

Phoenix Alliance 2006-2007 Report

May 10, 2007

In the seventh year of University High School, the Triple Ten Parents Club was rebirthed and rebranded as "Phoenix Alliance" on September 12, 2007 at its Annual Meeting. During the course of this school year, much has transpired- mostly for the good of our school and its students.

Below is a record of some of our accomplishments and activities:

Membership

Over 128 families were designated as Voting Members of Phoenix Alliance, contributing at least \$100, or pledging to volunteer 10 hours of service.

Four families became Charter Founding Members of the Senatus Circle, donating \$1,000 each.

Administration

Our eleven member parent board and four ex officio members (UHS Board Representative, Head of School, Teacher Representative and ASB Representative) held a board meeting in each of the school months with at least a 90% attendance record throughout the year.

By-Laws were amended to better comply with generally accepted association rules and practices.

The IRS granted Phoenix Alliance a ruling as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity entity, after a five year provisional ruling.

A self-evaluation of the board was conducted on how it operates and organizes its board meeting.

Communication

Communication was on the top of most everyone's list of items that needed to be addressed to make our school better.

With that in mind, a website, www.phoenixalliance.org was published in the fall. Pages include " a School-wide Calendar, eNews, Giving Opportunities, Membership Services, Student Space with Soaring Firebirds and a Literary Spotlight, Resources and College Advisor links." Later in the winter, an on-line Forum, in beta form, was launched. After extensive discussion and review, it was relaunched with a pre-registration process, revised terms and rules of conduct, and netiquette.

At the request of our parent constituents, an all School Directory was published and made available to all parents and guardians at no cost.

A listserv called "GetConnected" was compiled to communicate important announcements and information to over 275 participating families.

Three Community Summits were conducted over the course of the school year to provide a voice to parents and facilitate dialogue with administrators and UHS board members. First summit was titled "4 C's- Charter, Curriculum, Challenges & Collaboration," the second summit was the "State of the School" address by Dr. Samiian, and the third summit was "Strategic Planning and Review." Each summit had an opportunity for parents to voice their opinions and thoughts.

Parents played an important role as a "sounding board" for the Head of School on many issues and concerns, i.e., baccalaureate location, school calendar, math program, music performances, recruitment, forum netiquette and leverage of funds.

Eleven Phoenix Alliance members volunteered to staff a school-wide Phone Tree.

A professional graphic designer developed a logo, letterhead and banner.

Doing our part to "spare the air" and connect students wishing to carpool from throughout the four county areas, an electronic RideSharing Program with over sixty participating families was again coordinated by Phoenix Alliance. Dora Sanchez was our volunteer RideSharing Coordinator.

Parents advised in the development and design of a new bi-fold UHS promotional brochure.

Maureen Golden was appointed as the Instrumental Groups Parent Coordinator to assist the instrumental groups with their activities and schedule.

Student Recognition and Scholarship

The *Per Officium Praemium Honors Medallion* Program was established this spring to recognize and honor students for outstanding achievement.

A scholarship award was established to reward to two seniors in the area of leadership and community service. The *Phoenix Alliance Leadership Award* and *Phoenix Alliance Community Service Award* recipients will each receive a certificate and \$100 scholarship at the Graduation Ceremony.

Activities

John, Rebecca and Kathleen McGregor at their Fig Garden home hosted a Freshmen Welcome Swim Party before the inception of the new school year. Over 60 incoming freshmen, parents, teachers and staff enjoyed a fun afternoon in their beautiful backyard.

An early evening reception for the new Head of School, Dr. James Bushman, was hosted in the idyllic garden of in the home of Paul Gibson and Joan Eaton. Over 200 guests attended, including President Welty, members of the UHS board, parents, teachers and staff. Our talented students provided delightful entertainment.

A Teacher/Staff Welcome Back Luncheon coordinated by Wendy Carroll was provided at the beginning of the fall semester. Our parents, for the enjoyment of our teachers and staff, provided a bountiful array of dishes.

The second "Magic of the Arts," chaired by Maureen Golden, was held in November at the Satellite Student Union. It was a rousing performance and financial success.

A Spring Luncheon to start off the semester was provided for the teachers and staff with an array of international dishes and lots of luscious desserts. They reported that they enjoyed it immensely and appreciated it very much.

A tractor-trailer "float" with students, parents and pets participated in the Tower District Mardi Gras Parade. Although small in numbers, the enthusiastic group had a wonderful time tossing candy and enjoyed the festivities among the throng of parade watchers.

The major spring fundraiser, Hooray for Hollywood, was held at Grand Occasions in March. The event was co-chaired by Joanna Felger and Maureen Golden, silent auction chaired by Rebecca Jaech, and decorations co-chaired by Rebecca McGregor and Wendy Carroll. With over 225 revelers entertained by our very talented students, it was an evening of camaraderie and fun making. It was another stellar major fundraising event.

During STAR testing week, students (and teachers) were treated with a myriad of choices from an ice cream truck during the noon hour.

Hospitality and refreshments were provided following the spring concert series to honor the graduating senior's final performances.

In honor of National Teacher Appreciation Day, insulated mugs with the UHS logo were presented to each teacher for their fine efforts and dedication throughout the year.

The second Baccalaureate Ceremony hosted by Phoenix Alliance and co-chaired by Shirley McManus and Mary Easley will be held in the Concert Hall.

Sober Grad Night is planned to be held at Boomers for the class of 2007 if enough seniors show interest. The event is co-chaired by Glenn and Karen Kubota.

School Support

A gift in the amount of \$20,000 was given to the school in support of the 48 Books Program.

A discretionary fund was granted to the Head of School for public relations, marketing, and recruitment purposes.

Mini-grants of \$100 each were made available to each teacher in support of supplies, books, and other educational materials.

Financials

Phoenix Alliance (and the previously known Triple Ten Parents Club) since its inception in 2001 has raised over \$324,009. It has provided over \$190,431 in support of its students and their activities. Our current fund balance stands at \$38,439. Ron Sheppard served dutifully as our Treasurer.

A Map for Next Year

We plan to build on the excellent and positive momentum created by the collaborative effort of all the stakeholders of Phoenix Alliance this past school year.

President-elect Kathleen McKinley and her board will bring boundless energy, creativity, and unique brand of leadership with a goal of community building within the school.

Use of funds guidelines and procedures, continuing collaboration with the school administration, coordinating with the capital building campaign, college admissions information, and facilitating and providing access for parental involvement are key issues for next year.

The dedicated board members, the many many parents behind the scenes doing the big and small tasks, and the support of local businesses and groups, working together, will continue to make University High School the secondary education "Jewel of the valley."