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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Names 20 Alumni to be inducted into the Prestigious University City High School Hall of Fame in Fall 2023

University City, Mo. – The School District of University City is delighted to announce 20 individuals have been selected to be inducted into the prestigious University City High School Hall of Fame this fall.

These University City High School alumni have made a tremendous difference locally, nationally and internationally and join dozens of other notable honorees who have helped to shape the world. This year's inductees include a physician who rose to become the first Black full professor at Harvard Medical School, accomplished professional athletes in tennis and basketball, a first graduate of University City High School, and a leader in midwifery striving to diminish health inequities by improving access to maternal care.

The celebration and formal induction of University City High School's finest graduates will take place the Friday evening of Homecoming Weekend, September 29, 2023, at University City High School. Tickets will be available starting in late June at www.ucityschools.org/HOF2023. The new inductees are:

Karl Van Meter, Class of 1917,* the first male graduate of the new University City High School who raised millions of dollars for important causes

W.L. Hadley Griffin, Class of 1936,* St. Louis business and civic leader

Arthur Litz, Class of 1941, lawyer, judge and civic leader

Maureen Arthur, Class of 1952,* stage, movie and television actor

Richard Breiner, Class of 1953,* lawyer, judge and civil rights activist

Sheldon Breiner, Class of 1955,* inventor in the field of magnetometers and historical artifact finder



On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2023, University City High School held its 106th formal Commencement Ceremony.

Justina Bricka, Class of 1961, international Women's single and doubles tennis champion

Stephen Gerber, Class of 1965,* animated film/television and comic book creator

Sheri Sherman, Class of 1965, community volunteer, event maker and theater booster

Richard Weiss, Class of 1969, print journalist with a focus on race, equity and underserved communities

Dr. Michael Shannon, Class of 1970,* groundbreaking African American physician and Harvard medical school professor

Richard Smith, Class of 1973, internationally recognized potterer and champion of the Wyandot language and people

Jerryl Christmas, Class of 1981, attorney and social justice advocate

Gary Boyd, Class of 1982, a hospitality professional, community advocate and television host of the local program "Them Yo People"

Petra Jackson, Class of 1982, acclaimed women's professional basketball player and coach

Dorthea B. Nevils, Class of 1984, dedicated high school teacher and youth advocate

George Harper Jr., Class of 1987, highly decorated Naval Petty Officer First Class, retired

Roderick Smith, Class of 1987,* keyboardist, music promoter and gospel singer

Michael Silverman, Class of 1989, record-breaking musician with dozens of top albums on the classical, world music and New Age charts

Tanya Smith-Johnson, Class of 1994, national leader in the field of midwifery and national advocate for accessible prenatal/midwife care in marginalized communities

*Posthumous

Full bios of each inductee will be posted by the end of June, 2023 at www.ucityschools.org/HOF2023Inductees

#HeartofaLion



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