

2009 Awards of Distinction

Each year Winona State University and the Alumni Society recognize individuals for their outstanding commitment to the university, its mission, and to improving our world.

The *Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award* recognizes WSU faculty or staff who have elevated the esteem and prestige of the university through their commitment to the university and all of its constituent groups.

Robert DuFresne earned his bachelor's degree in social sciences from St. Cloud State University in 1950. He continued his education by earning a master's degree in education administration from the University of Colorado – Boulder in 1954. From there, he furthered his education and earned his doctorate degree in administration and political science from the University of North Dakota in 1959.

Since then, DuFresne has had an extensive academic administrative career. He has taught in public schools and was an English professor at Minnesota State University – Mankato. He was the chair of the education division and Director of Teacher Education at Kearney State University. He served as president of WSU from 1967-1977. After his presidency, he taught political science at WSU and later developed and supervised a study abroad program in England.

DuFresne is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. He was a member of the Winona City Council from 1979-1981 and served on the board of directors for several Winona organizations along with the Saint Mary's University Board of Regents.

He has done work overseas, serving as the Good Will Ambassador to Turkey in 1955 and a delegate to the European Parliament elections in 1979. He also participated as a Visiting Professor in England through St. Cloud State University's foreign studies program in 1982.

He has one child, one grandchild and three great grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf in his free time. DuFresne is retired and resides in Winona, Minn., with his wife Barbara.

