



# Reunion Planning - ReUNION Weekend & Gala



Any class intending to have a formal anniversary reunion should organize a small reunion committee, organized by the reunion committee chair. This committee is helpful when organizing reunion arrangements attached to venues and food, collecting money to cover those expenses, and contacting classmates.

## **Choosing a Date – Why ReUNION Weekend?**

In response to continuing requests from alumni to connect with current students and faculty, we inaugurated a format in 2017 with a very positive response. This format attempts to avoid class reunions happening during the summer months, when many students, faculty, and administrators are away from campus. Instead, it happens the same weekend as our annual marquee event, the Uni High Gala.

The opportunity to connect with fellow Uni alums is immeasurable. This weekend highlights the benefit of multi-class interaction and meeting fellow alums with a melting pot of experiences. Activities are already scheduled, making your planning easier than ever!

## **Uni High Advancement Office Support**

The Advancement Office can provide (to reunion committees at no expense) any of the following:

- Class lists with contact information
- Class mailing labels
- Letterhead, envelopes and postage for mailings
- Other information about completing mailings with help of the Advancement staff

The Advancement Office can also provide information about:

- Food providers (Caterers)
- Off-campus facilities
- Use of school facilities
- School tours
- Faculty invitations
- Announcements in the e-newsletter and on the school website

It is important to keep in mind that mailings can take up to 10 business days to process and need to be scheduled well in advance of a projected delivery date.

In addition to mailing reunion information, reunion committees should follow up invitations by contacting class members by phone, email and social media. All reunion classes are encouraged to search for all “lost” classmates during the months prior to the reunion event and to inform the Advancement Office of the correct information so that the alumni records can be updated.



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## Class Gift Information

Some classes choose to organize a class gift for the school, we recommend all class gifts benefit the unrestricted Uni High Annual Fund (#334262). Monetary class gifts may be collected to benefit a favorite program at the school or to honor a classmate, coach, or former teacher. This is a tremendous opportunity to grow much needed alumni participation for the school. A volunteer should be appointed to lead the effort to act as the primary point of contact when working with the Advancement Office to help with arrangements.

## Reunion Weekend Suggested Agenda

### **Friday (early) afternoon “Alumni Agora Day” presentations**

Alumni may share their after-Uni experiences with current Uni students in thirty-five minute sessions. Your presentation can be on any topic (careers, passions, projects, or just advice) and can include anything you wish: video, photos, and hands-on activities are just a few suggestions. We would like the presentations to be interactive with students.

### **Friday (late) afternoon tour of the school and Director’s Report**

Classes usually enjoy a tour of the school for the opportunity to reminisce about their days roaming the halls at Uni High. Tours usually take about an hour and are typically concluded with an invitation by the Director of Advancement or the School Director to attend a brief (20-30 minute) presentation to learn about current projects and initiatives at the school.

### **Friday evening dinner (usually informal since the Gala on Saturday night is formal)**

Many classes have planned to meet at places like:

- Big Grove bar area (downtown Champaign)
- Crane Alley (downtown Urbana)
- Destihl bar area (downtown Champaign)
- Guido’s bar (downtown Champaign)
- Houlihan’s bar at the I Hotel (near the State Farm Arena)
- Jupiter’s at the Duncan & Windsor Crossing (kid friendly game area)
- Kofusion (downtown Champaign)
- Papa Del’s (S Neil Street)
- TGI Friday’s Bar (W Marketview)
- The Illini Union Bowling Alley if available (kid friendly)

### **Saturday morning/afternoon activity**

Optional activities include:

- Gathering at one of the area parks
- Group visits at the Krannert Art Museum (on campus)
- Group visits at the Spurlock Museum (on campus)
- Tour of the Memorial Stadium suites (staff can arrange) upon availability
- Tour of the University of Illinois campus (given by U of I student ambassadors)
- Uni spring performance (if available)



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## **Saturday night is the Uni High Gala**

- Join over 150 alumni, faculty, staff, current students and parents at our marquee event! Tickets generally cost \$100 each, with 50% being a tax-deductible donation to the school's Innovations in Learning campaign.
  - Your attendance is greatly appreciated, activities include:
    - Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres & Dinner
    - Teachers Wish List (school supplies and equipment) donor opportunity
    - Faculty & Students display/demo current projects
    - Beberman Award Recipient Presentation
    - Leadership Donor Recognition
    - Uni High Alumni Association after party

## **Sunday Brunch**

Classes sometimes meet one last time for a brunch before leaving town. Below is a list of highly recommended venues where you can get tables organized for your group (if you reserve ahead):

- Big Grove (downtown Champaign)
- Destihl (downtown Champaign)
- Hamilton Walkers (downtown Champaign)
- Radio Maria (downtown Champaign) \*\*Highly recommended due to room privacy and billing options
- Silver Creek (near downtown Urbana)

Advancement Staff include: Director of Advancement Marianne Downey ([downey1@illinois.edu](mailto:downey1@illinois.edu)), Assistant Director of Advancement Joshua Hall ([hall48@illinois.edu](mailto:hall48@illinois.edu)) and Advancement Office Support Specialist Christine Pierson ([cpierson@illinois.edu](mailto:cpierson@illinois.edu)).