



UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL  
2022-23  
**SCHOOL AWARDS**

# **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

## **The Rosemary Laughlin Awards**

*The Rosemary Laughlin Awards in Creative Writing, named for the beloved longtime Uni English teacher Rosemary Laughlin are given annually to recognize outstanding creative writing at Uni. All submissions to our literary magazine, Unique, are considered for the award. A cash prize accompanies first and second place.*

### POETRY

- Nathaniel Wiesbrook wins Honorable Mention: “Morning Frost”
- Robert Gao wins Second Place for his poem: “Riverwater”
- Nathaniel Wiesbrook wins First Place for his poem: “The Storm”

### PROSE

- Ellix Simons wins Honorable Mention for their story; “Sentence from r/ZachSmith”
- Callie Standerfer wins Second Place for her story: “Unhaunted”
- Theodore Kemna wins First Place for his story: “‘Bear Any Burden’ Not ‘Burden Any Bear’”

## **The Chang/Kolodziej Writing Competition**

### NONFICTION

- Winner, Robert Gao , “Growing Pains”
- Runner Up, Stepheny Ek, “The Origins of K-Beauty in Modern Korea”
- Honorable Mention, Ana Olson, “The Lady’s Thumb: Eternal Beauty and Community in the Natural World”

### FICTION

- Winner, Robert Gao, “Paleontology”

## **AI Ethics Project**

The AI Ethics Project recognizes Uni High Sophomores who delivered exemplary presentations on the topic of AI and cybersecurity ethics during the Fall semester. Presentations focused on ethical concerns around topics related to online identity, privacy, and safety, with an emphasis on their often-overlooked effects on children and young adults. Winners receive a gift certificate for \$75, \$50, and \$25 for the first, second, and third best presentations respectively.

- First Place: Robert Gao for his presentation on deep fakes
- Second place: Tristen Ting for his presentation on open AI
- Third place: Sarisa Chapsilp for her presentation on AI algorithms and attention spans

# **FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

## **Christopher Bannister Memorial Award**

*This award is given in memory of the late Christopher F. Bannister, a member of the Uni High Class of 1955. He was a master harpsichord builder who believed that Uni High was a unique and ideal place in which to grow and stretch one’s mind in many directions while still allowing one to specialize in particular interests. According to Mr. Bannister, “There’s something ‘immediate’ about our society—learning the discipline of almost anything has fallen out favor. But be it in music or photography or anything else, subtlety and appreciation only come from self-discipline and study. And it’s very rewarding if you make that effort.”*

- Benjamin Chang

## **FAA Small Works Show**

- Marlow Tracy – Judges’ Choice
- Evie Parker - Honorable Mention

## **Scholastic Art Awards**

- Marco Lu – 2 Gold Key Awards, 1 Silver Key
- Guang Tian Chen – 2 Gold Keys, 4 Silver Keys, 3 Honorable Mentions
- Yan Liu - 1 Silver Key
- Hannah Song – 1 Gold Key

## **Eric Show**

- Marlow Tracy – Honorable Mention

## **Illinois Music Education Association All-State Musicians**

- Benjamin Chang
- Yelim Kim
- Maggie Li
- Lukas Perdekamp

- Grace To
- Dan Yang
- Firmiana Wang

## MATH DEPARTMENT

The math department is proud of all the students who participated in the ICTM (Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics), American Mathematics Competitions, MathCounts, Purple Comet, and Math League Competitions. In addition, we commend the students who participated in a math research program with the Illinois Geometry Lab in June 2022, funded from the Frankel gift to Uni High.

**ICTM.** Both regional and state contests were hosted in-person. As 1<sup>st</sup> place overall regional winners, we qualified for the State Finals with a full team. **Regional ICTM awards.** 1<sup>st</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> for each team event and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each individual event.

Individual Competitions	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Sriharish Kannan	Jonathan Chen and Jaewoo Park (tie)	Grace To	Shreyas Singh
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Renee Wang	No award due to tie	Bruce Tang and Maya Viswanathan (tie)	Navid Tajkhorshid
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Kaylee Zheng	Jonathan Ouyang	No award due to tie	Zainab Memon

**Regional ICTM Teams** were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> in each event

Event	Team Members
Freshman/Sophomore 2-person	Jaewoo Park and Bruce Tang
Junior/Senior 2-person	Grace To and Jeana To
Oral Competition	Navid Tajkhorshid and Maya Viswanathan
Algebra I	Mahdi Dastgheib, Sandaru Devmal, Sriharish Kannan, Renee Wang, Leo Yan, Kaylee Zheng
Geometry	Jonathan Chen, Robert Gao, Felix Lee, Jonathan Ouyang, Jaewoo Park, Joseph Torrellas
Algebra II	Guang Tian Chen, Savindi Devmal, Daniel Hong, Bruce Tang, Grace To, Maya Viswanathan
Precalculus	James Lippert, Zainab Memon, Dmitry Sakhartov, Shreyas Singh, Navid Tajkhorshid, Jeana To
Freshman/Sophomore 8-person	Alina Bijoy, Sandaru Devmal, Robert Gao, Sriharish Kannan, Bruce Tang, Renee Wang, Leo Yan, Kaylee Zheng
Junior/Senior 8-person	Savindi Devmal, James Lippert, Zainab Memon, Dmitry Sakhartov, Navid Tajkhorshid, Grace To, Jeana To, Maya Viswanathan
Calculator	Guang Tian Chen, Jonathan Chen, Savindi Devmal, Zainab Memon, Jonathan Ouyang

**State ICTM awards.** 5th overall in 3AA competition.

Event	Place	Members
Algebra I Individual	9 <sup>th</sup>	Renee Wang
Algebra I Team	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mahdi Dastgheib, Sandaru Devmal, Sriharish Kannan, Renee Wang, Leo Yan, Kaylee Zheng
Geometry Individual	1 <sup>st</sup>	Jaewoo Park
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Chen
Geometry Team	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jonathan Chen, Jaewoo Park, Alina Bijoy, Robert Gao, Felix Lee, Joseph Torrellas
Algebra II Individual	9 <sup>th</sup>	Maya Viswanathan
Algebra II Team	7 <sup>th</sup>	Guang Tian Chen, Daniel Hong, Kruthi Ramanath, Grace To, Maya Viswanathan
Precalculus Individual	6 <sup>th</sup>	Navid Tajkhorshid
Oral Team	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Navid Tajkhorshid and Maya Viswanathan
Junior/Senior 8 Person Team	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mikayla Blanke, Guang Tian Chen, Robert Gao, Felix Lee, Zainab Memon, Navid Tajkhorshid, Grace To, Maya Viswanathan
Freshman/Sophomore 2 Person Team	5 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Hong and Jaewoo Park
Junior/Senior 2 Person Team	8 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Chen and Grace To
Overall	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mikayla Blanke, Alina Bijoy, Guang Tian Chen, Jonathan Chen, Mahdi Dastgheib, Sandaru Devmal, Robert Gao, Daniel Hong, Sriharish Kannan, Felix Lee, Zainab Memon, Jaewoo Park, Kruthi Ramanath, Navid Tajkhorshid, Grace To, Joseph Torrellas, Maya Viswanathan, Renee Wang, Leo Yan, Kaylee Zheng

**American Mathematics Competitions.** 54 students participated in **AMC 10 or AMC 12**, the first levels of the competitions. Based off AMC 10 or 12 scores, students qualified for the **American Invitational Math Exam (AIME):** Anuprova Bhowmik, Jonathan Chen, Robert Gao, Sara Guo, Sriharish Kannan, Jonathan Ouyang, Jaewoo Park, Shreyas Singh, Navid Tajkhorshid, Bruce Tang, Grace To, Maya Viswanathan.

Based on combined AMC 10 or AMC 12 and AIME scores, Jaewoo Park qualified for the **USA Junior Math Olympiad**, where he earned an Honorable Mention, and Shreyas Singh qualified for the **USA Math Olympiad**, where he earned Bronze.

Sarah Guo is also a certificate recipient of the MAA AMC program's **Young Women in Mathematics Award**.

**Purple Comet Math Meet.** 30 students participated in this team competition.

**High School:**

Place	Team Name	Members
1 <sup>st</sup> in Illinois and top 4% internationally	Bowser	Guang Tian Chen, Jonathan Chen, Jaewoo Park, Navid Tajkhorshid, Maya Viswanathan, Renee Wang
2 <sup>nd</sup> in Illinois	Green	Marina Bowers-Wong, Sriharish Kannan, Ana Olson, Bonnie Weaver, Michael Wu
3 <sup>rd</sup> in Illinois	Pi	Mahdi Dastgheib, Sophia Deltas, Rico Duursma, Aleksandara Goncalo, Kaylee Zheng

**Middle School:**

Place	Team Name	Members
2 <sup>nd</sup> in Illinois	Red	Shlok Choudhary, Irene Kim, Ruijing Tang, Emma Tong, Max Wang, Anthony Yang,
4 <sup>th</sup> in Illinois	Blue	Jemina Feng, Junyuan Guan, Daniel Lee

**2022-2023 Math League High School Contest** was managed by Uni's Math Department, with the enthusiastic help of Mrs. Noh, a Uni parent who initiated Uni's Math League participation. More than 35 students have participated in at least one of the 6 monthly rounds, with about 30 participants per round. Based on the combined scores on the 6 rounds, Uni High earned 1<sup>st</sup> in the state.

**Students earning distinctions based on high cumulative scores:** Navid Tajkhorshid, Jaewoo Park, Bruce Tang, Anthony Yang, Jonathan Chen, Robert Gao, Renee Wang, Jonathan Ouyang, Grace To, Jeana To, and Sarah Guo.

**Cumulative perfect scores with 1<sup>st</sup> in the state distinctions:** Shreyas Singh and Maya Viswanathan

**Middle School Math Contests**

**AMC 8.** All subbies competed in the exam. Max Wang and Anthony Yang had highest scores and placed in the **top 5% nationally**.

**MathCounts.** The Uni High team had the maximum number of 12 subbie students compete in the **Chapter contest:** Max Wang, Daniel Lee, Anthony Yang, Yuto Inoue, Shlok Choudhary, James Yan, DJ Wang, Linden Peters, Krish Sundareswar, Emma Tong, Ruijing Tang, and Sophia Chen. Four subbies qualified for the **State contest:** Daniel Lee, Shlok Choudhary, Max Wang, and Anthony Yang.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Senior Athlete of the Year**

- Male Athlete of the Year – Teo Chemla
- Female Athlete of the Year – Kate Ahmari

**Tom Jolly “Spirit of Uni” Award**

*Tom Jolly was a local hospital chaplain who was very active in community fine arts and athletic programs. He was the father of Uni alums Michelle Jolly, Class of 1984, and Doug Jolly, Class of 1990. This award should be given to a graduating senior who, during his/her tenure at Uni, has exhibited outstanding moral, ethical, and spiritual qualities. The student should also have worked to strengthen the Uni community by bringing various groups, clubs, or populations together in order to improve the community and understanding among the various elements of the Uni community and/or with groups outside of Uni. The recipient's activities should have been as broad as possible during his/her time at Uni in order to reflect the full scope of the “Uni experience.”*

- Wes Lu

**Athletic Director’s Award**

*The Athletic Director’s Award is awarded to the Uni High senior who, in the opinion of the Athletic Director, has made a spirited contribution to the Uni High Athletic Department as a model community member and participant.*

- Mikayla Blanke

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**Toshiba National Science Teachers Association ExploraVision Competition**

*This is the 25th year that Uni High has participated in the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition, a North American technology competition that attracts up to 20,000 students per year. Honorable Mention status is bestowed to teams whose projects are judged to be in the top 10% of projects submitted in the international competition. The following projects were awarded honorable mention.*

- *Making Acrylic to Hydrogel (MATH) by Priya Haran, Eleanor Kraatz, Maggie Li and Heidi Wang*
- *Allergy X by Deven Galvez, Tim Park and Tessa Waldhoff*
- *Exerphage by Dan Rosu, Swapnil Kumar, David Black and Madeline Kim*

### Science Olympiad Team, 1st in Regional Competition (Varsity and JV), 22nd in State (Varsity)

- Varsity Team: Anuprova Bhowmik, Seyed Dastgheib, Savindi Devmal, Priya Haran, Maddie Kim, Andrew Kim, Andrea Li, James Lippert, Jonathan Ouyang, Shreyas Singh, Zhaoxin Sun, Bruce Tang, Marlow Tracy, Tessa Waldoff, Dan Yang
- JV Team: Miranda Burgos, Sophia Deltas, Sandaru Devmal, Sriharish Kannan, Ryan He, Swapnil Kumar, Taehan Lee, Zainab Memon, Shriya Nagaraj, Tim Park, Harsh Patel, Daniel Song, Hannah Song, Elizabeth Spencer, Joseph Torrellas and Max Wang

### The "F=ma" qualifying exam

- Shreyas Singh scored high enough to earn an invitation to take the USAPhO exam, used to choose members to the United States entry in the International Physics Olympiad

### National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)

- Ryan He earned first place in the Chemistry category at the National JSHS Symposium for his original research entitled *Integrating 3D Printing into Titanium Dioxide Nanotube Fabrication*. As a national winner, Ryan is awarded a \$12,000 academic scholarship. JSHS is a Department of Defense sponsored STEM program that encourages high school students to conduct original research in STEM fields and publicly recognizes student for outstanding achievement.

### STEAM TRAIN Volunteers

- Abdurrahman Alturki, Faisal Alturki, Emily Chen, Emma Donnini, Krishna Jaswal, Nate Jones, Taehan Lee, Aya Surheyao

### Enlist Volunteers

- Abdurrahman Alturki, Faisal Alturki, Emily Chen, Savindi Devmal, Emma Donnini, Emily Duong, Krishna Jaswal, Nate Jones, Taehan Lee, Aya Surheyao

### The Dedicated Science Student Award

*The recipient of this award is a junior or senior selected based on his/her leadership qualities, independence of thought, ability to solve problems, good laboratory and study skills, high scholastic rank and desire for a career in science or a science-related field.*

- Anuprova Bhowmik

### The Rising Science Student Award (The David)

*This award recognizes a junior who demonstrates excellence in all science classes and who has shown exceptional skill in laboratory experimentation, and who possesses the qualities requisite to a future career in sciences. We dub this The David award in honor of David Stone and David Bergandine who were beloved Uni science instructors for over 30 years. One of their goals was to provide Uni students with unique experiences in the sciences that encouraged wonderment and fostered interest in a career in the sciences.*

- Aya Surheyao

### Philip Anderson Award

*Philip Anderson was a member of the University High School Class of 1940. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1977 for "fundamental theoretic investigation of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems." This award is given to a student for exceptional performance through their science career at Uni, outstanding performance academically and participation in science-related extracurricular activities.*

- Navid Tajkhorshid

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### James Tobin Excellence in the Social Sciences Award

*The James Tobin Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences was established in honor of Uni graduate James Tobin, an economist who won the Nobel Prize in 1981. The Tobin Award is given each year to a graduating senior who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the questions and principles of the social sciences.*

- Janaki Kapadia

### WILL Oral History Project Leadership Team

- Aditi Adve, Hozaiifa Bhutta, Shoorsen Gandhi, Edie Hoganson, Safa Sakir, Olive Thompson, Maya Viswanathan

### League of Women Voters of Champaign County Student Ambassadors

- Cate Feinen, Janaki Kapadia, and Safa Shakir

## **WORLD & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**

### Emma Koenker World and Classical Language Award

*Emma Koenker, a member of Uni High Class of 1998, died on August 16, 1995, as the result of a brain tumor. Although her time at Uni was brief, she left an indelible impression on Uni's student body and faculty. The University High School World and Classical Languages*

Department has named an award in her honor. The Emma Koenker Award is presented each year to an outstanding foreign language student who has maintained a consistently high level of academic performance and who has a spirit of adventure and an eagerness to try something new, is enthusiastic about language learning, carries their enthusiasm for language learning beyond the classroom, is caring, thoughtful and supportive of their classmates, demonstrates an appreciation for culture, and has actively participated in extra-curricular activities related to foreign language study. This year, we selected two students from Spanish classes who reflect Emma's love of international culture and her profound respect for the unique qualities of all inhabitants of the global community.

- Shawn Syed and Andrea Li

### **The National French Contest “Le Grand Concours” 2023 is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF)**

This year, all Uni students currently enrolled in French levels 1 through 4 competed in the Grand Concours, a contest which tests students' knowledge of the French language and Francophone culture. Gold is for students ranked **nationally** in the 95th percentile and above; Silver is for students in the 85th to 94th percentile; Bronze is for students in the 75th to 84th percentile. We would like to congratulate ALL of our students for their efforts on this contest.

#### Level 1

- Gold: Pieter Duursma, James Yan
- Silver: Michael Wu, Safa Shakir, Ruijing Tang, Elliot Essafa
- Bronze: Jimin Kim, Muhammad Iftikhar, Callie Standerfer, Milky Tadesse, Finn Niesen-Davis

#### Level 2

- Gold: Kruthi Ramanath, Ruby Mitchell, Sriharish Kannan, Jonathan Chen, Sophia Deltas
- Silver: Renee Wang, Simrah Khan, Jacquelyn Butts, Jessy Nzinga
- Bronze: Violet Moses, Diza Baryshnikov, Sahnan Haber

#### Level 3

- Gold: Marina Bowers-Wong, Dan Rosu, Joseph Torrellas
- Silver: Aminata Barro
- Bronze: Max Bolton, Blessing Tshimankinda

All the other participants received Certificates of Honor (**11 Honor** - 2 for level 1, 4 for level 3, 5 for level 4) and Certificates of Merit (**14 Merit** - 3 for level 1, 1 for level 2, 5 for level 3, 5 for level 4)

### **National Latin Exam (NLE)**

#### Latin 1

- Gold Summa Cum Laude: Sophia Chen, Emma Tong, Irene Kim, Krishna Jaswal, Daniel Lee, Ian Merrifield
- Silver Maxima Cum Laude: Kabir Thirodira
- Magna Cum Laude: Gail Fields, Lucas Tosi, Jo Bross

#### Latin 2

- Gold Summa Cum Laude: Lana Cooper, Praachi Mudar, Citlali Rundall Madrigal, Rico Duursma, Jay Park, Hector Kircher
- Silver Maxima Cum Laude: Jonah Stamps, Adam Bobat
- Magna Cum Laude: Sandaru Devmal

#### Latin 3

- Gold Summa Cum Laude: Josh Persiani, Ivy Pullen-Heuman, Jade Li, Ben Newman, Stepheny Ek, Ezra Akresh, Lisa Spencer, Nibaw Robertson, Callie Standerfer, Tim Park
- Silver Maxima Cum Laude: Isaak Kumar

#### Latin 4

- Gold Summa Cum Laude: Yelim Kim, Ankita Bhargava
- Magna Cum Laude: Ben DeMarco, Fallon McFarland
- Cum Laude: Chloe Jung

### **2023 National Japanese Exam (NJE) Results --NJE is only available for Levels 1, 2, and 3 students**

#### Level 1

- Silver - Max Wang
- Honorable Mention - Shanna Duay, Charlotte Lin, Ava Roberts

## Level 2

- Bronze- Eve Anderson, Kyle Fan, Helen Fu
- Honorable Mention- Olisameka Allannah, Cali Cooper, Chloe Noronha-Hostler, Chloe Robberts-Mosser, Rishi Sharma, Kaylee Zheng

## Level 3

- Silver - Leyla Cohen, Liu Mengton
- Bronze - Pieter Duursma, Felix Lee, Gabby Mongwa, Collins Rosch, Fabiana Vega-Sanchez
- Honorable mention - Sarisa Chansilp, Ellix Simons, Tristen Ting

### **The Japan Bowl**

*The Illinois Japan Bowl is an academic competition which covers a wide range of topics that tests high school students who are studying the Japanese language across the state of Illinois. The competition tests not only their knowledge of the language and culture, but also their understanding of tradition and modern Japan.*

*This year we had two seniors, Shoorsen Gandhi and Noah La Nave who guided teams with sample questions using Kahoot, videos, encouragement, and lots of treats.*

- Level 2 - Cali Cooper, Helen Fu, Julia Smith
- Level 3- Felix Lee, Gabby Mongwa, Collins Rosch
- Level 4- Maggie Li, Yan Liu, Bridget Lu, Xenia Mongwa, Kathryn Phillips, Jeana To, Evan Wang, Andrew Kim, Elan Pan

Level 3 team won first place in the IL Japan Bowl.

Level 4, Jeana To, Elan Pan and Andrew Kim's team won the championship in IL and then the sponsor, the Japan America Society of Chicago, sent them to compete in the National Japan Bowl in Washington DC. on April 13 and 14, 2023. The team took Ninth Place in the National Japan Bowl.

### **National Spanish Contest Winners (2022-2023)**

*The National Spanish Exam is administered each year in grades 6 through 12 and is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The exam is the largest of its kind in the United States. Compliments to all Uni students that were recognized this year.*

- 20 students earned honors recognition
- 13 students were awarded with bronze medals
- 5 students were awarded with silver medals
- 5 students were awarded with gold medals

#### Spanish 1:

- Gold: Shlok Choudhary and Linden Peters
- Silver: Itza Garcia and Ana Artz
- Bronze: Kade Hill, Junyuan Henry Guan, and Alberto Rojano

#### Spanish 2:

- Gold: Roxxy Robertson
- Silver: Leo Yan
- Bronze: Ella Ylagan, Josie Stierwalt

#### Spanish 3:

- Gold: James Lippert
- Bronze: Zainab Memon, Willie Fowler, Robert Gao, Rishabh Prasanth, Khuyen Nguyen, Larissa Dolcos

#### Spanish 4:

- Gold: Shawn Syed
- Silver: Shreyas Singh, Andrea Li
- Bronze: Nathaniel Wiesbrook, Khadeejah Rasheed

### **AATG 2023 National German Exam Awards**

*The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) administers the yearly The National German Exam to over 20,000 high school students of German. Students who score in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally obtain a Gold medal.*

## Level 1

- Gold: Abdurrahman Alturki, Elda Gonzalez, Miranda Isaacs, Samuel Troconis, Anthony Yang, Sophie La Nave, Yuto Inoue, Leo Rota
- Silver: Harmony Lehman, Lucas Braun, Erik Fahnestock, Cadence Scheunemann
- Bronze: Ellie Rosch, Adrian Schneider

### Level 2

- Gold: Sabrina Lu, Aleksandra Goncalo, Annika Deschler
- Silver: Robert Tu, David Ulozas

### Level 3

- Gold: Bonnie Weaver, Faisal Alturki
- Silver: Bruce Tang, Luke Fahnestock, Yusef Aboukhatwa, Ellen Davila
- Bronze: Heidi Wang

### Level 4

- Gold: Maya Viswanathan
- Silver: Eleanor Kratz, Storm Benjamin, Dmitry Sakhartov , William King
- Bronze: Tessa Waldhoff

### **Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy**

*A public school district or nonpublic school may establish the State Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more other foreign, or world, languages. This recognition must be designated on a student's transcript and high school diploma with a receipt of the State Seal of Biliteracy, provided that all conditions and requirements for the program have been met.*

- Jeana To

## **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

### **Colin Thorn Award**

*The Parent Faculty Organization established this award in honor of Colin Thorn, who served for many years as an unpaid volunteer coach of the Uni High boys' soccer team and is remembered for his outstanding dedication and service to the school.*

- Mary Kate Arend
- Annie McManus

### **Sue Kovacs Award**

*The University Laboratory High School Parent-Faculty Organization has established an award in honor of ex-Assistant principal Sue Kovacs. The award is given annually to a person who embodies the enthusiastic spirit of service which Ms. Kovacs displayed on a daily basis. Many in the Uni community still remember Susan Kovacs with a strong sense of admiration. Sue was respected for her firmness in Uni management and loved for her deep commitment to the school. Sue Kovacs cared about Uni students as much as anyone could. Sue demanded a lot of herself at Uni and she demanded the best of Uni students.*

- Sheree Denham

## **STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE**

### **U.S. Presidential Scholars Competition**

*The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.*

- Emma Donnini and Andrew Kim

### **QuestBridge**

Uni Nominees:

- John Brownridge\*
- Janaki Kapadia
- Kara Mathias\*
- Jeana To\*

*\*Finalist out of 17,900 applicants*

#### QuestBridge College Partner Match:

*Out of 5,613 finalists, 1,755 were recognized as Match Scholarship Recipients. University Laboratory High School had two matches:*

- John Brownridge received a full four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago.
- Jeana To received a full four-year scholarship to Caltech.



### **National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists**

*The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements. In February, some 15,000 Semifinalists are notified by mail at their home addresses that they have advanced to Finalist standing.*

- Aditi Adve
- Kate Ahmari
- Anuprova Bhowmik
- Hozaiifa Bhutta
- Benjamin Chang
- Emily Chen
- Emma Donnini
- Edie Hoganson
- Jack Holder
- Nate Jones
- Janaki Kapadia
- Andrew Kim
- Wesley Lu
- Zev McManus-Mendelowitz
- Zainab Memon
- Daniel Song
- Jeana To
- Marlow Tracy
- Firmiana Wang
- Luke You

### **National Merit Scholarship Program - Scholarship Recipients**

*NMSC notifies over 8,000 Finalists at their home addresses that they have been selected to receive a Merit Scholarship® award. Merit Scholarship awards are of three types: National Merit \$2500 award; Corporate-sponsored; College-sponsored.*

#### National Merit \$2500 Scholarship:

- Hozaiifa Bhutta

### **National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists**

*Less than 1 percent, or about 16,000 out of the 1.5 million juniors across the country who entered the NMSQT program by taking the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) in October of Junior Year earn the semifinalist designation.*

- Aditi Adve
- Kate Ahmari
- Anuprova Bhowmik
- Hozaiifa Bhutta
- Benjamin Chang
- Emily Chen
- Emma Donnini
- Edie Hoganson
- Jack Holder
- Nate Jones
- Janaki Kapadia
- Andrew Kim
- Wesley Lu
- Zev McManus-Mendelowitz
- Zainab Memon
- Daniel Song
- Jeana To
- Marlow Tracy
- Firmiana Wang
- Luke You

### **National Merit Scholarship Program - Commended**

*In late September, more than two-thirds or about 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year and is below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states.*

- Nicohlas Bodony
- Teo Chemla
- Seyed-Ahmad Dastgheib
- Shoorsen Gandhi
- Sarah Guo
- Charlie Hechler

- Arjun Kala
- Noah La Nave
- Tacy Li
- James Lippert
- Elan Pan
- Vraj Patel
- Ethan Roberts
- Navid Tajkhorshid
- Arya Thirodira
- Anya Troyer
- Mariam Vaid
- Ryan Wang
- Dan Yang

#### **DAR/SAR Good Citizen Award**

*Alliance Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and Piankeshaw Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution sponsor the Good Citizens program for high school seniors each fall.*

- Mariam Vaid (DAR)
- Zev McManus-Mendelowitz (SAR)

#### **Kiwanis Vic Shaul Award**

*The Champaign-Urbana Noon Kiwanis Club started a scholarship program in 1989 in honor of one of their club's finest members -- Vic Shaul. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club since 1945 and passed away in 1993. This \$500 scholarship award program recognizes him for his tremendous contributions to our community and its young people.*

- Janaki Kapadia

#### **PEO Star Scholarship**

*PEO is a Philanthropic Education Organization that invests in the education of women. The recipient of this award should exhibit excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success.*

- Marlow Tracy

#### **Illinois State Scholars**

*State scholar designation provides honorary recognition with no monetary award. Approximately the top ten percent of graduates from approved high schools are announced as State Scholars each year.*

- Aditi Adve
- Kate Ahmari
- Miriam Arend
- Auprova Bhowmik
- Hozaifa Bhutta
- Mikayla Blanke
- Nicholas Bodony
- John Brownridge
- Benjamin Chang
- Teo Chemla
- Emily Chen
- Seyed-Ahmad Dastgheib
- Shoorsen Gandhi
- Lukas Grosse Perdekamp
- Sarah Guo
- Charlie Hechler
- Edie Hoganson
- Jack Holder
- Nate Jones
- Arjun Kala
- Janaki Kapadia
- Eli Khuri-Reid
- Andrew Kim
- Noah La Nave
- Ioanna Lee
- Tracy Li
- James Lippert
- Wesley Lu
- Zev McManus-Mendelowitz
- Zainab Memon
- Gus Miller
- Elan Pan
- Vraj Patel

- Ethan Roberts
- Safa Shakir
- Daniel Song
- Navid Tajkhorshid
- Arya Thirodira
- Jeana To
- Marlow Tracy
- Anya Troyer
- Mariam Vaid
- Firmiana Wang
- Ryan Wang
- Dan Yang
- Luke You

## **UNI HIGH AWARDS**

### **Wylde Q Chicken Award**

*The Thespian Society's outreach to the fifth graders was a game-changer. It generated a positive impression of Uni and showed outside the box thinking.*

- Wes Lu and Theodore Kemna

### **The Megan Flynn Award for Critical Thinking and Analytical Insight**

*This award was created in honor and memory of Megan Flynn (Uni class of 1996) following her death in 2021. This award recognizes a senior at Uni High who has exemplified exceptional analytical insight or critical thinking in school or extra-curricular activities, or both.*

- Emma Donnini

### **June Mank Award**

*June Mank was the bookkeeper for University High School from 1972-1988. She served on the Champaign City Council from 1979 until 2001. In her spare time she drove cancerpatients for treatment, meals on wheels, and served on various neighborhood committees, plus church activities. This award is given to a student who most shares June's supportive role in the interest of Uni High. The student may have a long-term commitment to a single project, a short-term commitment to a variety of projects, or is engaged in service to the school without being asked.*

- Anuprova Bhowmik, Hozaiifa Bhutta and Theodore Kemna

### **Matt Wilhelm "Service With A Smile" Award**

*Matt Wilhelm, Class of 1999, was a dedicated member of the Uni student body who was constantly helping others. No matter what he was doing, from serving on Student Council to assisting fellow students with their homework, Matt always contributed with little fanfare and with an unforgettable smile. Each year, the Matt Wilhelm Memorial "Servicewith a Smile" award shall go to the member of the Uni student body who, like Matt, went above and beyond the call of duty to serve the Uni community.*

- James Lippert

### **Director's Award**

*The Director's Award is awarded to that Uni High student who, in the opinion of the Director, has made a spirited contribution to Uni High as a model student and citizen.*

- Aditit Adve and John Brownridge

### **Liu Family Student of the Year**

*The Liu Family Student of the Year Award goes to a student who meets the following criteria: demonstrates respect for the dignity and worth of the individual; is sensitive to the needs of his/her school and community and initiates constructive action without seeking self-glorification; is willing and able to operate as a leader or follower as the situation demands; is not bound by tradition, and has a strong interest in and commitment to their academic program.*

- Wes Lu