

Annual Alumni Association awardees to receive recognition

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The Alfred University Alumni Association has selected seven alumni and friends to be honored with awards during the association's annual luncheon on Saturday of Reunion Weekend, June 14. Two alumni will receive an Alfred University Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement: J. Robert Lunney '50 and Dr. Peggy J. Wozniak '72. The award is given to a graduate whose achievements in his/her profession, career, or avocational pursuits, or service to society, bring honor and distinction to Alfred University. Alumni receiving the award must have demonstrated loyalty and commitment to the University. Lunney, retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and a partner in Lunney & Murtagh LLC, White Plains, NY, resides in Bronxville, NY. He was nominated by Herbert MacDonell, '50. Lunney's duties during World War II included 11 months' service in the Pacific Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, and Iwo Jima, for which he was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. During the Korean War, Lunney saw combat at the Pusan Perimeter and the Inchon Landing. For his combat service at Hungnam, North Korea, in support of the Choisin Reservoir Campaign, he was decorated for his courage and resourcefulness in the successful evacuation of 14,000 military and refugees. The Guinness World Records have recognized this dramatic rescue as the greatest rescue operation ever by a single ship. Lunney has also been decorated by the Secretary of the Navy with Distinguished Public Service Award for his dedication and leadership in improving the strength and readiness of the Navy and the capabilities of the Department of Defense to carry out essential wartime missions. Having been designated by the Department of Defense, Admiral Lunney, on two occasions, traveled to North Korea to observe joint recovery operations of American war dead. Lunney received a doctor of law degree from Cornell Law School and served for five years as an assistant U.S. attorney in New York, and continues to practice law in New York. Among his many civic and charitable activities he has served as the National president of the Naval Reserve Association and later as the national president of the Sons of the Revolution. Wozniak, of Binghamton, NY, earned a bachelor of arts degree at AU in elementary education. She also holds a master in education degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and earned an Ed.D. in educational management from the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA. She was nominated for the award by Sarah Holtzapple, director of grants and research at the University. In her nomination letter, Holtzapple wrote: "Wozniak is clearly an alumna who has achieved a tremendous amount in her profession. She became superintendent of the Binghamton City School District in August 2002. Previously, she was superintendent of Mammoth Unified School District in Mammoth Lakes, CA. The Association of California School Administrators named her the Superintendent of the Year for 2000. Before becoming superintendent in the Mammoth District, Wozniak worked as a reading teacher, assistant principal, elementary school principal, and middle school principal. "As more testimony to how highly regarded Wozniak is in her profession, former Gov. Spitzer appointed Wozniak to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board in August 2007. The Cabinet was created to make sure young children get into high-quality, pre-K and other early learning programs." Holtzapple goes on to say: "Peggy has demonstrated her loyalty to the University through her involvement and visits to campus. She was on campus to speak in February 2007 as part of the women of Influence speaker series at the Women's Leadership Center. While on campus, Peggy participated in the Employer-in-Residence program at the Career Development Center. She also created a podcast which can be found on the CDC Web site." Enid Borden '72, of Alexandria, VA, is the recipient of the 2008 Alfred University Alumni Award for Distinguished Service, given to an alumnus in recognition of loyalty and commitment in service to AU. She was nominated by Mark McFadden, director of the Career Development Center. "Despite Enid's busy schedule and weighty responsibilities, she always finds time for her alma mater. During the past year, Enid made two trips to Alfred and served as a panelist for a student trip to the Washington, DC area," wrote McFadden. After Alfred, Borden went on to Adelphi University where she earned a master's degree. She also received a Certificate of Completion in "Essentials of Decision Making" from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Borden's work has also earned her recognition in "Who's Who in the Media and Communications." Borden serves as the president and chief executive officer of the Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), the oldest and largest organization in the United States representing those who provide meal services to people in need. During her 15-year tenure at MOWAA, she has directed the day-to-day operations of the Association and has provided leadership to the organization during a period of significant growth and innovative partnership development. Borden's educational and professional backgrounds have been in the area of communications. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, magazine editor and publisher, radio commentator, and TV producer. Borden has also held numerous public affairs and policy positions in the public sector,

including deputy commissioner of policy and external affairs for the Social Security Administration and director of public affairs and director of legislative affairs for what was then the Office of Human Development and Services, which included the Administration on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Borden has served on the faculty in the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies at Goucher College in Baltimore, where she is an instructor of public speaking. She has recently become involved in training traumatically brain-injured adults to speak in public. The 2008 Abigail Allen Award for Service to Women goes to Teri Knopf Pullara '88. The award honors an Alfred alumnus/a in recognition of distinctive career achievement, community service, or avocational pursuits that have improved the quality of women's lives. Pullara was nominated by Kathy Woughter, vice president for Student Affairs; Amy Jacobson, director of the AU Women's Leadership Center; and Dr. Laura Greyson, professor of political science. Pullara graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering and minors in mathematics and marketing. She went on to earn a master of arts degree in adult education and human resource development from Seattle University. She has worked for Merrill Lynch in corporate leader development, Penguin Putnam Publishing as director of training and development, and Boeing Commercial Airplane Group in organization and management development. She is now a principal of Knopf Consulting-Individual and Organizational Effectiveness. An active member of the Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board and a past member of both AU's Alumni Council and the Dean's Executive Advisory Board of the College of Business, Pullara has also conducted a business seminar as well as three seminars at the Women's Leadership Center on conflict management, meeting management, and time management. In addition, Pullara sponsors the Women's Excellence in Leadership Awards at the University. Richard Widdicombe '63 will receive the Lillian T. Nevins Award for Lifetime Service to Alfred University. He was nominated by classmate Joan Potter '63. The Lillian Nevins Award is given to honor an alumnus who has rendered outstanding service to the University. It is reserved for those who, throughout a period of many years, has worked with interest, intelligence, and success to promote the highest interests of Alfred University and alumni. Widdicombe served on the Alfred University Board of Trustees, co-chaired his class reunion, organized alumni lists via computer, and is responsible for many students attending AU. His columns in the Alfred Reporter, the former alumni newsletter, are legendary. Martha herself is a recipient of the Alfred University Honorary Alumna Recognition Award. She too was nominated by Potter. The award is given to a non-graduate in recognition of interest, allegiance, and service to Alfred University and alumni. Widdicombe, along with her husband, has opened their home to hundreds of AU students since 1963. She hosted and planned all of the gatherings. Dr. Wes Bentz, professor emeritus of chemistry, is also a recipient of an Alfred University Honorary Alumnus Recognition Award. He was nominated by Holtzapple. Bentz is a 1965 graduate of Whitman College and received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Rochester. He has contributed to the Alfred University community for 37 years. He is the winner of seven Excellence in Teaching Awards. He chaired the University Faculty Council and was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Health Professions. Bentz also served as chairman of the Department of Chemistry. In 2005, he was presented with the Kruson Distinguished Professor Award for his decades of outstanding service, as well as the Sullivan Award by the Corning Section of the American Chemical Society for his contributions to the profession of chemistry and to his Section. He chaired the Section and served on its executive committee for a number of years. For more than a decade, Bentz worked with the American Red Cross and campus colleagues to coordinate at least two blood drives each academic year. The drives became the largest in the county. He is also a member of Alfred's A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Co. (for more than 35 years) and the Allegany County Hazardous Materials Response Team.