



Alumni Achievement
AWARDS

Celebration & Dinner

OCTOBER 17, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF **SIoux FALLS**

Award Descriptions

ALUMNI PACESETTER AWARD

Established in 1986, the Alumni Pacesetter Award is presented to a University of Sioux Falls alumnus of 35 years of age or under. This award recognizes alumni who have made a noticeable impact in their chosen field. Demonstrating Christian values and faith, nominees should have achieved noteworthy accomplishments through outstanding leadership and creativity.

DR. FIRMAN A. EARLY DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AWARD

This award is named in honor of Dr. Firman A. Early, an esteemed faculty member of the University of Sioux Falls from 1944 to 1978. This award recognizes alumni who have completed at least 10 years of ministry and have demonstrated exemplary leadership in Christian ministry, their church and their community.

LOIS HARCHANKO DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARD

In honor of Lois Harchanko, this award recognizes her many years of distinguished service as a teacher, mentor and friend of the University of Sioux Falls. The award acknowledges alumni who reflect honor upon the University by their accomplishments in the field of music and to their church, humankind and their profession.

DR. A. O. LARSEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

In honor of Dr. A. O. Larsen, this award recognizes his many years of distinguished service as a teacher, dean and friend of the University of Sioux Falls. The award acknowledges alumni who have been out of school five or more years and who reflect honor upon the University by their service to their church, humankind and their profession.



See the list of past recipients and nominate a deserving alumnus for next year's Alumni Achievement Awards.

usiouxfalls.edu/alumni/awards

ALUMNI PACESETTER AWARD RECIPIENT



ROBERT BROCKMUELLER '15

Robert Brockmueller grew up in Brandon, SD, and decided to attend the University of Sioux Falls alongside his twin brother, William, in the fall of 2010. That summer before attending USF, he started a small side hustle with his graduation money: buying broken Xbox 360s, fixing them and then reselling them. Throughout college, his business grew into much more than just repairing Xbox 360s. He started selling other video games, electronics and toys online, and he would drive home two or three times per week to ship items and take care of other business operations. He ran track and cross country while attending USF and graduated in 2015 with bachelor's degrees in business administration, computer science and computer information systems. Instead of searching for a job in developing computer software, he decided to go all in on his business and to start building a team to help. Since he started in 2010, he's seen his company evolve from the spare bedroom to the garage, to a little strip mall space in Brandon, to a small warehouse unit, to a few warehouse units, to now, a newly constructed 64,000 sq. ft. warehouse and refurbishment facility. Bobby currently resides in Sioux Falls and runs his company, CaveGamers, out of the newly constructed warehouse on the west side of Sioux Falls. He enjoys guitar, snowboarding, hiking, running, biking and playing retro video games in his free time.

ALUMNI PACESETTER AWARD RECIPIENT



JACQUELYN DOOYEMA '12

Jacquelyn (Trego) Dooyema has been a pelvic floor physical therapist for nearly a decade and is the owner of Fearless Physiotherapy, offering in-home women's health physical therapy services across the region. Jackie has been a practicing PT since 2015, earning her Bachelor of Science degree at USF and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of South Dakota. Following a few years of outpatient orthopedic work, God led her to become a pelvic floor PT when she and her husband moved to Nashville, TN, where she was the clinic director of an outpatient pelvic specialty clinic. Upon returning to South Dakota, her family claimed she gained a southern accent, but what she really came away with was a desire to care for pregnant and postpartum women. She realized a significant need for specific education and care for these women in the region and founded Fearless Physiotherapy. Jackie holds unique training in obstetrics physical therapy and works with women to improve aches and pains during pregnancy. She guides her patients with proper modifications while pregnant to help them continue to do what they enjoy, addressing all things related to the birthing process to prepare patients for labor and delivery. Jackie assists in postpartum recovery and navigating what's normal and what's not in their postpartum journey, whether days, weeks or years post-baby. She is passionate about pelvic physical therapy for women. Jackie desires to bridge the gap in care, as well as advocate, educate and strengthen prenatal and postpartum women to help them achieve their highest activity potential. Jackie and her husband, Sam Dooyema (a 2013 USF alumnus), reside in Sioux Falls and are the parents to three beautiful children: Hannah, Josiah and Cora.

DR. FIRMAN A. EARLY DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AWARD RECIPIENT



JOHN FULLER '86

John Fuller got his degree in social science at Sioux Falls College before attending Denver Seminary and receiving his Masters of Divinity degree in 1990. Since then, he has been in full-time pastoral ministry. John first served at the First Baptist Church in Forest, City, IA, for seven years. God then called John to First Baptist Church in Cedar Falls, IA, in 1998. When he arrived, the church had approximately 180 attendees, and incredible growth occurred after his arrival. The church would later move into a new building and become Prairie Lakes Church in 2005. Now, the church has eight campuses across Iowa with an average weekly attendance of 3,300. John has served as senior pastor of Prairie Lakes Church for 25 years and is now the founding and teaching pastor. He serves as the secondary teaching pastor on the weekends, supports the lead pastor and provides general support in other key aspects of Prairie Lakes ministries and environments such as expansion, men's ministry and young leaders. His passion for rural church ministry has fueled their growth and positioned him to lead a cohort of Iowa pastors for several years. John has also served on the Board of Overseers for Converge National. John and his wife, Kay, live in Cedar Falls near their three grown kids and 11 grandkids. Spend just five minutes with John and you'll know he loves Jesus, his family and the Denver Broncos.

LOIS HARCHANKO DISTINGUISHED MUSIC AWARD RECIPIENT



MONICA D. PHILLIPS '96

Monica D. (Ernst) Phillips is an accomplished elementary music teacher with a rich educational background and a passion for music education. Holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in K-12 vocal and instrumental education from University of Sioux Falls and a Master of Arts degree in music education from Adams State University, Monica has dedicated her career to teaching and to music ministry. Her excellence in education has been recognized with numerous accolades, including being twice nominated for Teacher of the Year, receiving the Sallie Mae First-Year Teacher Award, the Harrison School District Red Apple Award, the 1996 USF Outstanding Secondary Education Major and a USF Purple Feather Award. Beyond the classroom, Monica actively contributes to her community as a member of her church worship team, various community ensembles and the Valley Symphony Orchestra. She finds joy in gardening and is committed to her ambitious goal of mastering every instrument in the band and orchestra. Currently, she plays the piano, flute, acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, French horn, bassoon and trumpet, in addition to being a vocalist. Originally from Gillette, WY, Monica now lives in Montrose, CO, with her husband, Joe. Monica is a proud mother of two grown children and a son-in-law. Her mission is to equip and enable musicians to participate in music to glorify God and expand His kingdom. Monica is distinguished by her flexibility and unwavering willingness to follow God's call, striving to bloom wherever she is planted.

DR. A. O. LARSEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT



DR. THOMAS A. JESCHKE '64

Dr. Thomas Jeschke was born in 1942 in Dayton, OH, and adopted by Reuben and Sabina Jeschke. He was raised in Sioux Falls and graduated from Sioux Falls College with a teaching degree in 1964. During his time at Sioux Falls College, he was an exchange student in the Philippines. In 1963, Tom married Conni Bishop. They moved to Greeley, CO, where he completed his master's and doctorate degrees in special education at the University of Northern Colorado. In 1965, Tom began his career as a teacher in Sioux Falls. Moving to Des Moines, IA in 1970, he started as principal at Rose School. Dr. Jeschke was known to his colleagues, staff and students as a compassionate, caring educator who received many awards during his tenure at the Des Moines Public Schools. In 1977, he became director and then executive director of special education, expanding to executive director of student services in 1990. He served the district for 33 years. Tom also served as chair of the school district's Pupil Assignment Council, Executive Council Administrators for Special Education and was a member of the Juvenile Justice Task Force. He was a board member of the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities, Iowa Special Olympics, Polk County Health Service Board and Easter Seals Advisory Board. Tom enjoyed spending time with family, friends, his dogs, grilling, golfing, traveling and fishing. He was a creative artist, developing skills in carving, painting, pottery, stained glass and much more. Dr. Jeschke passed away on March 20, 2023, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

DR. A. O. LARSEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT



ELIAS KIFON BONGMBA '87

Elias Kifon Bongmba earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communications and sociology from Sioux Falls College in 1987, graduating cum laude. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls in 1989, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Iowa and Ph.D. in philosophy and theology from the University of Denver and the Illiff School of Theology. Since 1995, he has held the Harry and Hazel Chavanne Chair in Christian Theology in the department of religion at Rice University, where he teaches African Religions and World Christianity. He has also directed several doctoral and master's theses and served as evaluator for 14 international dissertations. Elias has published three books, coauthored a fourth book and edited six books and 80 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters. He has delivered 93 invited lectures and 73 conference papers around the world. His many public engagements include lectures for the President Thabo Mbeki Institute and also The Thabo Mbeki Presidential Library in South Africa. Elias and his wife, Dr. Odelia Bongmba, founded the Wimbun Cultural and Development Association. They have worked with that association and other donors to raise money for Ndu Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. Elias and Odelia are members of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, TX, where Odelia sings in the sanctuary choir. Their immediate family includes three adult sons, Donald, Dino and Douglas, their daughter in-law Dr. Mabel Bongmba and two grandchildren, Amara and Ikem.

Program

Welcome..... Dr. Brett Bradfield, President

Prayer Matt Styles, Campus Pastor

Awards Presentation.....Dustin Sedars,
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Joe Obermueller,
Vice President for Academic Affairs

ALUMNI PACESETTER AWARD

Robert Brockmueller '15
Jacquelyn Dooyema '12

DR. FIRMAN A. EARLY DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AWARD

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DR. A.O. LARSEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Dr. Thomas A. Jeschke '64
Elias Kifon Bongmba '87

Closing