

2015 ALUMNI ACADEMY INDUCTEES

We are very pleased this year to be adding five outstanding alumni to our Academy.

Thomas Englert
Kari Kay Kietzer
Al Pscholka
Donna St. John

Fifteen years ago we created the School of Communication Alumni Academy and an External Advisory Board.

The individuals recognized this evening represent the fifteenth group of inductees into our Alumni Academy.

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we honor them for their career accomplishments and community engagement.

PROGRAM

Refreshments

Welcome

Introduction of Guests

Presentation of Members of the Academy

Alumni Academy Induction

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION ALUMNI ACADEMY

The purpose of the Academy is to give honor and recognition to a select group of our School's outstanding graduate and undergraduate alumni.

2014 Inductees

Michael Ciokajlo
Larry Gelfund
LZ Granderson
Dennis Martin
Holly Ronzi

2013 Inductees

Greg Busch
Ronald English
Michael Evans
Ruth B. Heinig
Kate McCallum

2012 Inductees

Nancy Burrell
Carleen Crawford
James Mulcrone

2011 Inductees

Joseph Edward Colucci
Nancy Greer-Williams
Mary Jane Mapes
T.R. Reid
Gregory Taylor

2010 Inductees

Jonathan Blakley
John Fortino
Kelly Heidbreder
Paul Heidbreder
Paul Nwulu
Deirdre Bryant Worth

2009 Inductees

Angela Jacobs
Ronald Jarvis
Michele Serbenski
Judith Trent

2008 Inductees

June Cottrell
Gary Dembs
Laurel Cottrell DeVarney
Patricia Dolly
Curt Fonger
Claudia Marshall
Neil Smith
Timothy Terrentine
Shirley Woodworth



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
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THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ALUMNI ACADEMY INDUCTION AND RECEPTION

School of Communication
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Western Michigan University

THE OAKLANDS
Thursday, October 22, 2015
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Englert
B.A., Communication, 1975

Thomas P. Englert is the past CEO of Discount Tire Company, Inc., the world's largest tire and wheel retailer operating more than 900 stores in 28 states across the country.

While a student at WMU, Mr. Englert worked as an assistant store manager for a Discount Tire near campus. A 1975 WMU graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in communication, he remained at Discount Tire and began to rise in the organization. In 1981 when the company relocated its base of operations to Scottsdale, Arizona, Mr. Englert followed.

In 2004, Mr. Englert moved from his position as executive vice president overseeing supply chain and purchasing to leading the company as CEO. He oversaw Discount Tire's expansion from 23 to 900 stores and under his leadership annual sales grew from \$1.8 to \$4.3 billion. In 2014 the Arizona Business Leadership Association selected Discount Tire to receive its 2014 Leadership award. This award recognizes Arizona businesses that have a strong company culture, financial growth, community involvement, and business education. In 2015 Forbes Magazine ranked Discount Tire as the 118th largest privately held U.S. company. In January, 2015, Mr. Englert stepped down from his CEO position but he continues as an advisor and member of the board of directors.

Mr. Englert and his wife, Cindy, live in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Active in his community, Mr. Englert serves as president of the Cheney Ranch Estates Homeowners Association and both he and Mrs. Englert are life members in the WMU Alumni Association.

Kari Kay Kietzer
B.A., Communication, 1999

Kari Kay Kietzer is a talented program manager with many years experience in non-profit and for-profit venues. Currently Kari is an international Independent Consultant who develops, researches and writes anti-corruption curriculum and reports for the U.S. Military, NATO and international NGOs.

Early in her career Kari spent many years at the University of Miami building and managing a portfolio of over 1000 alumni and soliciting more than \$100k annually.

In 2011 Kari received her Masters in International Relations from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She then became an integral member of the

program design team at the U.S. Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She played a key role in the creation of counter-corruption training courses for military and civilian personnel deploying to Afghanistan. Following this assignment, the Commander of the Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-Shafafiyat requested her to serve as the Counter-Corruption Strategic Liaison and to further counter-/anti-corruption curriculum development. While in Kabul, Kari was chosen to serve in CJIATF-Afghanistan. In this capacity, she was the initiator and conceptual designer of a three-pronged strategic study plan to influence U.S. and NATO doctrine and policy related to anti-corruption planning, operation and stabilization. She also served as the International Security Assistance Force Commander's project liaison. She and her team delivered the first NATO study examining the intersection of anti-corruption and strategic operations while researching the best practices and challenges for anti-corruption in post-conflict states.

At WMU Kari joined Delta Gamma Fraternity's Epsilon Rho Chapter and remains an active member. She also serves as a Board Member for The Economic Club of Southwest Michigan.

Al Pscholka
B.S., Communication, 1984

State Representative Al Pscholka is serving his third term in the Michigan House of Representatives as Chairman of the powerful Appropriations Committee. In 2015, he was named "Most Effective" member of the House by the Michigan Information and Research Services (MIRS). He was named Freshman Legislator of the Year in 2011.

Pscholka started his career in broadcasting, working as a news anchor/reporter for WMUK, the broadcasting service of Western Michigan University. He continues broadcasting on a part time basis today, providing play-by-play commentary for high school football on WSJM in Benton Harbor/St. Joseph.

He was part owner of Cosy Broadcasting, a group of five radio stations in Southwest Michigan before selling the stations in 1996. Pscholka was then Vice President of Cornerstone Alliance, an economic development group in Southwest Michigan for nine years, before becoming District Director for U.S. Representative Fred Upton. He also served his community for eight years on the Lincoln Township Board of Trustees before running for the State House in 2010.

Pscholka was a mentor in the Benton Harbor schools for 19 years, starting a reading mentoring program there, and has served on a number of community boards and volunteer programs in Berrien County.

He is married to his wife Suzanne, they have one daughter, Angela, and he lives in Lincoln Township. Pscholka is a 1984 graduate of Western Michigan University.

Donna St. John
M.A., Communication, 1987

Donna St. John retired from Western Michigan University in spring 2015 after 30 years of service to students. She spent 24 of those years in the Office of Admissions.

Donna began her career at WMU as a Residence Hall Director in the Ackley/Shilling Residence Halls. She remembers those days fondly and credits that experience with launching her career-long passion for working with undergraduate students.

When she began in the Office of Admissions, Donna first served as the Orientation Coordinator where she implemented orientation sessions for incoming freshman and transfer students. After 15 years of service to the WMU Orientation program, Donna became the Associate Director of Admissions and was responsible for undergraduate recruitment and the coordination of admission publications until her retirement. In 2006 the Donna St. John Leadership Award was established to honor Donna's service to WMU's orientation program and further honors her mentoring of the many student orientation leaders who benefited from her guidance. Each year one exemplary student orientation leader who reflects Donna's leadership qualities and the values she brought to her work is selected to receive this honor.

In retirement Donna is enjoying time with family and friends.



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