

Reunion Week 2020

Virtual Reception & Awards Program



Reunion Week 2020

Virtual Reception & Awards Program

Friday, July 10, 2020

CELEBRATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE
2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS AND
CLASS GIVING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTIONS

WELCOME REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF CLASS GIFTS

CONCLUSION OF VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION

PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI AWARDS

ALMA MATER

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Romeyn Prescott '92

Alumni Association Board of Trustees President



Reunion Week 2020

REUNION CLASS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dan Cottrell '70
Helen Dick '70
Bill Flynn '70
Jerry Ghidiu '70
Ralph Hastings '70
Carol Dumka '75
Debbie Diefendorf Hind '75
Jennifer Mathews '95
Michael Paestella '95
Jessica Moquin '00
Allison Bourquin O'Reilly '10
Durriya Pierce '10

Thank You!

To all of you who celebrated Reunion with us by making a gift, thank you.
Your generosity ensures a strong Potsdam for future generations.

To those who made our very first virtual Reunion Week possible,
thank you for helping us connect with alumni, near and far.



Reunion Week 2020

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2019-2020

President

Romeyn Prescott '92

President-Elect

Sarah Farrell Partner '78

Interim Vice President

Sarah Mack '04

Secretary

Peter Galloway '83

Julia E. Crane

Alumni Board President

Carol Dumka '75

School of Education

Alumni Board Liaison

Vernice Ives Church '61

Trustees

Colleen McAllister Cicotta '07

Matthew Cotty '09

Cheryl Cummings Evans '83

Lance Evans '83

Annie Higgins-Schild '05

BethAnne Crowder Hutchinson '82

Kristen Johnson-Jones '86

Steven King '06

Michael Lahendro '77

Jennifer Mathews '95

DeShawn McGarrity '98

Michael Paestella '95

Joshua Rich '10

Courtney White Rust '15

Beverly Santos '10

Philip Shatraw '79

Donald Tompkins '68

Reunion Week 2020

JULIA E. CRANE ALUMNI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2019-2020

President

Carol Dumka '75

Vice President

Joshua Redman '11

Secretary

Jamie Morter LaBarge '06

Treasurer

Timothy Savage '84

Dean

Michael Sitton

Trustees

Jane Beck '80

Erin Bonner '14

Madeleine Abler Calhoun '83

Cindy Donaldson '82

Ralph Hastings '70

Cynthia Symanski Lee '85

Allison Bourquin O'Reilly '10

Melinde Mospaw Poupore '79

Audrey Saccone '12

Jerome Socolof '07

Brianne Wicks Sterling '10

Michael Struzik '88

Jane Gatta Subramanian '72

Amie Grossman Vredenburg '99

Dale Zurbrick '68

Reunion Week 2020

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2019-2020

President

David Vroman '83

Vice President

Nicole Feml Conant '08

Secretary

Anita Mance '69

Treasurer

Mark Bennett '00

Dean

Allen Grant

Trustees

Alyssa Ashlaw '16

Donna Collett Ce'Cartel '81

Vernice Ives Church '61

Mark Davey '84

Michele Delperuto '71

Kathy White Finnerty '75

Janie Davies Fitzgerald '88

Gregory Geer '76

Johnathan Hirschey '05

John Liquori '12

Judith Comstock Liscum '62

Kim Dadson O'Neil '77

Leon Robert Jr. '77

Mary Steinburg Rutley '60

Sharon Sainsbury '86

Terry Tiernan '74

Susan Brown Todd '88

Reunion Week 2020

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Alumni Scholarship is presented annually to a Potsdam student(s) whose parent or grandparent graduated from SUNY Potsdam. The student must be nominated by his or her parent or grandparent and can be an incoming freshman, transfer student or current student.

If you would like more information on how you can nominate your child or grandchild, please contact the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Relations Office or visit our website at: www.potsdam.edu/alumni/services/scholarship

The 2020-2021 Alumni Association Scholarship recipients are:

Analiese Meidenbauer

Porter Corners, NY

Daughter of Heidi Schweikert Meidenbauer '89
and Michael Meidenbauer '87

Natalie Monnat

Croghan, NY

Daughter of Gilbert Monnat '89

Chloe Nemier

Massena, NY

Daughter of Esther Lattimer Nemier '94

Emma Norris

Ballston Lake, NY

Daughter of Amy Bird Norris '93 and Kevin Norris '92

Kaitlyn Sibley

Heuvelton, NY

Daughter of Lori Montgomery Sibley '94



Reunion Week 2020

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

ST. LAWRENCE ACADEMY MEDAL

Presented to an alum who has made significant contributions to the field of professional education or related fields.

Jan Harting-McChesney '74

HELEN M. HOSMER EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC TEACHING AWARD

Presented to an alum in public school music education who has demonstrated exemplary service in any of the areas of choral, instrumental or general music education.

Diane Ercolini Havern '92

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Presented to a non-alum who has made exceptional contributions to the Alumni Association and/or the College.

Michael R. Sitton

RISING STAR AWARD

Presented to an alum who has demonstrated outstanding professional achievement in the first decade following graduation.

Joshua R. Redman '11

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presented to an alum who has made exceptional contributions to the Alumni Association and/or the College.

Michael J. Paestella '95

MINERVA AWARD

Presented to an alum who has demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, the Alumni Association's highest honor.

John R. Angier '88
Eileen Goss Whelley '76



ST. LAWRENCE ACADEMY MEDAL



Jan Harting-McChesney '74

As a K-12 educator, coach and administrator, and more recently as a college professor and researcher, Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney's record reflects her lifelong commitment to ensuring that all learners receive high-quality instruction. Throughout her long and successful career, Jan has truly exemplified the qualities central to this award.

Jan has been an educator for 46 years, beginning as a student at SUNY Potsdam and continuing through the present day as a professor at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, New York. As a Head Start instructor and later as an elementary school teacher, Jan often taught children who were considered by some to be "throw-away kids" who had been given up on by others but who Jan worked hard to reach. It was this experience that led Jan to pursue a master's degree in special education, one of three master's degrees that she earned before ultimately earning a doctorate in education.

In 1991, Jan was hired for a tenured position as a faculty member in the Child Study Department at St. Joseph's College, where she teaches courses on literacy, special education and child development. She also supervises student teachers and has managed her department's clinic for local school children who receive hands-on instruction from college students.

As she has dedicated her life's work to preparing outstanding teachers, and to acknowledge and honor the excellent education she received at SUNY Potsdam, Jan established the Harting-McChesney Endowment Fund to provide financial support for the Branching Out With Books program administered by the College's Sheard Literacy Center. The program provides literacy mentoring on site to high-need outlying school districts in St. Lawrence County. In addition to her financial support, Jan has become a knowledgeable partner, friend and project cheerleader whose rich experiences as a practitioner and researcher help this program to thrive.

In recognition of her leadership, dedication and outstanding career in education, and in gratitude for her service and generosity to the College, the SUNY Potsdam School of Education and Professional Studies Alumni Association is proud to present the 2020 St. Lawrence Academy Medal to Dr. Jan Harting-McChesney, Class of 1974.



HELEN M. HOSMER EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC TEACHING AWARD



Diane Ercolini Havern '92

Described by her superintendent as “a rock star teacher,” Diane Havern is the type of educator whom administrators hope every teacher aspires to be.

Diane has worked in the Hudson Falls School District for her entire 27-year career, adopting chorus and general music roles at all grade levels. The majority of students who join the choir in middle school stay with Diane through high school as well. Her students say that it is because of her passion for music and her ability to make choir fun and rewarding.

In addition to teaching, Diane serves as her district’s music department head. She devotes a large portion of her time to preparing students for state-wide solo festivals, and her students have attended area all-state and all-county choral festivals, where they regularly earn high honors.

Diane has directed 22 stellar musicals for her district, and her productions and students participate in the Proctor’s Musical Theater Awards program with 30 other area school districts. In 2018, her students won best ensemble, best set, and best musical. Last year, among other top awards, one of Diane’s students won best actor, and he went on to participate in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (the Jimmy’s) in New York City. This student is only one of many who have chosen careers in music theatre with Diane’s encouragement.

While such honors are indeed remarkable, they are even more so given the fact that Hudson Falls is in a socio-economically depressed region. A former student who is now a colleague said, “Diane is a teacher who you will remember forever, not just for the lessons she taught but how she made you feel wanted, important and valued as a person.” Another colleague said, “She has helped kids through their worst times, and she has celebrated with them their best times.”

In addition to being a gifted teacher, Diane is also a talented pianist. In the words of a former student who is now a member of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Diane’s “strengths as a conductor come from her attention to beauty and clarity as a fine pianist.”

In recognition of her passion and dedication to her students, and to music education, the Julia E. Crane Alumni Association is proud to present Diane Havern, Class of 1992, with the 2020 Helen Hosmer Excellence in Music Teaching Award.



HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP



Michael R. Sitton

As Dean of The Crane School of Music, Dr. Michael Sitton has honored the legacy of Julia E. Crane by fostering a community of learning and musicianship.

From 2009 until his very recent retirement, Michael Sitton gained the respect of students, faculty, staff, emeriti, and alumni alike. As he traveled throughout the nation, Michael was an excellent ambassador for Crane and its traditions.

During his tenure, Michael instilled in his faculty a renewed devotion to high quality, innovative music education, along with an expectation for high-quality performance. In the words of one proud alumna, it is because of Michael's leadership that the atmosphere at the School "is one of family, where students know that they are valued by the faculty."

In his quiet, unassuming way, Michael led the School to new heights. Under his leadership, enrollment at Crane reached record levels. He developed innovative ways of communicating to prospective students the advantages of studying at Crane. He also invited alumni to participate in audition days for prospective students to welcome them and their families and to talk about their Crane experiences.

Michael has been extremely supportive of the work of the Crane Alumni Board and the creation of the Crane alumni network, which increases communication between Crane and its alumni and positively impacts our students. He was also able to develop close relationships with Crane emeriti, allowing the College to celebrate their many accomplishments and keep them close to the College. Michael was honest about the opportunities and need for support at Crane. He built relationships with alumni and friends that resulted in millions of dollars in philanthropic gifts that have transformed our campus. And he led by example, establishing the Sitton-Martin Scholarship at Crane with his partner.

Despite the many demands as Dean, Michael made time to attend numerous Crane concerts and recitals to show his support for both students and faculty. As a musician and composer himself, he often performed as pianist in concerts and recitals, while many of his compositions were included in performances.

In recognition of his generosity and personal commitment to carry on the deep traditions of Julia Crane and Helen Hosmer, along with his numerous contributions to SUNY Potsdam and The Crane School of Music, the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association is proud to bestow upon Dr. Michael R. Sitton, Honorary Lifetime Membership.



RISEING STAR AWARD



Joshua R. Redman '11

Since graduating nine years ago with dual degrees in Music Business and Music Performance, Josh Redman has worked tirelessly to not only build a successful career in business, but also to establish himself as a respected clarinetist and teacher and to give back to his alma mater.

Josh began his career at D'Addario and Company, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of music accessories. Over his seven-year tenure with the company, he oversaw the development and reconstruction of their Reserve line of professional clarinet reeds and mouthpieces. He also founded the D'Addario Woodwinds Method Program, a grassroots educational business development program that employed 40 clarinet and saxophone clinicians. The program resulted in an 800% gross sales increase in the product lines.

A former D'Addario colleague wrote, "Josh's musical pedigree and extraordinary talent within the field of music... are formidable. His development as both a musician and a business professional make Josh an absolute force to be reckoned with in our industry."

Two years ago, Josh seized an opportunity for career advancement by taking a position as product manager with Leviton, the largest privately held manufacturer of electrical wiring equipment in North America. Six months after joining the company, Josh was given sole ownership of an important and demanding product line in need of strategic vision. Josh is not only a leader but a compassionate, positive person who has the unique ability to make everyone feel important and special when he is with them.

As a passionate musician, Josh appears regularly with Cross-Island, a cello-clarinet-piano trio and has performed chamber music at venues across the New York metro area. Josh maintains an active private studio of middle school, high school and college students. He has presented lectures on clarinet pedagogy and equipment at various universities throughout the country.

Since graduation, Josh has given back to his alma mater as a guest presenter and performer and is the vice president of the Crane School of Music Alumni Board. He also served as development chair for the Crane Alumni Chorus and Orchestra Festival on Long Island and as an alumni representative at numerous audition days, admissions open house events and college receptions each year.

In recognition of his outstanding accomplishments so early in his career, and in appreciation for his dedicated service and support to the College's alumni programs, the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association is proud to present the 2020 Rising Star Award to Josh Redman, Class of 2011.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Michael J. Paestella '95

Mike Paestella's leadership journey at SUNY Potsdam began more than 25 years ago. As a student, among other activities, he served as President of the Student Government Association and was an active member of the Prometheus Fraternity. Today, Mike's love and passion for Potsdam is stronger than ever.

From 2006 to 2019, Mike was a trustee on the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association Board of Trustees. Throughout his tenure on the board, Mike invested considerable time and talent to make both the Association and the College better. His leadership skills were recognized immediately by his fellow board members and the leadership of the College, and he quickly rose through the leadership ranks after only a few years on the board, ultimately serving as vice president, president-elect, president, and, most recently, trustee emeritus.

During his presidency of the board from 2016 to 2018, Mike led the Association's involvement in celebrating the successful conclusion of the College's "Take the Lead" Campaign and Bicentennial festivities, which he said was "a truly amazing time to be a part of the Potsdam family." Mike was especially honored to be the President of the Board during this time and took great pride in the Alumni Association's contribution of the park benches and time capsule in front of Satterlee Hall, calling it "a great achievement bringing this wonderful space to life on campus."

Mike's tenure as president also involved a reaffirmation of the Board's effectiveness, with participation in StrengthsQuest training, allowing members to become more aware of their strengths and how they could use them in their personal lives, work and service on the Board. He also challenged the Board to think about diversity, inclusion and equity, hosting the College's chief diversity officer who facilitated a training session and formalized the Board's commitment to diversity.

Mike's contributions to the Board also involved service on numerous committees, and he channeled his energy, enthusiasm and love for SUNY Potsdam into his volunteer service.

In honor of his passion, support and longstanding commitment to SUNY Potsdam and the Alumni Association Board of Trustees, we are proud to present the 2020 Distinguished Service Award to Michael Paestella, Class of 1995.



MINERVA AWARD



John R. Angier '88

John Angier '88 was, by all accounts, a child prodigy. He studied piano starting at the age of six in his hometown of Hudson, Quebec, Canada. He eventually became interested in keyboards and played in rock bands as a teenager.

As a student at The Crane School of Music, John studied classical piano and jazz, where he discovered a love for composing and a love of electronic music. After earning his Bachelor of Music degree in music education in 1988, he continued his studies at New York University where he earned a master's degree in music technology and film music.

Today, John is an award-winning composer and arranger who writes music for film, television and many well-known artists. He has composed scores for over 30 television series, including *The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Yugioh*, *Bubble Guppies*, *Speed Racer: The Next Generation*, *Sonic X*, *Jolly Rabbit*, and *Dinosaur King*.

John has also written themes and other music for *City News* and *City International*, as well as *Breakfast Television* and *Much Music* in Canada. His scores can be heard in over 20 feature films, including *Kurbaan*, *Raajnetti Yugioh* and *Yugioh 3D*, *Pokémon The Movie* and *Pokémon 3*. He has collaborated with many studios including Lionsgate, Nickelodeon, Sesame Street and 4Kids Entertainment.

His gift for writing music for television earned him a 2014 Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction and Composition for his score to the children's show *Bubble Guppies*, which was featured on the network Nickelodeon. John was recently awarded a 2017 Northwest Regional Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his score for the documentary "*Thin Ice: A Polar Bear's Plight*." He has also been nominated for a Canadian Gemini Award and an Annie Award.

John has written orchestral, keyboard and string arrangements for albums by such mainstream artists as Dionne Warwick, Joss Stone, the Jonas Brothers, Paula Abdul, Joan Osborne and Donny Osmond. He works with Academy Award winning Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz as a studio engineer, arranger and producer.

In recognition of his outstanding professional achievements, the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association is proud to present a 2020 Minerva Award to John Angier, Class of 1988.



MINERVA AWARD



Eileen Goss Whelley '76

As an expert Human Resources executive, Eileen Whelley has helped shape the corporate culture of several preeminent companies, including General Electric, where she worked for 17 years. Building upon her success in various industries, from student affairs to insurance, Eileen played a significant role in helping to train and promote diverse leaders at GE. As the executive vice president of human resources, she formed GE's policies on compensation benefits and talent acquisition and planned for the long-term success of that talent. During her tenure at GE, the corporation was consistently rated as the best company at developing executive talent.

At GE's NBC subsidiary, Eileen led the company through acquisitions of Telemundo and the Bravo channel and NBC's merger with Universal. She was also a founding member of the GE Women's Network.

Eileen duplicated her successful experience for another 14 years at The Hartford Insurance Company and later The XL Group. As executive vice president and chief human resources officer at both companies, she worked closely with the executive leadership team and corporate board to build the business and organization. In 2019, Eileen "retired" and formed her own consulting company, working primarily as an executive coach.

Throughout her career, Eileen has valued community service. She is currently a member of the Research Foundation of the State University of New York and a member of the Advisory Board for Teach For America. She also serves her alma mater as a member of the Potsdam College Foundation Board of Trustees, for which she acts as chair of the Trusteeship Committee. Eileen has also endowed a scholarship for women leaders at the College and recently, established the Internship Enablement Fund with fellow alumni to provide students with internship experiences that will help them secure a great job after graduation.

In recognition of her outstanding professional achievements, and in gratitude for her service and generosity to the College, the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association is proud to present a 2020 Minerva Award to Eileen Goss Whelley, Class of 1976.



Reunion Week 2020

ALMA MATER

Performed by Shavon Lloyd '19

Music: Charles O'Neill

Words adapted by Marie Schuette
and Wilmer Trauger

On the banks of Rac-quette Riv-er, With its hills of blue, Stands our
hon-ored Pots-dam Col-lege, Stir-ring sight to view!
Hail Pots-dam Col-lege! In rev-'rence we ac-knowl-edge Strength from
thee, from thee, O Al-ma Ma-ter, Praise, all praise Pots-dam!