

A Focus on Instruction

The primary focus of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project is the use the histories of our students who excelled in their chosen professions to provide a range of instructional experiences to our current and future LAUSD students. Each biography provides an insight into how LAUSD students pursued their passions and interests to achieve remarkable success in a wide range of endeavors. Well-designed educational experiences will bring these lives, histories and achievements into the classroom to inform, inspire and guide.

We should also remember when designing these experiences that the lives of the individuals described in our Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project represent a wide variety of student experiences that mirror those of our students today. They have persevered often under the most difficult of circumstances and times. They each found different paths to success, while often overcoming numerous obstacles. Their histories and potential effect on future generations of LAUSD students cannot be underestimated. What might these educational experiences look like?

Schools can engage their journalism or English classes in having students research and explore these individuals in much greater depth. The biographies in this book are only brief, informational descriptions. Student work could be added to the larger Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project providing a more complete and accurate history.

Students may be assigned to interview many of these individuals as part of a school oral history project. It would be a unique educational experience for current students. It would also be tragic not to be able to speak with and record for history these historic lives in their own words. We have already seen with the passing of many of these Alumni and Hall of Fame Project students that their histories, insights and experiences have been lost to future generations.

The District may develop a speaker's bureau where individuals may be invited to speak to groups of students who share similar passions and interests. The greatest asset of our Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project individuals is their expertise and experience that can help inspire and guide future generations. How many drama and theater classes or dance and music classes could benefit directly from this interaction? How many high school athletes can learn the many challenges that exist in college and professional athletics? There is no question as to the impact these special individuals can have on future generations of LAUSD students.

The District's television station, KLCS, can produce documentaries that address many of the themes we have identified in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. These documentaries can then be used as an instructional tool in classrooms.

Students, as part of history and government classes, could be assigned to study the civic leaders who graduated from LAUSD and went forward to change the landscape of the city, state and nation. It would be powerful for future leaders in our schools today to have the opportunity to sit and exchange ideas with current governmental leaders.

We could invite our scientific and medical communities back into our schools to talk with young men and women aspiring to be future doctors, engineers, physicists, astronomers and researchers.

The potential exists to develop stronger relationships, apprenticeships and career related programs with the recording, television and film industries in Los Angeles. That same potential exists to create new mentor programs utilizing Alumni History and Hall of Fame members. Similar opportunities exist with Los Angeles news and media outlets, the court system, medicine, and business leaders.

The above ideas represent only a few of the opportunities that can translate into meaningful educational experiences for all students. In so many ways, these educational experiences can provide unique opportunities that can change the lives of thousands of students.

**Los Angeles Unified School District
Alumni History and Hall of Fame**

Nomination Form

School administrators and members of the larger school-community who wish to nominate individuals to be a part of the *LAUSD Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project* should complete the following brief form (additional research will be done based on information provided).

Completed forms and/or questions should be emailed to Grant Francis at granttfrancis@gmail.com by May 30, 2016.

Administrator packets include the criteria used in determining Individuals who have been placed in the initial Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. During the Spring and Summer 2016, every effort will be made to continue to identify individuals for the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. The criteria for individual nominees includes:

1. If they had a **significant impact on their local community, the state or nation**. This also includes individuals who broke ethnic, color or gender barriers, or in other ways impacted significantly their career field or history.
2. Students were also included in the *Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project* based on their **achievement in their chosen field**. Being an attorney, judge, actor, collegiate or professional athlete or doctor, while commendable, are included in the LAUSD Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project when they include specific achievements in their chosen career field.

A complete criteria information sheet has been included in the packet.

Nomination Form

Name of School: _____ Principal: _____

Contact Person: _____ Email _____ Telephone: _____

Please consider the following individuals for inclusion in the LAUSD Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project:

Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____ Graduation Date _____

Name while at School: _____ Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Brief Description of Career Field and accomplishments:

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Brief Description of Career Field and accomplishments:			

Please make additional copies of this form as necessary.

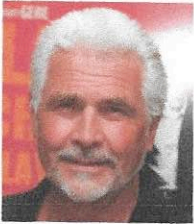
University High School



Jeff Bridges, Actor (12/4/1949) 1967

Jeffrey Leon Bridges was nominated for an Academy Award in *Brave Heart*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*, and *Starman*. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor in the film *Crazy Heart*. He has also made numerous other hit films during his career that has spanned fifty years.

He graduated from University High School in 1967 and began acting on Broadway soon afterwards. He is also a singer, author and amateur photographer. He started the "End Hunger Network" targeting childhood hunger.



James Brolin, Actor (7/18/1940)

Craig Kenneth Bruderlin began his acting career in the early 1960's on a variety of television series including *Bus Stop*, *Margie* and *Love American Style*. He began appearing in films during the 1970's including *Westworld*, *Skyjacked* and *The Amityville Horror*. In 1969, he began his best known role as Dr. Steven Kiley on *Marcus Welby M.D.* which ran for eight seasons. He won an Emmy and two Golden Globe Awards for Best Supporting Actor for that role. In 1983, he starred in the television series *Hotel* which would earn him two Golden Globe nominations for Best Actor. He also won an Emmy and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor in the Prime Time television movie *The Reagans*.



Robert Collins, Educator

Robert Collins graduated University High School and earned his B.A. in political science and teaching credential from UCLA. He received his M.E.D. from Loyola Marymount University. He began his teaching career at Locke High School in 1967. After serving also at Monroe and Fremont High Schools, he became principal at Grant High for ten years from 1983 to 1993. He then served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment as well as being the Chief Labor Negotiator for the LAUSD. He became District C Superintendent in 2000 and then Regional 1 Superintendent. IN 2005 he became LAUSD Chief Instructional Officer. He left the LAUSD in 2007 to become the Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District. He has received numerous City, District, County and State awards including being California State Superintendent of Schools in 1989, Cal State University Educator of the Year in 2002 and Armenian Man of the Year in 2003.

Following his retirement Bob Collins became Chief Academic Officer of two international companies and began his own private consulting company. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University.



Faye Dancer, Baseball (4/24/1925)

Faye Katherine Dancer played professional baseball for the All American Girls Baseball League from 1945 to 1950.

A strong athlete, she broke records in baseball, fast-walking and the obstacle course in high school. She signed to play professional baseball soon after her high school graduation. The movie, *A League of Their Own*, chronicled the history of women's professional baseball. Faye Dancer has been inducted into the Women's Professional Baseball Hall of Fame. Her glove and spikes are on permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.



Sandra Dee 1958, Actress (4/23/42 – 2/20/2005)

Alexandra Zuck – Sandra Dee graduated from University High School in 1958. A year later in 1959, she was *and the Bachelor*, *Gidget*, and a *Summer Place*.



Larry Diamond, Political Sociologist (10/2/1951)

Larry Diamond is a political sociologist at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute. He is also a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies where he serves as the Director of the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law.

Larry Diamond has also served as an advisor to a variety of government agencies and departments both nationally and internationally.

The Doors

John Densmore, Drummer
(12/1/1944) 1963

John Paul Densmore played the drums in the marching band at University High School. He later attended Santa Monica City College and Cal State Northridge. He was a member of the Doors from 1965 until their dissolution in 1973. John Densmore has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Robby Krieger, Guitarist and Songwriter (1/8/1946) 1964

Robert Alan "Robby" Krieger went to Paul Revere Junior High School and attended University High School and then was sent to Menlo Boarding School. He was a guitarist and song writer for The Doors. As a songwriter, he wrote *Light My Fire*, *Love Me Two Times* and *Love Her Madly*.

Rolling Stone Magazine ranks him 91st on the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time. He has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Jane Harman, U.S. Congresswoman (6/28/1945) 1953

Jane Margaret Lakes was a United States Congresswoman from 1993 to 1999 and from 2001 to 2011. She is currently the CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. She graduated from University High School in 1962 and attended Smith College and received her Law Degree from Harvard.

Jan and Dean

William Jan Berry, Vocalist
(4/3/1941 - 3/26/2004) 1958



Dean Torrence, Vocalist
(3/10/1940) 1958

Dean Ormsby Torrence attended Emerson Jr. High where he met William Jan Berry who would become his partner in the iconic vocal group of the 1970's, Jan and Dean. They both attended University High School and played on the football team. They put together their first vocal group, The Barons, at University High School in order to enter a talent contest. They graduated Unihl in the Vagabond Class of 1958.

They hit the charts with number one hits in 1963 with *Surf City*, *The Little Old Lady from Pasadena*, *Drag City* and *Dead Man's Curve* in 1964. In 1964, they hosted the T.A.M.I. Show bringing together a variety of groups in what became the first rock film and video. In 1966, Jan Berry was involved in a serious automobile accident at Sunset Blvd. and Whittier Drive, also known as Dead Man's Curve.



Jack Jones, Vocalist (1/14/1938)

John Allan Jones became popular in the 1960's with songs such as *Wives and Lovers*, *Lollipops and Roses* and *The Impossible Dream*. He won a Grammy for *Wives and Lovers* and another for *Lollipops and Roses*. Jack Jones recorded over fifty albums during his career and still appears in concerts and Las Vegas.



David Lang, Composer (1/8/1957) 1974

David Lang graduated University High School in 1974, attended Stanford University and did his graduate work at the University of Iowa. He won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for his composition, *The Little Match Girl Passion*, based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale *The Little Match Girl*. His first major recognition came in 1981 with the BMI Student Music Awards. He has also composed operas including *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* and *The Carbon Copy Building*.

His work is a combination of genres including minimalism, rock and modernism. He has won an Obie, Musical America's Composer of the Year, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is also the founder of New York's "Bang on a Can," a music collective.



Roddy McDowall, Actor (9/17/1928 – 10/3/1998)

Roderick Andrew Anthony Jude "Roddy" McDowall graduated University High School in 1946, while being in the Fox Studio School for Actors from 1940 to 1946. His most famous child actor roles were *How Green Was My Valley*, *Lassie Come Home* and *My Friend Flicka*. His adult roles included four of the *Planet of the Apes* films.

He won an Emmy in 1961 for NBC's *Sunday Showcase* and a Tony Award for *The Fighting Cock*. He made numerous television appearances throughout his career. During his sixty year career, he made over 150 feature films and appeared in over fifteen Broadway stage productions.



Marilyn Monroe, Actress (6/1/1926 - 8/5/1962)

Norma Jean Mortenson (Baker) is one of the most famous movie stars of all time and an American icon. T.V. Guide named her the number one film sex symbol of all time. The American Film institute named her the number six female actress of all time.

She attended different schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District almost every year, moving from foster home to foster home. She attended two junior high schools, Van Nuys High and then University High School. She left in her junior year at University High to avoid going back to an orphanage.

Her early films in the 1950's included *Asphalt Jungle*, *Niagara*, *Don't Bother to Knock* and *All About Eve*. There were three films, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *the Seven Year Itch*, and *How to Marry a Millionaire* in 1953 that brought her to stardom. She quickly followed these films with a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in *Bus Stop* in 1956 and a Golden Globe Award for her performance in *Some Like It Hot* in 1959. Her last film was the *Misfits* in 1961 with Clark Gable.



Jim Mora, Football (5/24/1935) 1953

James Ernest Mora coached for sixteen years at the collegiate level including Occidental College, Colorado, UCLA, Stanford and the University of Washington. He then coached for twenty-one years in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks, New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts.



Dennis Murphy, Sports Entrepreneur (1927)

Dennis Murphy is a major sports entrepreneur who co-founded the World Hockey Association and the American Basketball Association, the World Team Tennis and Roller Hockey International. He has been inducted into the World Hockey Association Hall of Fame.



Randy Newman, Composer and Songwriter 11/28/1943)

Randall Stuart "Randy" Newman graduated from University High School and then studied music at UCLA. He began his recording career in 1968 with his first albums, *Randy Newman*, *12 Songs* and *Randy Newman Live*. His songs have been covered by some of the biggest recording artists.

He is mainly known for his film scores which have earned him twenty Academy Award nominations and two Oscars for *We Belong Together* from *Toy Story 3* in 2011 and in 2002 *If I Don't Have You* from *Monster Inc.* He has also won six Grammys and two Emmys for his compositions. He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Ryan O'Neal, Actor (4/20/1941)

Charles Patrick Ryan O'Neal attended University and graduated from the American High School in Munich. His first major acting role was on television's *Peyton Place* in 1964. In 1970, he starred in *Love Story* earning him an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Actor catapulting him to stardom. He made numerous hit films throughout the 1970's including *A Bridge Too Far*, and *Oliver's Story*. He won another Golden Globe for Best Actor for *Paper Moon* in 1973.



Warren "Bill" Overpeck, Architect (9/26/1925 – 2/23/2011)

Warren Overpeck attended Emerson Junior High School and graduated from University High School in 1943. He then earned his B.A. at UCLA and then graduated from the University of Southern California, School of Architecture. He is responsible for the design of numerous Southern California landmarks including the Gowland, Kahsee, Sproule, Zukin and Willis residences, the Jonathan Beach Club, the Balboa Bay Club, the Marina City Club in Marina Del Rey, and numerous health care facilities throughout California.



Mel Patton, Olympian (11/16/1924 – 5/19/2014) 1943

Melvin Emery "Mel" Patton won two Gold Medals in the 1948 Olympics in the 200 meters and the 4x100 relay.

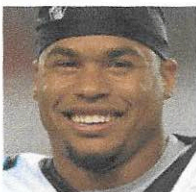
After graduating from University High School in 1943, he attended USC where he was the NCAA 100 yard dash Champion in 1947, 1948 and 1949. At the same time, he set the world record in the 100 yard dash. In 1949, he broke Jesse Owens world record in the 220 yard dash. Mel Patton has been inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and the USC Sports Hall of Fame.



Herb Ritts, Photographer (8/13/52 – 12/26/2002)

Herb Ritts was a major international fashion photographer. He worked often in black and white and in portraits. In 1981, his first major shoot was with Brooke Shield for the cover of Elle. He then shot Olivia Newton John for her album, *Physical*. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, he continued to photograph the most famous celebrities and models for every major fashion magazine. He also published photographic books for most major designers. There is hardly a celebrity that has not posed for Herb Ritts during his or her career. His celebrity portraits are part of major private and museum collections.

Herb Ritts was a Charter Member of the Elton John HIV Research Project. The Herb Ritts Foundation continues that work and also has a focus on photographic education.



Steve Smith, Football (5/12/1979) 1997

Stevonne Latrall Smith played football and ran track at University High School and was recognized as All California Interscholastic Federation football selection at wide receiver and defensive back. He later played for the University of Utah and was then drafted by the Carolina Panthers in 2001 where he played for thirteen seasons. He played for the Baltimore Ravens in 2014.

During his career, he was a five-time Pro Bowl selection and a three-time All Pro. In 2005, he led the NFL in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and receptions.



Elizabeth Taylor, Actress (2/27/1932 – 3/23/2011) 1950

Elizabeth Rosemond "Liz" Taylor attended school at MGM and received her high school diploma from University High School in 1950. She is one of the most important and celebrated actresses of the past 50 years. Her first film was *National Velvet* in 1944. For the next three decades she starred in film classics such as *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Giant*, *Father of the Bride*, *A Place in the Sun* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She won an Academy Award for Best Actress for *Butterfield 8* in 1960. She then played the title role in *Cleopatra* in 1963. In 1966, she won an Academy Award for Best Actress for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

Elizabeth Taylor was a strong supporter of HIV-AIDS research and founded American Foundation for AIDs Research in 1985 and the Elizabeth AIDs Research Foundation in 1991. For her humanitarian work, she has received the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. She also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute that also named her number seven on its list of Screen Legends.



Peter Viertel, Author and Screenwriter (11/16/1920 – 11/4/2007)

Peter Viertel attended Dartmouth and the University of California. His first novel was *The Canyon*, written when he was nineteen years old. He was the author of nine novels and 11 feature films. His best known novel is *White Hunter Black Heart* that reflected his work on the film, *African Queen*.



Ray Watt (2/26/1919) 1938

Ray Watt is credited with major innovations in the building industry in the 1950's and 1960's that include strip malls, condominiums, time-shares and communities with shared recreational facilities. He was the builder responsible for much of the modern look of Los Angeles today including Century City Towers and fifty shopping malls and multiple housing developments. In over six decades, he built over 100,000 single family homes in the San Fernando Valley, Westside and South Bay.

He is a graduate of University High School and UCLA. He was named Builder of the Year in 1968 and was a USC Trustee in 1967.



Howard Wolpe, United States Congressman (11/3/1939 – 10/25/2011)
1957

Howard Eliot Wolpe III graduated University High School. He was a Democrat elected to Congress in 1978 representing southwestern Michigan. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee he played a key role in the passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. He retired from Congress in 1992.