

UAHS CLASS of 1962
Tradition In Excellence Fund
Case for Support

HISTORY

As part of our 50th class reunion, the Class of 1962 Reunion Committee asked a group of Classmates to explore ways to honor our class in a significant way. The Legacy Committee was inspired by stories of how our classmates have made a difference through their personal interests, professions, volunteer activities, travels and families. The Legacy Committee realized that we classmates have taken the values nurtured in the UA Schools and community to the many schools and communities where we have lived since high school graduation. We have grown and contributed in ways that reflect the investment in excellence that the community of our youth instilled in us. And fifty years later, we have a chance to pay forward.

TO SUPPORT “REAL WORLD” LEARNING

The Legacy Committee members expressed a strong mutual interest in Service Learning. Service Learning is a program that teaches students to care about their community through a personal connection with the people they help. The Service Learning project can include all children at every grade level, K-12. Service Learning encourages students to use problem solving to help others in both their and other communities. The experiences of the Service Learning project are discussed in class, helping the students to experience real life problems. Working together, the class learns to find possible solutions to the community situation. Students, who experience Service Learning, can improve in the following areas: self-confidence, sense of responsibility, knowledge of their community and standardized test scores.

Given recent budget cuts, and without some financial support, UA teachers will not be able to continue Service Learning beyond the 2012 academic year. The Class of 1962 has a wonderful opportunity to make sure that Service Learning remains a viable program in the UA schools. By supporting an exemplary program that is a national model, we can take this program to any school district in the country to implement. Could we imagine a better legacy for our class?

TO EXPLORE A 50th REUNION CLASS GIFT

The Legacy Committee began when several of our classmates wanted to contribute substantial financial gifts in memory of teachers and to support Special Needs programs. The Legacy Committee learned much from the UA Education Foundation and the UAHS Alumni Association about programs for students of all ages that encouraged relationships and learning beyond the classroom. They realized that programs like Service Learning require sustained support. They learned that our classmates are the first reunion group to discuss such support with the school district. As a result, our Class of 1962 “Traditions in Excellence” Fund has been established in the UA Education Foundation.

The Legacy Committee challenged the Upper Arlington Education Foundation to explore the potential to attract future 50th reunion classes to support students to make a difference in our world. Our class would help develop a template for such giving, involve future reunion classes in the planning, and provide seed money to hire a professional consultant. The Education Foundation accepted. Committee members contributed the seed money, knowing that the class of 1962 has now begun what other classes will help extend into the future! In a short period of time, the UA Class of 1962 has made impressive strides. As of May 15th, 2012, Legacy Committee members have already pledged more than \$40,000 in support of the “Traditions In Excellence” Fund. Two other UA classes have begun to pledge funds and work toward their own 50th Reunion Class gift.

Undesignated gifts to the UA Education Foundation, Class of 1962 will support Service Learning. However, if your passion is in an area other than Service Learning, your gift to the UAHS Class of 1962 “Traditions In Excellence” Fund may be designated to support your choice of any existing fund managed by the UAEF. More information on the funds are available in the UAEF website, www.uaeducationfoundation.com

CONCLUSION

As we classmates come together to celebrate our 50th reunion, we can take measure of the achievements of our classmates as demonstrated by the multitude of talents, awards, contributions and accomplishments. We can connect with vital young people who will remember us fifty years from now. We can be proud of our leadership role in creating a 100-year cascade of influence to benefit our finest product – our children.