Grand Marshal/Heritage Award, Charlie Zane

Charlie Zane came to Winona State after serving in the Army where he excelled in baseball, football and wrestling. He graduated in 1964 with a degree in business education and became one of the all-time great three-sport athletes, lettering nine times. After graduation, Zane began his coaching career at Bay View High School in Milwaukee and soon was persuaded to return to WSU in 1966, where he served in numerous roles. He retired as Student Union Director Emeritus in 1997. After retirement, Zane has remained active at WSU and was inducted into the Winona State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. Zane and his wife Marlys have traveled to 49 states and 25 foreign counties.

2013 WSU Awards of Distinction Honorees

First row left to right: Melissa Schaller, James Reynolds, Nancy Reynolds
Second row left to right: Dr. Erik T. Thostenson, Dr. Darrell Krueger, Jim Eddy, President Scott Olson, Charlie Zane
Not pictured: Mary Jo Schreiber
Distinguished Alumna, Mary Jo Schreiber
Mary Jo Schreiber graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Winona State in 1968. She received her master’s in cardiovascular nursing from the University of Alabama, Birmingham in 1973. She served at U.S. Army Hospitals in San Antonio, Texas and Da Nang, Vietnam. Schreiber is currently the chief nursing officer and vice president at Winter Haven Hospital in Winter Haven, Florida where she has worked since 1979. In 2007, Schreiber was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with their Magnet Award, which recognizes quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice.

Distinguished Young Alumnus, Erik T. Thostenson
Erik T. Thostenson graduated from Winona State in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in composite materials engineering and has gone on to make pioneering contributions to the science and technology of composite materials. After graduating from WSU, Thostenson received his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Delaware where he is currently assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Thostenson has earned numerous awards such as the National Science Foundation Early Career Development Award in 2013, the Young Investigator Proposal Award from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and the Elsevier Young Composites Research Award.

Distinguished Young Alumna, Melissa Schaller
Melissa Schaller graduated cum laude from Winona State in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and special education. She received her master’s degree in special education from the University of St. Thomas in 1999. She currently works as the director of special education for Intermediate School District 917 in Rosemount, MN. Schaller is a recognized leader in her field and since 1992 has been actively involved at the state level. She was elected to serve as president of the executive board of both the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education and the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children.
Distinguished Faculty, Jim Eddy
Professor Emeritus Jim Eddy taught political science at Winona State for 30 years. He received his bachelor of science degree from St. John’s University and his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to joining WSU, Eddy served as an enlisted Marine continuing to serve as a Major until his retirement in 1978. Even though he specialized in international relations and U.S. foreign policy, he taught nearly every course offered in his department. An active community volunteer, Eddy is involved in numerous programs including the Marine Corp’s Toys for Tots, the American Legion, Southeast Minnesota State Parks Association, Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge and the Minnesota Marine Art Museum.

Distinguished Service, James and Nancy Reynolds
James R. Reynolds earned his bachelor’s in social science from Winona State University in 1967 and his master’s in sociology from the University of North Dakota, in 1969. He began his career at Winona State as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology in 1969 and served in a variety of roles including department chairperson and interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts until he retired as Professor Emeritus of Sociology in 2004. Nancy Reynolds earned her bachelor’s in elementary education in 1966 and her master’s in elementary education and reading both from Winona State in 1970. She went on to earn her master’s in environmental education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1995. She taught for thirty years in the Winona Area Public Schools. Both Jim and Nancy continue to invest their time, talent and treasure in many WSU projects including the founding of the Retiree Center, the Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom and the Arboretum.

Distinguished Service, Dr. Darrell Krueger
Darrell W. Krueger was the 13th president of Winona State University serving from 1989 to 2005, and is a nationally recognized leader in outcomes assessment. Following his lead and vision, WSU adopted principles and leadership concepts such as “The Seven Principles of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education,” and, in 2001, he accepted the prestigious Franklin Covey Community Service Award for Winona State. Under his watch, Winona State became one of the most technologically advanced universities in the nation with the Laptop University program and earned national recognition for academics and athletics. Krueger also worked to transform the Winona State campus by replacing the streets that once bisected campus with fountains and beautiful landscaping. Krueger currently resides in Enoch, Utah with his wife, Nancy.