Uni's annual Gala was dedicated this year to honoring Uni alum and Nobel Laureate Philip Anderson, along with outstanding alumni who were awarded the science prize named in his honor.

Anderson appeared via video at the April event, and he recognized 30 years of outstanding science students who won the award named in his honor. Uni chemistry teacher Dave Bergandine helped coordinate the return of so many of our outstanding alumni.

Anderson grew up in Urbana and graduated from Uni High in 1940 and was awarded the 1977 Nobel Prize in Physics for his investigations into the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems, which allowed for the development of electronic switching and memory devices in computers.

The gala is held annually to recognize those who contribute to Uni's continued success, and this year focused on Uni's Innovations in Learning campaign. The Innovations in Learning project is renovating and building spaces at Uni that will promote investigation, creativity, interaction and exchange using existing, new and emerging technologies. These spaces promote active learning and pedagogical exploration, which are cornerstones of a Uni education.