

# Alumni Recognition Awards 2005

## Recognition

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

#### George L. Long '66

For his contribution to teaching and his accomplishments in biochemistry, Dr. George L. Long '66 receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Long has had an accomplished career as a researcher and professor. In 2002, he won the Inventor of the Year award from the Intellectual Property Owners Association for his work in developing the medication Xigris, which is used to treat sepsis, a life-threatening blood disorder. That qualified him to be considered for a Nobel Prize.

His 20 years of work contributed to the development of Xigris. In 1982, Long cloned protein C as part of a study into the causes of thrombosis. While not directly related to sepsis, the thrombosis study helped Long and other researchers better understand protein C's role in blood clotting. Protein C may eventually become a basis for treatment of other circulatory diseases.

Long graduated with a degree in natural science and received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Brandeis University in 1971. A professor and biochemist at the University of Vermont, Long continues to work in UVM's Thrombosis Research Center.

He and his wife, Helen, live in Burlington, Vt., where they own and manage the Burlington Redstone B&B. He has five children and nine grandchildren.

## AWARDS

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

#### Art W. Thiel '75

For his achievements in sports reporting, Art W. Thiel '75 receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Thiel, a columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, has been an important figure in the Puget Sound sports community for more than 30 years. He has covered the Mariners, Sonics and Seahawks, as well as six Olympic Games and national championships including the World Series and the Super Bowl. He was named one of the nation's top 20 sportswriters by Men's Journal.

In 2003, Thiel wrote "Out of Left Field: How the Mariners Made Baseball Fly in Seattle," a book about the history of Seattle baseball.

Thiel's talent and depth of knowledge have earned him respect among the many organizations he writes about. "In addition to being a talented writer, Art is fair and thoughtful and cares greatly about his work and the role of sports in this community," said Randy Adamack, vice president of communications for the Seattle Mariners.

Gary Wright from the Seattle Seahawks agrees. "While those of us in the sports industry may not always agree with what he writes, he has earned admiration for saying what he believes, saying it with a special flair, and most of all for being a man of integrity."

Thiel graduated with a degree in communication. He and his wife, Julia, live on Vashon Island, Wash.

### OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

#### Dave Hanson '69

For his outstanding work in the area of environmental protection, Dave Hanson '71 receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Hanson has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Arktos Associates, his own land and natural resource consulting company.

More recently, Hanson has provided environmental and natural resource mediation services.

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### OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS AWARD

#### Knut Olson '90

He successfully mediated many controversial public policy disputes regarding topics such as the future of commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park, highway development near Denali National Park, the president's Alaska wetlands policy and Beaufort Sea oil development.

He also served as executive director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office, which manages close to one million acres for the benefit of mental health programs.

In 1972, Hanson led the EPA team that removed lead from gasoline and served as the head of the Transportation Policy Branch, which was responsible for air pollution transportation control plans in 38 metropolitan areas. He helped develop the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that created more than 120 million acres of parks and refuges.

Hanson graduated with a degree in history and received a master of arts degree in history and African studies from the University of Wisconsin. He spoke at last fall's student-run Meant to Live conference that was part of the Wild Hope program.

He lives in Anchorage, with his wife, Sheila. They have two children.

### OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS AWARD

#### Knut Olson '90

For his outstanding work in business, Knut Olson '90 receives the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award.

Olson is a managing partner at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the region of Alaska, Western Washington and Oregon – the youngest person in that position at the company. Four times, he led the company in financial advisor profitability, and in 2004 his sales group was named Thrivent's Regional Financial Office of the Year.

Olson helped coach the PLU crew team and was a driving force in the financing and construction of a boathouse on American Lake. He received a Lute Club Service Award for those efforts in 1998. He was Q Club president from 2001 to 2003.

With his backing, Thrivent has been a sponsor of the PLU Spring Donor Banquet, President's Dinner, Christmas Concert, Lute Club Gold Tournament and the Pathways to Peace symposium.

Olson is active in other community service activities and assisted with the feasibility study for the new cancer center at Good Samaritan Hospital. A member of the Ambassadors Circle of the Norwegian-American Foundation, he was invited to participate in the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize activities in Oslo, Norway.

Olson graduated with a degree in religion. He lives in Lakewood, with his wife, Kimberly '88. They have two children.

### ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

#### Jeni Gregory '95

For her humanitarian efforts helping the world's poor and homeless, Jeni Gregory '95 receives the Alumni Service Award.

In 2002, Gregory helped create World Change for Children, a nonprofit organization that provides services for poor and homeless children and is its vice president. World Change has sent 19 teams overseas, mostly to Eastern European countries, to help children. Its efforts range from providing assistance to providing friendship. This idea is illustrated in the organization's guiding principles of exchange, honesty, and leaving a "light" footprint.

In addition to her volunteer work with World Change, Gregory works full-time for the Tacoma Metropolitan Development Council coordinating mental health services for the homeless.

Gregory has national and international experience in disaster relief and is skilled in providing mental health trauma services. She was a presenter at the Pathways to Peace symposium hosted by the Wang Center for International Programs in January. Gregory graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work. She received a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington in 1996 and is a Ph.D. candidate at Union Institute.

Gregory and her husband, James, live in Tacoma.

### HERITAGE AWARD

#### Lee Zulauf '51, '80

For her lifelong support of PLU, Lee Zulauf '51 '80 receives the Heritage Award. Throughout her career as a teacher Zulauf has been an advocate

of PLU. Along with her husband, Dwight, dean emeritus, Zulauf was a force on the PLU campus. She was on the board of the PLU Women's Club and has been an active participant in the annual Yule Boutique. She has been a member of PLUS Business, the School of Business alumni group, since its inception.

Zulauf graduated in 1951 with a degree in education and taught grade school in Pierce County for many years before returning in 1980 to earn her MBA. She received CPA certification in 1984 and taught accounting at PLU, in New Zealand and at California universities.

In 1993, Zulauf received an award from the National Junior Chamber of Commerce for outstanding work in international relations. For many years, she helped collect and send medical and educational supplies to Latvia.

Among her other community service, Zulauf is a member of the annual Assembly Planning Committee for the Southwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

She lives in Tacoma with her husband. She has three children and eight grandchildren.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

#### Frank and Sandy Jennings

For their longtime support of PLU, Frank and Sandy Jennings receive the Special Recognition Award.

Frank and Sandy have been supporters of PLU since their son was a student in the early 1970s. They joined Q Club in 1975.

In 1991, Frank served on the search committee that brought President Loren Anderson to PLU. He was national chair of The Campaign for Pacific Lutheran University: The Next Bold Step campaign, which raised almost 30 percent more than its \$100 million goal.

Frank was one of the founding members of the council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He was a member of the PLU Board of Regents for 13 years, including five as chairman. He played a critical role in defining the role Lutheran colleges were to play in the ELCA.

Sandy has served on the ELCA's committees on discipline and appeals and chaired the Board of

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### BRIAN C. OLSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

#### Chelsea Blegen '06

### HERITAGE AWARD

#### Lee Zulauf '51, '80

Directors of Lutheran Community Services Northwest. She hosted many events to welcome the Andersons during the president's first year at PLU. She was also active in the most recent campaign. Both are members of the Eastvold Leadership Committee.

Frank and Sandy live in Des Moines, Wash. They have two children and four grandchildren.

### BRIAN C. OLSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

#### Chelsea Blegen '06

For her service to PLU as a student, Chelsea Blegen receives the Brian C. Olson Leadership Award.

Blegen was the executive director of the Student Alumni Association in 2004-2005 and was the student manager for the Admission Office's Red Carpet Club, a student ambassador program for recruitment.

Blegen will graduate in 2006 with a major in religion and minors in Greek and publishing and printing arts. She plans to attend medical school.

"Chelsea's organizational skills, ability to delegate and follow-through are remarkable," said Lauree Hagen '75, '78, director of Alumni and Parent Relations. "She is an outstanding motivator of team members."

Blegen understands the importance of being connected to PLU for life. She believes that a lifelong relationship between alumni and PLU is mutually beneficial.

She is from Scottsdale, Ariz.

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

# 2005