

## In this Issue

## ACTIVITIES



## CURRENT EVENTS



## FINE ARTS

Union Symphony Orchestra  
Conducted by Paula Surface

## SPORTS



## &amp; MUCH MORE

## Making Herstory: Celebrating Women's History Month

By Janine Wagdalt (12th)



Pictured above are many prominent and powerful women who will continue to inspire young women.

Women's History Month is an annual designated month that calls attention to the often-overlooked contributions women have made throughout history in fields such as science, sports, entertainment, politics, social justice and so many others. This month-long celebration finds its roots in an initial week-long celebration of women's contributions organized by the Sonoma, California school district in 1978. Shortly after Sonoma's grand homage, the idea of celebrating women's achievements blazed throughout the United States and soon inspired President Jimmy Carter to issue a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week in 1980. The significance behind the week of March 8th was that March 8th was also International Women's Day: a global celebration of women's achievements that began in 1911. However, the push for celebration did not stop there—seven years after President Carter's declaration, the National Women's History Project triumphantly petitioned Congress to extend the celebration to the entire month of March, classifying it as what we now know as Women's History Month.

If there's anything modern society has come to learn now more than ever, it's that representation matters. Whether it's in films, STEM careers, or government offices, the impact of seeing women of every shape, size, race, ethnicity, ability, sexuality, and identity represented is extremely positive for young

people all over the United States and the world. Celebrating Women's History Month is vital because it allows for a chance to reflect on the accomplishments of many trailblazing women who led the way for change—women like Kamala Harris: the first woman and person of color to be elected Vice President of the United States, Ruth Bader Ginsburg: the second female justice on The Supreme Court as well as the first Jewish female justice, Malala Yousafzai: a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate, Sojourner Truth: an American abolitionist and women's rights activist, Dolores Huerta: an American labor leader and civil rights activist, and Laverne Cox: an American actress and LGBTQ+ advocate who became the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award...just to name a few. These courageous ladies illustrate the determination of women to excel in a multitude of fields, and it doesn't stop with them. Many inspiring individuals have contributed to the overall success of women around the world, including those we don't have the pleasure of knowing by name. These include hard-working teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, actresses, and soldiers paving the path for women everywhere and ensuring that women continue to hold important roles in all spaces.

March is a month to look back on the social, cultural, and economic accomplishments of women. Upon doing so, there is one thing we can be positively sure of: the continued progress of female impact is indomitable—certain to thrive uninhibited and unabashed. The future is female.



## ACTIVITIES

# UNION PROM 2021 QUICKLY APPROACHING IN ALL ITS GLORY, JUNIORS AND SENIORS NOW ALLOWED TO ATTEND

By Braxton Tempest (12th)

The most anticipated event of the year for many students is prom, and this year is no exception. With a limited number of events in the 2020-2021 school year, prom embodies normalcy in a year that has looked vastly different than anything present day students have ever experienced. While events like Homecoming Carnival and SHAKA Dodgeball accommodated COVID-19 protocols nicely, many student-favorite events such as Blacklight Dance and Homecoming Dance were nonexistent due to the infeasibility of hosting a crowded dance amidst the pandemic. However, Prom 2021 will move forward in full form and look refreshingly similar to proms of the non-pandemic past.

Although Prom has been hosted at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC) for over a decade, this year Prom 2021 will be held at Central Park Hall at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. Central Park Hall is three times the size of the UMAC and houses a massive exhibit floor space with a second floor mezzanine overlooking the area. Art deco architecture, glass, and colored patterns emboss the venue, reflecting Tulsa's rich history as the art deco capital of the world. This location has housed world class events and expos, and Union Prom will likely never be held here again; this year's prom will be unlike any other. The vastness of this location will allow for prom to be classified as an open air event—a nice addition to any event in the era of Covid. Masks will be required as well.

Initially prom was only open to seniors and their dates due to Oklahoma Covid restrictions. However, over spring break, Oklahoma's Governor Kevin Stitt eased Covid restrictions and it was decided that Union juniors and their dates would also be allowed to attend prom. Dates of Union juniors and seniors can be from other grades but must be a freshman or older and younger than twenty one. Dates may also be from other schools as well, though paperwork, now available in the Activities Office, will need to be filled out.

This year's prom theme is California Dreamin', a theme that aims to imitate the elegance of Hollywood, the playfulness of California's beaches, the beauty of San Francisco, and the overall California aesthetic. Leadership has been working on planning and decorations since last October, preparing and executing the California theme. Themes have always been a big part of Union proms, and this year is no exception. This year's decorations will include vintage car displays, red carpet, velvet ropes, silver and gold fountains, massive colorful displays, painted faux buildings, an (unfortunately) inoperable carnival ride, the Santa Monica pier, jewels and pearls, and decorations that are truly one of a kind.

Prom 2021 will include all the traditional aspects of prom with a few changes. Food will be centralized in one location in the upstairs mezzanine to limit the number of students without masks, and drinks will be served in a restricted area downstairs. Also, dancing will be permitted and a DJ will be present, though the DJ will not be visible to limit 'mosh pit' type situations. All other aspects of prom will remain unchanged: red carpet entrance, a free professional photo booth, delicious catered appetizers and drinks, dancing, lounging areas, and unforgettable memories



Leadership students are working hard to transport juniors and seniors to California for this year's prom theme, with friends.

Prom will be from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. this year. Tickets will be sold at Union High School for fifty dollars in the bus loop from April 15 until April 23. Students must have their ID and their date's ID upon purchasing tickets, and if their date is out of district, the out of district form will need to be filled out upon purchase as well. Out-of-district forms are now available in the Activities Office (2001). No prom tickets will be able to be purchased at the door the day of prom; all tickets must be purchased in advance. Compared to other schools, Union's prom is among the least expensive. Included with the price of the ticket is a top-tier venue, free food and drinks, free professional photo booth, as well as a professional DJ and free parking; fifty dollars is a great deal. Students must be passing their current English class, have all required English credits, and have FoolProof completed by April 9th in order to buy a ticket. Students must also be in good standing with their attendance (check with counselors if you have any questions about this).

"I think prom is so important this year because students have had so much taken away," says student council president, Austin Lopez. "[Leadership] believe[s] our peers deserve a night to escape reality and have a normal high school experience for once this year." For current Union High School students, and especially the Class of 2021, the last year in retrospect has been incredibly exhausting, uncertain, and even disappointing. Fortunately Prom 2021 will prove to be a symbol of hope, optimism, and the long-awaited end of high school for the Class of 2021, and will surely be an unforgettable evening that you won't want to miss. Start finalizing plans for the "night of nights" today!

### Union Prom 2021 Important Information

**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 24 8:00 - 11:00 pm

**Location:** Central Park Hall @ Tulsa Fairgrounds (1701 S Sandusky Ave, Tulsa, OK 74112)

**Ticket Info:** Sold in the Bus Loop from April 15-23 (NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR), \$50.

\*The original issue stated tickets would be sold until the 24th. Tickets will only be sold until Friday the 23rd. No tickets will be sold on Saturday the 24th. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



EVAN XIAO



JANINE WAGDALT

MARCH



XAIVER WILLIAMS



KENDRA VONHARTITZSCH

APRIL



JOSEPH YE



BOW BAJELA



## FINE ARTS

## UNION FINE ARTS RESUMES LIVE PERFORMANCES

By Addison Darby (12th)

After a year without live performances at Union, the fine arts department is finally able to put together small concerts and show off its students' hard work again. While only a limited number of family members can attend currently, anything helps to get back to a sense of normalcy.

Along with the eighth and ninth-grade orchestras, Union's high school orchestras performed their first concert of this school year on March 2nd. Family members attended, with proper spacing between rows and groups, but many others tuned in through a live stream on YouTube. This enabled family and friends who live out of town to view the concert whereas they might not have been able to attend even under normal circumstances. The orchestras are already preparing new pieces for the next and final concert of the year.

The high school Jazz band also performed their first concert of the year on March 1st. The pandemic has made it even more difficult for wind instruments to practice safely than others, but students and teachers alike are hopeful for larger performances as cases begin to trend down again. On April 9th, the symphonic band and UHS wind ensemble performed at the Oklahoma Bandmasters' Association festival. The Union High School Renegade Regiment is scheduled to perform with the Tulsa Signature Symphony on April 23rd at Union's Tuttle Stadium, and for their



*Orchestra finally held their first in-person pandemic since the beginning of the pandemic.*

showcase performance, the Union middle and high school percussion students will be in concert on May 6th. All concert bands will perform on May 10th, and the UHS chamber winds have their concert on May 20th. The Jazz band performs their final concert on May 17th, so make sure to turn out and support Union's band students!

Union Repertory Theatre recently put on their final production of the year, and an in-person audience was present. Even though UHS Choir has not been able to perform yet, they are hard at work preparing a concert before the school year ends.



## SPORTS

## UNION SPIRIT SQUADS FINISH THE 2020-2021 SEASON STRONG

By Taryn Cox (10th)

Union Varsity Highsteppers kicked their season goodbye this past month with their end-of-year spring show. Reminiscing on the memories, lessons, and arduous work put into the year, Freshman Paige Shelton had this to say about her first season as a varsity Highstepper: "I have learned that I can get through any challenges I face and to always have optimism. It was a hard year for everyone, but I learned that pushing through is worth it!" This year was indeed tough for everyone, but through all of the craziness, the Highsteppers placed third in the state in kick, held fundraisers, hosted fun nights for young aspiring dancers, and cheered on Union teams at football and basketball games. Senior and Captain, Lakin Shelton claims that this year has taught her a many lessons, "I have learned tremendous leadership this past year alone. With COVID-19, missing performances, being quarantined, it has taught me to respond when things like that happen. I have learned that not everyday is promised, so you must be grateful for the good times you do have."

When asked what being on Highsteppers means to Sophomore Grace Estep, she shared, "To be a highstepper is to be able to push yourself beyond your own limits and to learn and mature as a person around a team setting with a sisterly bond. I feel so lucky to be on such a hardworking team with people I hope to have lifelong friendships with." Through the season whether they were competing at state, preparing for show-offs, and performances, they could always rely on each other. Lakin Shelton responded



*Union Varsity Highsteppers frequently perform at Union Football games.*

to the same question as, "To be a Highstepper is something that is unexplainable. It is absolutely amazing and something I will never forget. Once a Highstepper, always a Highstepper."

In the world of Union spirit squads, Union Pom just brought home a 2nd place Nationals trophy from Orlando, Florida. In two days of competing, Union Pom beat out nine other teams and came out victorious! If you would like to join Union Pom's excellent program of amazing memories, friendships and hard work, there is a mandatory parent tryout meeting on April 22nd at 6:30 in UHS room 1707



*Recently, Union Pom took home second place at nationals in Orlando.*





## COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

## A GLIMPSE AT THE BIGGEST GAINER COMPETITION ENCOURAGING JUNIORS TO STUDY FOR THE SAT

By Destiny Reyes (11th)

The Biggest Gainer Competition was created by the College & Career Center (CCC) advisors, Mrs. Ashley and Mrs. Gibson, to incentivize students to prepare for the SAT in an enjoyable way. Groups of juniors consisting of 3-5 people completed different tasks in order to earn points.

As the SAT date approached on April 13th, a series of prizes were distributed to individuals and groups who earned the most points. Student progress was tracked by linking their College Board accounts to their Khan Academy accounts and joining the CCC class. Students earned points by holding weekly study sessions with their groups and posting a photo together to social media, practicing individually three times a week for at least thirty minutes, attending weekly meditation sessions and writing labs, and being present for half day prep classes with Shelly Beaty. Additionally, after school prep classes were held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week in room 1713. A celebratory lunch will be held for all teams that have earned a sufficient number of points at the end of the competition.

As further motivation, the CCC advisers entered the names of every Biggest Gainer participant into a completely random reward drawing. Winners of this giveaway include Paloma Rivera, Nicole Duran, Nikhil Mathew, Vy Tran, Meghana Venkatesha, Sydnie Jordan, Sophia Swanlek, and Jett Ors.



*Juniors hard at work in a study session for the upcoming SAT.*

The leaderboard for week 4 shows the Master Minds in first place, No Pain, No Gain in second, Team Amigos in third, and twenty more amazing teams that follow. Past juniors who participated in the Biggest Gainer Competition have found it beneficial because they were able to consult their partners during study sessions and raise their scores tremendously. Overall, the Biggest Gainer Competition is a free and efficient way for Union juniors to increase their SAT scores in time for college applications.

Put an ad in the UHS  
TODAY Newspaper!

Send us an email with the information you would like in the ad and we will create one and publish it in our next issue!

(Ad availability depends on demand. First come, first serve.)

[unionhighschooltoday@gmail.com](mailto:unionhighschooltoday@gmail.com)

## CURRENT EVENTS

## UNION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR JULIAN OBER CHOSEN FOR UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

By Meghana Venkatesha (11th)

Senior Julian Ober was selected as one of two Oklahoma delegates for the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). USSYP is an educational program for students across the nation who are interested in pursuing careers in public service. Ober's co-delegate was Sean Kuehn of Sand Springs High School. Only two delegates are chosen from each state in this highly competitive program, and each delegate is invited to spend a week in Washington, D.C., in a tradition the program refers to as Washington Week, which usually takes place over spring break each year. All delegates also receive a \$10,000 scholarship to go towards their undergraduate college degrees.

In order to be selected, applicants must be both nominated and hold leadership positions within their communities. Ober has held many such positions, from serving as a co-facilitator of the local Youth Philanthropy Initiative to being co-captain of the Union High School Tennis Team. As a part of the application process, Ober was nominated by Mrs. Eldridge, her AP Government and Politics teacher, whom Ober has known since her sophomore year.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Washington Week was held virtually this year. Among the many speakers, Ober heard from as a part of this program were President Joe Biden, Dr. Andrew Fauci, Norah O'Donnell, and Clarence Thomas. Delegates also met with other high-ranking elected officials and members



*Julian Ober (left) and Sean Kuehn (right) pictured with Senator Jim Inhofe (center)*

of the national media. Ober says her experience participating in USSYP was "inexplicable." She claims that the most valuable part was being "in a room full of future leaders who are passionate in the same way I am[...]" I undoubtedly made lifelong friends and connections this week and that may be the most important takeaway from this week."



*Julian Ober (left) and Sean Kuehn (right) pictured in front of the Oklahoma State Capitol Building.*

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## SHOWCASING UNION'S SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

By Fraz Javed (11th)

Union's Speech & Debate team is likely one of the most well-equipped teams in the state. Through the work of the club's head coach, Mrs. Spatz, Union has sent numerous students to National Championships throughout the years, and the organization at Union has a massive presence in the state as well. The Speech & Debate Club, or the Union Forensic Society as it is also called, is a competitive club that participates in debating, speaking, and acting events. From debating policy or philosophy, giving speeches on current events, or acting solo or in duet performances, the club covers a large array of competitive events. Students who are looking to improve their public speaking skills, become effective at argumentation and research, or belong to a massive and close-knit community should consider joining the Union Forensic Society.

The club offers numerous competitions through which students can learn to speak eloquently and confidently in public settings. As well as being an important social skill for forming meaningful relationships, being able to speak in a clear, relaxed, and confident manner is essential for most future careers. Every event in the club - whether it is poetry, humorous interpretation, or policy debate - requires competitors to speak in front of a judge, other participants, and any audience members. Ultimately, this pushes students to become more confident, clear, and concise speakers. At the same time, this also exposes competitors to speak in front of others, reducing any stage fright students may display. Thus, students that who looking to improve their communication skills should join debate.



*Sophomores Makayla Goode and Lawson Carpenter prepare for a debate round.*

Consequently, the club teaches students to effectively conduct research. To build cases or formulate speeches, research is required. Competitors must support their points with evidence, and they must anticipate any arguments that may be made against them. This often requires in-depth research on topics, which prepare students for college-level work. On top of that, researching can often expose students to unique and different worldviews, which ultimately promotes a culture of open-mindedness and relatability. By becoming more effective at argumentation, participants learn to support their beliefs with facts while also being able to pick apart arguments, making them more rational and educated thinkers. Not only that, but being part of the Union's Speech and Debate team connects

participants to a close-knit community. Participating in competitions with fellow teammates and competitors, students come to value the relationships forged from competing. Individuals make friends with others who they may have otherwise never have met. Being a part of the Union Forensic Society entails being part of a team, and such a climate fosters a sense of togetherness and sense of place.

The Forensic Society has many opportunities for nearly any student. Skills that are learned from the club accumulate over to students' professional lives as adults, many years after they graduate. If you are looking to improve your speaking or argumentation skills - or be part of a community that pushes you - you should consider seeing Mrs. Spatz about joining debate.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## SUSTAINABLE U

Sustainable U serves to promote sustainability and environmentalism at Union High School. Sustainable U meets every Wednesday in Mrs. Nedrow's room (1159) in the morning from 7:40 am to 8:00 am and in the afternoon from 3:20 pm to 3:50 pm. Campus Cleanup is every second Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 2:00 pm; meet at the South Entrance of Union High School upon arrival. April 19th-23rd is Earth Week! Make sure to follow Sustainable U on Instagram @sustainableuhs and text @sustainableuhs to 81010 to join the Remind group for more information on how to commemorate the week. Sustainable is always looking for new and existing members who are interested in helping gather recycling around the school.

## INTERACT CLUB

Interact club meets during both lunches every other Wednesday in room 1708. This club is focused on community service and is connected with the leadership group Rotary International. Follow Interact on Instagram @interact\_union and text @uhsint21 to 81010 to join the Remind group. On April 24th Interact is volunteering at the Tulsa Dream Center! The Dream Center aims to help underserved youth in a developing area of Tulsa. Contact the instagram page or join the remind to find out how to volunteer.

## BLACK SCHOLARS

Black Scholars meets on Mondays from 3:20 to 4:20 pm in Mrs. Austin's room. The club is not just for Black students and all are encouraged to attend! Follow Black Scholars on Instagram @blackscholars.uhs and text @ce284ag to 81010 to join the Remind group.

## ASIAN AMERICAN CLUB

Meeting dates fluctuate but there is a meeting on Thursday, April 21st after school in Mrs. Eldridge's room. Follow Asian American Club on Instagram at @uhsasianamerican for more informational content. Club open to everyone! Come learn about the struggles and joys of Asian Americans during a particularly dark time for the community,

**ATTEND MONTHLY**  
*Open Student Council Meetings*  
**PROMOTE YOUR CLUB AND LEARN ABOUT NEW ONES! first Friday of each month during both lunches in Grand Hall (may vary, check Canvas)**

## Upcoming Events For Seniors

**CAP & GOWN PICKUP 4/20-21**  
**PROM 4/24**  
**SENIOR WEEK 4/26-30**  
**SENIOR SUNSET 4/29**  
**SENIOR WALK 4/30**  
**SENIOR QUOTES DUE 4/30**  
**GRADUATION 5/27**  
**GRADUATION CELEBRATION 5/27**

