.  
Grinnell Coll.  
Haverford Coll.  
Howard Univ.  
Ithaca Coll.  
Johns Hopkins Univ.  
Juniata Coll.  
Kings Coll. London  
Lafayette Coll.  
Lawrence Univ.  
Lewis & Clark Coll.  
Loyola Univ. Chicago  
Macalester Coll.  
Manhattan Coll.  
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.  
Maryland Inst. Coll. of Art  
Michigan Tech. Univ.  
Michigan State Univ.  
Moore Coll. of Art & Design

New Mexico State Univ.  
New York Univ.  
North Carolina State Univ.  
Northern Arizona Univ.  
Northern Michigan Univ.  
Oberlin Coll.  
Occidental Coll.  
Oregon State Univ.  
Pace Univ.  
Pacific Northwest Coll. of Art  
Pennsylvania State Univ.  
Pepperdine Univ.  
Pima Community Coll.  
Pomona Coll.  
Portland State Univ.  
Princeton Univ.  
Purdue Univ.  
Reed Coll.  
Rice Univ.  
Ringling Coll. of Art & Design  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Rochester Inst. of Tech.  
Rockhurst Univ.  
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech.  
Rutgers Univ.  
Saint Louis Univ.  
San Diego State Univ.  
Sarah Lawrence Coll.  
Savannah Coll. of Art & Design  
School of the Art Inst. of Chicago  
School of Visual Arts NY  
Seattle Univ.  
Seton Hall Univ.  
Stevens Inst. of Tech.  
St. John's Coll.  
Stony Brook Univ.  
Thomas More Univ.  
Trinity Coll.  
Trinity Coll. Dublin  
Tufts Univ.  
Tulane Univ.  
Union Coll.  
USMA (West Point)  
Univ. of Advancing Tech.  
Univ. of Arizona  
UC - Davis  
UC - Irvine

UC - Los Angeles  
UC - Merced  
UC - San Diego  
UC - Santa Barbara  
UC - Santa Cruz  
Univ. of Colorado  
Univ. of Delaware  
Univ. of Denver  
Univ. of Illinois  
Univ. of Maine  
Univ. of Maryland  
Univ. of Massachusetts  
UMass - Boston  
Univ. of Michigan  
Univ. of Montana  
Univ. of Nebraska - Omaha  
Univ. of New Mexico  
Univ. of North Carolina  
UNC - Charlotte  
Univ. of Oregon  
Univ. of Pennsylvania  
Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Univ. of Portland  
Univ. of Rochester  
Univ. of San Diego  
Univ. of San Francisco  
Univ. of Southern Cal.  
Univ. of Utah  
Univ. of Vermont  
Univ. of Victoria  
Univ. of Virginia  
Univ. of Washington  
Univ. of Wisconsin  
Univ. of Wyoming  
Utah State Univ.  
Utah Valley Univ.  
Vanderbilt Univ.  
Vassar Coll.  
Virginia Tech  
Wake Forest Univ.  
Washington State Univ.  
Washington Univ. (St. Louis)  
Western Washington Univ.  
Whitman Coll.  
Wichita State Univ.  
Willamette Univ.



# UHSFAA - THANK YOU



We greatly appreciated the alumni, parents and friends of University High School who have contributed to the UHSFAA in FY23 and 24 – allowing us the opportunity to make an impact on the current and future students of UHS and to engage with our alumni.

Danah Abarr  
Barbara Algire  
Jennifer Angel  
LaDonna Aronoff  
Chris Baker  
Gita Bal-Pitura  
Frank Bangs Jr.  
Alejandro Barraza Valdez  
Brad Bavaro  
Jay Bergesen  
Kunjan Bhatt  
Gilda Boroumand  
Chung Bui  
Scott Calvert  
Jonathan Campbell  
Ellie Carmody  
Molly Carmody  
Katherine Cecala  
Agnish Chakravarti  
Arjun Chakravati  
Brian Cohen  
Duke Corley  
Erin Craine  
Andrea Crane  
Lawrence Cronin  
Terri Delaune  
Sachith Dunatunga  
Alex and Mary Dunkel  
Dolores Duran-Cerda  
Art Duval  
Joyce Elsner  
Jennifer Espino  
Uri Fleming  
Anita Fortman  
Isaac Franco  
Emanuel Furst  
Tia Geurts  
Abbe Goncharsky  
Darin Guthrie  
Amy Hartmann-Gordon  
Naureen Hassan  
Rebecca Herndon  
David Herring  
John Hillman  
Cole Hoffer  
Gretchen Hull

Courtney Humphrey  
Andrew Hutchings  
Emily Isaac  
Kristine Isaac  
Ruth Isaac  
Tom Jan  
Vera Jones  
Timur Kalimov  
Alice M Kemmeries Trust  
Peggy Kern  
Judi Kessler  
Nancy Lee Kinerk  
Michael Klein  
Wyatt Korff  
Anita Koshy  
Sharon Landeen  
Helaine Levy  
Shira and Dr. Chang Liu  
Meredith Livewell  
Laura Mac Ban  
Alan Mackey  
Laura Magnus  
Patty Manciet  
Lisa Mandel  
David Manners-Weber  
Rosanna Mattes  
Mary Belle McCorkle  
Kristyn McLeod  
Sidney N Mendelsohn Jr. Trust  
Mo Merheb  
Marcus Montano  
Sallie Muse  
Catherine Nichols  
Nozomi Nishimura  
LaMont Noble  
Jack Nolan  
Natalie Orbach-Mandel  
Kim Owens  
Angie Padgitt  
Erica Pan  
Lyn Papanikolas  
Lauren Peate  
Lucinda Peralta  
Michael Peyron  
Dana Pitt

Richard Popeski  
Melissa Portell  
Richard Ressman  
John Rhodes  
Elaine Rice  
Lori Riegel  
Edward Rodriguez  
Samuel Rodriguez  
Dee Ann Sakrison  
Glenn Schatz  
Mike Schmidt  
Andrew Schorr  
Michael Schultz  
Leiba Schuneman  
Dev Sethi  
Pranshu Sharma  
David Shein  
Marina Smith  
Nicholas Spark  
Mark Stegeman  
Cathy Strittmatter  
Kate Taylor  
Daniel Tellez  
Jennifer Thall  
Diane Thomson  
Larry Thomson  
Wendy Tien  
Peter Trinh  
Carol Van Buren  
Eric Van Buren  
Doraliz Vega  
Stephen Voids  
Volmer Family  
Travis Warner  
Julia Waterfall-Kanter  
Terri Watters  
Ryan Wicks  
Colleen Wilcox  
Helen Wilcox  
Kyle Wilkinson  
Nancy & Ron Yaeli  
Ross Zimmerman  
Gloria Zlaket  
Kurt Zobenica  
Jennifer Zoucha

# UHSFAA 2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**FOUNDATION &  
ALUMNI ASSN.**

**UHSFAA**

PO Box 12548

Tucson, AZ 85711

[info@uhsfaa.org](mailto:info@uhsfaa.org)