

Alumni Recognition Awards

2004

Congratulations to all 2004 recipients

Ron Ho '58



Distinguished Alumnus Award

For his contributions to the art world and countless students, Ron Ho '58 receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

An inventive jewelry maker who could have enjoyed a more lucrative full-time career in art, he dedicated his life to teaching art to elementary, junior high and high school students, mostly in the Bellevue (Wash.) School District. He also pursued his passion, creating one-of-a-kind necklaces that have made him well known in the Northwest art world.

Ho makes necklaces out of silver and items he has collected over the years – from bones and artifacts to antique jade and beads from his world travels. His work has been shown in more than 50 exhibitions in numerous Northwest museums and galleries, as well as in international shows. He was one of 55 jewelry artists in an exhibition paying tribute to former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright that began in The Netherlands and toured Europe for a year.

His work is in numerous collections, including the Tacoma Art Museum, which featured an exhibition of his jewelry this year. In collaboration with artist Stewart Wong, he redesigned the facade of Seattle's Wing Luke Asian Museum as part of its "Pathways of Pride" exhibit, dedicated in 2001.

Ho has received many awards for both teaching and art. In 1998, he was named Asian Artist of the Year by the Wing Luke Asian Museum, which hosted his one-man show. He received the 1990 Elementary Art Educator Award for the Western States by the National Art Education Association, and the 1990 award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts by the Bellevue Arts Commission. In 2000-

2001, he won a grant from the King County Arts Commission for a Medina Elementary School project, "Faces and Forms, Races and Norms," an exploration of the history of folk arts focusing on influences of indigenous and immigrant cultures and women.

He continues to serve as an artist-in-residence in several Northwest schools and lives in Seattle.

Frank Spear '75



Distinguished Alumnus Award

For his outstanding work in the field of dentistry and dental education, Frank Spear '75 receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Spear graduated first in his class at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, completed a residency in periodontal prosthodontics and earned a master's degree in dentistry, and he has been at the forefront of his field ever since. He has become one of the premier dental clinicians and pre-eminent educators in the world. He developed the Seattle Institute for Advanced Dental Education, which works with 800 dental offices every year and is recognized as one of the finest training facilities.

His teaching techniques have revolutionized post-graduate dental education, resulting in better dentists and improved care for patients. Spear has won many prestigious awards and written many scientific articles and textbook chapters. He has lectured around the world, served as editor of dental journals and is past president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. He has been an affiliate professor at the University of Washington since 1984.

Spear lives in Seattle with his wife, Susan Carlson.

Judith Perry '63



Outstanding Alumnus Award

For her outstanding work in the business world and her community service, Judith Perry '63 receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Perry is managing director of the Pacific Islands Complex for Merrill Lynch in Honolulu. She has worked for Merrill Lynch since 1976 and has consistently advanced in the company. She is the third woman managing director of Merrill Lynch and the first in the Pacific region, and is credited with recruiting more women as financial advisors. The industry average is 12 percent women, while in her region that number is 24 percent.

She has always been involved in the communities in which she worked: Lancaster, Pa., Peoria, Ill., Milwaukee, Wis., and Honolulu. She is on the boards of Hawaii Theatre, Hawaii Community Services Council, Oahu Economic Development Board, the YWCA and the Honolulu Symphony. She is also a member of the Honolulu Rotary and on vestry of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church.

She serves PLU as a class representative, a Connections Council volunteer and Q Club member.

Perry is also a talented artist who enjoys drawing, painting and calligraphy. She lives in Honolulu and has two grown sons and one granddaughter.

June Goldsmith '55

For her efforts to bring classical music to a wider audience, June Goldsmith receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Goldsmith, a musician and music educator, founded Music in the



Outstanding Alumnus Award

Morning in Vancouver, B.C., nearly 20 years ago. She believed classical music that challenged, educated and entertained would find a following in the morning. An

increasing and loyal audience proves she was right.

The concerts are held at an unusual time – 10:30 a.m. After everyone has enjoyed coffee, artists speak from the stage, commenting on the music and composer before they perform. The one-hour concerts take place Tuesday through Friday, eight weeks a year, at the Vancouver Academy of Music. The series has commissioned and premiered many Canadian works and has nurtured and promoted the development of young artists.

In November 2002, Goldsmith was inducted into the British Columbia Entertainment Hall of Fame. Music in the Morning is committed to supporting the community and schools, and Goldsmith speaks to many organizations. She strives to present a challenging lineup of music, from opera to ballet to chamber music. In 1992 she received a commemorative medal for the 125th anniversary of the confederation of Canada in recognition of her significant contributions.

Goldsmith attended PLU from 1951-53, graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1955 and earned her master's degree at Stanford. She and her late husband, Daniel, have two sons. She lives in Vancouver.

Jeremy Desel '91

For his award-winning work in television news, Jeremy Desel '91 receives the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award.



Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award

Desel, a reporter in Houston, was named 2002 Texas Reporter of the Year by the Houston Press Club and has won seven Emmy awards, most recently for breaking news

reporting from the eye of Hurricane Lili as it hit Louisiana. His work has been repeatedly honored by the Associated Press. Desel's investigative stories led to two national product recalls of dangerous pet products.

He joined KHOU-TV as a general assignment reporter in 1999. He has covered a number of high-profile stories, including the explosion of the Space Shuttle Columbia and the subsequent recovery of its debris, the Texas A&M bonfire collapse and the American Airlines crash in Little Rock, Ark. He spent six weeks covering the 2000 presidential election vote count in Florida. Desel was sent to Germany to cover the war in Iraq from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near Ramstein Air Base. He was the only local television reporter to report live during the arrival of PFC Jessica Lynch to the hospital complex.

He lives in Houston.

Cory Heins '77



Alumni Service Award

For his commitment to bring relief to the hungry and needy in war-torn and poverty stricken countries, Cory Heins '77 receives the Alumni Service Award.

Heins has worked in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia and East Africa with World Concern, an international relief organization. After the Sept. 11,

2001, terrorist attacks, Heins went to Afghanistan, where the Taliban was under U.S. attack. He helped provide logistical support with the distribution of food and emergency supplies in northeastern Afghanistan.

Heins helped build a school and water wells in Cambodia in the mid '90s and has been committed to working with World Concern ever since. His work has ranged from distributing clothing to thousands of children, to helping build roads, schools, bridges and water systems. He has worked in some of the most remote parts of the world, often without electricity or running water and sometimes even traveling by donkey.

He says his discomfort and inconvenience are well worth the good that's been done for many people in peril.

Heins lives in Edmonds, Wash., and works in commercial real estate when he's not out of the country.

Stan Willis '38



Heritage Award

Because of his lifelong support of PLU, Stan Willis '38 receives the Heritage Award.

He has been the consummate Lute, recruiting students, supporting programs and activities, and serving as class representative for many years.

Willis began his career as a teacher, then was principal of Central Avenue and Parkland Elementary Schools in the early '50s. In 1955 he took a two-year leave of absence from the Franklin Pierce School District to serve as a principal in the Department of Defense Dependents School in Madrid, and that leave turned into an almost 35-year career in Spain, Germany and Puerto

Rico. He held a variety of administrative positions in defense department schools until his retirement at 75 in late 1989, when he and his wife, Thelma (Daniels) '36, '40 returned to live in Parkland.

Since their return to the United States, they have been regular supporters of PLU music and athletic events. For several years he prepared homemade chocolates in the shapes of footballs and helmets to give to the Lute football team as players departed for championship games.

Willis recruited many students from overseas to attend PLU, and he also recruited many PLU graduates as teachers in the DoDDS system in Europe. Many alums had the opportunity to work and travel abroad thanks to him.

The Willises had four children, Kathy Pollakowski, the late Jim Willis '68, Judy Carr '70 and Brian Willis '77. The family tradition has continued as three grandchildren also selected PLU. Willis has been the class representative for the Class of '38 and, and he and his wife are members of Q Club and served on the Alumni Leadership Committee for The Campaign for Pacific Lutheran University: The Next Bold Step.

Donna Westering



Special Recognition Award

For her longtime support of the PLU football program and athletes, Donna Westering receives the Special Recognition Award.

Donna, wife of longtime coach Frosty Westering, has been a steady presence on the sidelines through Frosty's 32 seasons as head coach. She could be seen in the stands of every game, shaking a gold

cowbell, cheering her loudest and encouraging others to do the same. Behind the scenes, she spent many evenings hosting players, helping the coach and cooking and baking for the team.

She earned her degree in health and physical education from the University of Iowa, where she was president of the largest residence hall and was a member of the national honor society. She and Frosty, her elementary school sweetheart, have been married for 52 years and have five children, Holly Johnson, Sue '77, Brad '80, Scott '82, and Stacey Spani '83 and 13 grandchildren. Scott is PLU's new head football coach.

Laura E. Hunter '03



Brian Olson Leadership Award

For her involvement in and dedication to PLU, Laura Hunter '03 receives the Brian Olson Leadership Award.

While a student, Hunter served many positions for the student newspaper, The Mast, and worked as the student life editor for the yearbook, The Saga. She was a member of the senior gift committee and worked in the Office of Development and University Relations. Hunter joined Q Club as a student.

Hunter understands the importance of being connected to PLU for life.

Hunter graduated in December with a degree in communication and a minor in publishing and printing arts. She lives in Puyallup and is pursuing a career in fund raising, public relations or journalism.

This award is named in memory of former Alumni Board President Brian C. Olson '83.