

Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert James Fitzgerald

The University High School Alumni Association honors Dr. Robert James Fitzgerald, class of 1992, as the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession, school, and civic service.

Fitzgerald has donated a significant amount of his life to University High School through the roles of student, athlete, teacher, and coach. He will be the first to tell you that he wouldn't be where he's at today if it weren't for U-High.

Fitzgerald graduated from University High School in 1992. He enjoyed success in both academics and athletics at U-High, earning the selection of Honorable Mention All-Corn Belt Conference as a key player on the 1992 Runner-Up IHSA State Basketball Team.

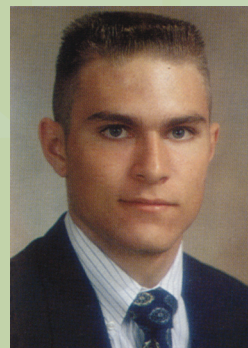
After high school, Fitzgerald initially attended Coe College, where he earned the honor of being selected to the Midwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Basketball Team. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in History Education at Illinois State University in 1997, where he was a Kappa Delta Pi Educational Honor Society Inductee. Fitzgerald also obtained both a Masters of Education in 2004 and a Doctor of Philosophy, Education in 2013 from Illinois State University.

Fitzgerald has enjoyed great success in his career as both a high school educator and coach. He began his teaching at Olympia High School in Stanford IL, where he served as a Social Science Teacher and Basketball Coach from 1997 through 2002. Fitzgerald's alma mater called him home in 2002, where he has held the roles of Social Science Teacher/Department Chair (2002-present), Boys Varsity Basketball Coach (2007-2016), and Assistant Activities Director for Student Life (2012-present). While an educator at U-High, he was named a Fulbright Distinguished Teacher and spent the Spring of 2017 at University College London's Institute of Education. Most recently he was named a 2019 Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction as well as a Barringer Fellow of the Monticello Teacher Institute.

In addition to his career, Fitzgerald has also demonstrated great leadership and service to his community. He continues to work with scholars from University College London's Institute of Education on the Justice to History Program where they focus their attention on making the curriculum more diverse, the purpose of his Fulbright Program. Fitzgerald is also a Muhammad Ali Center Educational Partner and is currently working with the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of Louisville on rewriting their core curriculum. He also periodically teaches classes for secondary level teaching majors in the College of Education as an assistant instructional professor.

Fitzgerald is extremely proud to be a member of the U-High family, and has served his school in so many positive ways over the years.

University High School



1992

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Keita Bates-Diop

The University High School Alumni Association honors Keita Bates-Diop, class of 2014, as a 2019 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession, athletic career, and civic service.

Bates-Diop accomplished success at a very high level in both academics and athletics throughout both his high school and college years.

At U-High, Bates Diop's passion was basketball. He averaged 18.4 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.3 blocks as a junior. He was considered one of the top 5 candidates for Illinois Mr. Basketball by the Chicago Tribune. Bates-Diop was ranked no. 24 nationally in his class by Rivals.com. Due to his hard work, focus, commitment and sacrifices to be a top athlete and student, Keita received over 15 Division I scholarship offers, including Stanford, Northwestern, Michigan and Purdue. Keita left U-High as it's all time leading scorer, with a record setting 1,497 points scored during his high school career.

After high school, Bates-Diop committed to attend The Ohio State University, where he continued his basketball career, under Coach Thad Matta. Bates-Diop came off the bench as a freshman at OSU in the 2014-15 season. As a sophomore, he expanded his role on the team and averaged 11.8 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. But as a junior, he suffered a stress fracture in his left leg, sitting out all but the first nine games. He was granted a medical redshirt and came into his redshirt junior campaign as team Captain and one of the top options for new coach Chris Holtmann.

Bates-Diop earned his first Big Ten player of the week honors on December 11, 2017, after notching a career-high 27 points in a 97-62 win over William & Mary. On January 9, 2018, Bates-Diop was recognized as the Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week by the United States Basketball Writers Association after strong performances against the Iowa Hawkeyes and beating No. 1 ranked Michigan State. Bates-Diop tied a then-career high with 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in a victory against Iowa. Against Michigan State, he scored a career-high 32 points in an 80-64 win. He also received his second Big Ten player of the week recognition. Bates-Diop received his second consecutive player of the week nod on January 15, with a 26-point, eight rebound outing in a 91-69 win over Maryland and 20 points, nine rebounds in a victory versus Rutgers.

Being a true student athlete, Keita graduated from Ohio State University in 3.5 years, in December 2017, earning his BS in Economics. Keita is also a member of the high scorer's club at Ohio State, where he scored 1,272 points in his college career. In addition, he is included among the top free throw percentage shooters in the history of the program, a team scoring leader and a top rebounder, grabbing 296 rebounds in his final season at Ohio State.

On February 26, 2018, Bates-Diop was named the Big Ten Player of the Year. He averaged 19.8 points and 8.7 rebounds per game. Following Ohio State's loss in the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, Bates-Diop announced his intention to forgo his final season of collegiate eligibility and declared for the 2018 NBA Draft.

On June 21, 2018, Bates-Diop was drafted by the Minnesota Timberwolves with the 48th pick in the 2018 NBA draft. On July 7, 2018, Bates-Diop signed with the Timberwolves.

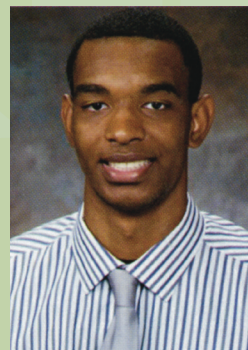
Keita grew up being involved with the community, and that carried on at Ohio State. He traveled to Jamaica in 2015 to represent the basketball program and deliver over three thousand pairs of shoes that were donated to the charity Soles for Souls. He also participated in community service projects related to literacy, provided meals for those in need, raised awareness for the need to know CPR and ensured AED's are available in public spaces. Keita hosted his first basketball camp at U-High in June of 2019, with all proceeds going to his family's foundation to provide AED's to anyone that needs one. Since becoming a member of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Keita has participated in many community service events including literacy programs in Minneapolis schools, helping with baking for a homeless to work program, dedicating new playgrounds, and visiting a Native American community in North Dakota to work with children at an annual camp.

Keita is the brother of 2019 U-High alum, Kai Bates-Diop and the son of Richard and Wilma Bates.

Keita is proud to be a Pioneer and appreciates the experiences U-High offered him academically and athletically.



2014



University High School

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Carrie A. Etter

The University High School Alumni Association honors Carrie A. Etter, class of 1987, as a 2019 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

Etter graduated from University High School in 1987, where she participated in a variety of school activities. She was a member of the Speech and Debate teams, served as editor for the newspaper, and participated in plays. While at U-High, Etter earned the Robert Brome Creative Writing Award.

After graduation, Etter attended UCLA, where she earned a Bachelor of Art's Degree in English, Summa Cum Laude, in 1995. She later went on to earn her Master of Fine Art's Degree in Creative Writing in 1997, her Master of Art's Degree in English in 1998, and her PhD in English in 2003 from the University of California, Irvine. During this time, she earned the following distinctions: Regents Scholar for the BA at UCLA, Creative Writing Fellowship for the MFA at UC Irvine, and Pre-Doctoral Humanities Fellowship for the PhD at UC Irvine.

Etter is currently enjoying a successful career as a Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University in Bath, England. She is also an elected member of the Higher Education Committee on the National Association for Writers in Education (UK).

Along her career path, Etter has earned numerous professional awards and distinctions:

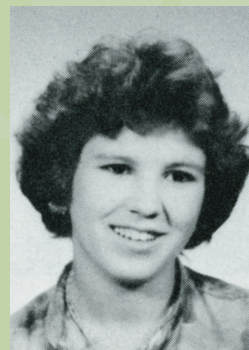
- Teaching Award and Nominations at Bath Spa University
- Shortlist, Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry, Poetry Society (UK) for *Imagined Sons*
- Winner, London New Poetry Award, for *The Tethers*
- Publication of four books of poetry: *The Tethers* (Seren, 2009), *Divining for Starters* (Shearsman, 2011), *Imagined Sons* (Seren, 2014), and *The Weather in Normal* (UK: Seren; US: Station Hill, 2018)
- Times Literary Supplement list of Books of the Year for publication of an anthology of poetry, *Infinite Difference: Other Poetries by UK Women Poets* (Shearsman, 2010)
- Dozens of publications of reviews from 1994-present, including UK national newspapers *The Guardian* and *The Independent*
- Hundreds of publications of individuals poems in the most respected journals, including, *The New Republic*, *The New Statesman*, *TLS*, etc.
- Numerous short story publications, including a chapbook of stories published in 2016

Recipient of awards from Arts Council England and the Society of Authors

In her free time, Etter has also demonstrated great leadership and service in her community by serving as an elected member of the Higher Education Committee for the National Association for Writers in Education, conducting numerous book tours and readings in the UK, Germany, and the Czech Republic, and providing numerous workshops and talks around the UK for various community groups and universities.

Etter's mother, Bernadine Meeker Etter, also graduated from U-High.

University High School



2019

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Adam R. Larson

The University High School Alumni Association honors Adam R. Larson, class of 2008, as a 2019 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession and civic service.

Larson graduated from University High School in 2008, where he was a Valedictorian of his class. He also earned the following distinctions during his academic years and activities: YoungArts Jazz Fellow, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, National Honors Society Member, Four year Choral/Bank member, Four year Jazz Gold member, Selection to Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band of America (2 years), Monterey Jazz Festival Next Generation Jazz Orchestra (2 years), Telluride Jazz All-Stars, Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency Program at the Kennedy Center, Steans Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia, Twin City Honors Band, Rotary Student of the Year, All-State Musician, and Composition/Improvisation Contest Winner – Illinois Music Educators Association (4 years).

After high school, Larson attended the Manhattan School of Music, where he graduated with a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Performance in 2012. He also went on to earn a Masters of Music in Jazz Performance in 2014 at the same school.

Larson prides himself on handwork and dedication and has accomplished a great deal throughout his young career, working primarily as his own boss. After 11 years in NYC, Larson recently relocated to Kansas City, where he is currently on faculty at University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory teaching music business and jazz saxophone. In addition to his teaching at the university, Larson has taught thousands of lessons over the last ten years to students around the globe, via FaceTime, Skype and other online platforms and has served as a teaching artist for the Monterey Jazz Festival, Grammy Foundation, YoungArts, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York Pops and Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance. Larson has also authored three jazz pedagogy books that have been sold in over 50 countries worldwide and created an online masterclass that has also been sold in countries across the globe.

As a bandleader, Adam has released five albums and played for audiences around the world on tours of Africa, India, Taiwan, Germany, Holland, Poland, the United Kingdom and much of the United States.

Throughout his career, Larson has garnered many professional accolades, including:

- Becoming an endorsed Artist for Vandoren Reeds, Mouthpieces and Ligatures, P. Mauriat saxophones and Boston Sax Shop Heritage saxophone necks.
- Masterclass appearances at over 50 colleges/universities, including Yale, The University of North Texas, Temple University, The Manhattan School of Music, and the University of Michigan, to name a few.
- Performances as a sideman or leader at The Village Vanguard, Jazz Standard, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, The Jazz Gallery, Smalls, The Jazz Showcase, Dazzle and several other prestigious venues around the world.
- Critical-acclaim from publications such as The New York Times, Downbeat Magazine, and Jazziz Magazine.
- Commissioned composer for more than thirty schools, for large original large ensemble compositions. Larson was commissioned by the Illinois Music Educators Association to compose the 2020 All-State Jazz composition and will be the guest director of the 2020 Illinois All-State Honors Jazz Band in Peoria, IL.

Larson started a family in 2016 with his beautiful wife Tierney, whom he met while at The Manhattan School of Music. Adam and Tierney have two sons, Jack and Clark and are currently based in Kansas City.

University High School



2008



Alumni Service Award

David Martin

The University High School Alumni Association honors David Martin, class of 1983, as the 2019 Alumni Service Award Recipient for his service and contributions to University High School.

Martin graduated from University High School in 1983. He will be the first to tell you that attending U-High was one of the best decisions he made. He was a loyal District 87 kid and never really had the school on his radar. His aunt was a U-High Home Economics teacher and said to him, "Have you ever considered going to U-High"? Martin was very glad he listened to her! He had a great experience in the band. The fine arts were such a wonderful part of his U-High experience. U-High provided a fantastic well-rounded education for Martin. The access to taking ISU classes was a great benefit.

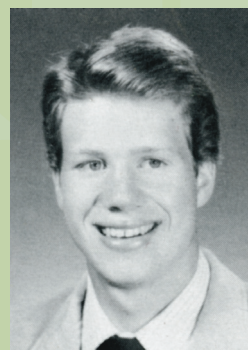
Upon graduation, Martin attended Western Illinois University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1987 and a Master of Business Administration in Finance in 1990. Martin is self-employed in Bloomington. He currently manages a family grain farm and is a Drainage Board Commissioner in Greene County. He owns and operates Martin Digital Display which specializes in billboard advertising and graphic design.

Martin is currently on the U-High Alumni Board, where he has served in the past as President and is the Editor for the Pioneer Alumni Newsletter. "He appreciates hearing the accomplishments and updates at the Board meetings through Mrs. Markert." There is a sense of "U-High Family" at the school. This is probably typical at a small school, but when combined with strong alumni Homecoming programs each year, it rings true. The Alumni Board certainly feels there is much to be proud of at U-High!

Martin also dedicates his time to other community involvement. He is a Board Member for the Bloomington Kiwanis Club and appreciates their commitment to "at-risk youth" in the community. He has also enjoyed coaching Upward youth football and basketball teams through Eastview Christian Church.

David and his wife, Margo have four children. Brad and Brooke are current U-High students; Haley and Parker round out the Martin clan. Their family loves attending Pioneer sports, music and theatre events.

Martin has proudly served U-High as a longtime contributor and volunteer. His hard work and dedication to the laboratory schools are forever appreciated.



University High School

Friends of U-High Award

Lester Hampton

The University High School Alumni Association honors Lester Hampton as the 2019 Friends of U-High Award Recipient for his contributions to University High School.

Lester Hampton has served as a physical education teacher and coach for University High School since 1988. He is starting his 32nd year as a three sport coach at U-High.

Lester was a 1979 graduate of Springfield Lanphier High School and a 1985 graduate of Illinois State University. He successfully ran track both in high school and college. In 1982 Lester was a record holder in the 800 meter run at ISU.

areer, Lester became a student teacher at U-High. Then, he accepted a teaching and coaching position, which became a dream of a lifetime. In 1993, Lester helped to implement the Personal Fitness curriculum at U-High. In the spring semesters of 2010-2011, he taught a track & field class at ISU. Lester was the Chair of the PE Department from 2004-2014. Since 2014, he has been the Co-Chair of the U-High U-Grow Diversity group. Lester has been a member of the Culture Club since 2016. He is also been a member of the Student Assistant Program (SAP) since 2008. Lester was the recipient of the Albert Eckert Teacher Appreciation Award twice in 2014 and 2018.

He coached the freshman and sophomore boys' basketball teams from 1988 until 2017, but is now currently one of the assistant basketball coaches for the boys' varsity team. In 2018, Lester was a part of the varsity team that reached the quarterfinals in Class 3A for the first time in U-High's basketball history.

University High School



2019