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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **University City High School to Induct 15 Alumni Into Hall of Fame**

**University City, MO** – Leaders in medicine and science, actors and singers, an NFL athlete, musicians and even an avant-garde lingerie designer will be among those in the spotlight this October as the newest inductees to the prestigious University City High School Hall of Fame.

**The celebration of University City High School’s finest graduates will take place Friday evening, October 4, 2019, at the Sheraton Lakeside Chalet in Westport Plaza from 6 to 9 p.m.**

The selected honorees are:

- **Herbert Abelson**, '58, celebrated medical researcher, pediatrician and leader in academic medicine
- **David Bass**, '08, NFL linebacker with the New York Jets and community volunteer
- **Gregg Berger**, '68, internationally-known actor, voice-over artist and author
- **Allieze Ruby Curry**, '71, educator and academic leader in the St. Louis Community College system
- **Gale Epstein**, '64, avant-garde lingerie fashion designer and cutting-edge business leader
- **Hadiyah-Nicole Green**, '99, physicist, cancer researcher and founder of the Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation
- **Sheldon Kaplan**, '65, pediatrician and educational leader in the study of infectious diseases
- **Carol Kaplan-Lyss**, '59, educator, child development expert, author and community volunteer
- **Lester Pines**, '68, legal pioneer, educator and community service leader
- **David Prelutsky**, '72, medical doctor and leader in HIV research and treatment
- **Stephen E. Schwartz**, '59, chemist and researcher in atmospheric science and climate change
- **Mary Beth Tinker**, '70, community leader and social activist
- **Jim Olyn Triplett Jr.**, '96, educator and community volunteer
- **Michael “Spike” Wilner**, '84, musician and legendary New York City club owner
- The late **Zale Kessler**, '56, Broadway and screen actor and operatic star

continued



*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 2019, University City High School held its 102<sup>nd</sup> formal Commencement Ceremony.*

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The evening will be hosted by 1999 Hall of Fame inductee Wayne J. du Maine, a 1983 graduate who is currently the principal chair with both the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the American Composers Orchestra and the trumpet program director for brass studies at New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. A nationally recognized trumpet player who once performed with Prince at his Paisley Park, Minnesota home, du Maine will perform locally as a featured soloist with the U. City Summer Band on Tuesday, June 25 at Heman Park.

This year's upcoming Hall of Fame inductees will join a long and prestigious list of alumni to have graduated from University City High School. They include playwright Thomas "Tennessee" Lanier Williams; internationally renown rap artist Cornell "Nelly" Haynes; and Marlon West, the lead effects animator for beloved Disney films, and many more.

Their photos will join more than 100 others in the main entrance hallway of University City High School.

The UCHS Hall of Fame was established in 1999 for the purpose of honoring graduates from each era of the school's history. These are individuals who have brought honor to the school through notable contributions to their fields and the world. Although the induction event occurs every other year, each January the District publicly calls for nominations.

Tickets are sold out.

To learn more about the UCHS Hall of Fame, including a list of impressive inductees and their biographies and how to nominate for 2021, visit [www.ucityschools.org/HOF](http://www.ucityschools.org/HOF).

For more information, contact Traci Moore at [tmoore@ucityschools.org](mailto:tmoore@ucityschools.org).

The District would like to thank the following sponsors: Clark-Fox Foundation (Maxine Clark), Allieze Ruby Curry, Regions Bank (Mike F. Hart and Nancy Barnes), Stephen Schwartz, Stifel (Lorenzo M. Boyd), The Fellas (In honor of Sheldon Kaplan).

The District would also like to thank the following donors for the evening's silent auction (as of Sept. 26): Blick Art Materials - University City, Blueberry Hill, CBD Kratom - University City, Fitz's, Paperdolls, Kaldi's, Pokedoke, Protzel's Deli, Sasha's Wine Bar - Clayton, St. Louis Cardinals, Wiley Price, Winslow's Home and Amy Zebala of SmartFlyer travel.

**#UCLionPride**



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