



Willowbrook Distinguished Alumni Awards

2015



THOMAS HEDBERG JR.
CLASS OF 2001
INDUCTED – 2015

Thomas Hedberg Jr.

Class: 2001

Accomplishments:

- Professional engineer in the technical and business aspects of the aerospace industry
- Conducted scientific research in the area of product design, manufacturing and lifecycle engineering
- Senior Mechanical Engineer in the Model-Based Enterprise Group, Product Lifecycle Management Department, Engineering Operations at Honeywell Aerospace
- Received his master's degree in Engineering Management from Pennsylvania State University
- Received the Bravo Award Honeywell in recognition of outstanding development and delivery of model-based enterprise deployment training to multiple aerospace sites



CARRIE JOHNSON
CLASS OF 1990
INDUCTED – 2015

Carrie Johnson

Class: 1990

Accomplishments:

- While at Willowbrook, Johnson worked on the Skyline (school newspaper) as Editor in Chief and Sports Editor
- She was a member of the Quill and Scroll honor society, as well as the National Honor Society
- Received the Society of Professional Journalists regional award in 1993
- Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for team coverage of the Fort Hood Shooting in 2010
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Distinguished Service Award from the School of Journalism
- Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award in the radio category in 2015





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RICK KURASZ
CLASS OF 1990
INDUCTED – 2015

Rick Kurasz

Class: 1990

Accomplishments:

- While at Willowbrook, Kurasz was part of the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Orchestra and Marching Band
- Class President his junior and senior years
- Received the John Phillip Sousa Award his senior year
- Received his DMA from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in music performance and literature in 2007
- Professor of music, percussion at Western Illinois University since 2002
- Performed as a soloist and ensemble member multiple times at the Percussion Arts Society International Convention
- Traveled to Japan and Trinidad for performances



JIM MEDFORD
CLASS OF 1974
INDUCTED – 2015

Jim Medford

Class: 1974

Accomplishments:

- Track and field 4 years varsity letter; top 5 in Conference in mile run; Cross-country 4 years varsity letter
- Recipient of the Silver Crescent of South Carolina
- The name sake of The James Medford Family Event Center on Piedmont Technical College's Greenwood Campus
- Chairman, President, CEO of Arron Industries Inc.
- Chairman, Owner of The Links at Stoney Point
- 2013 recipient of the Order of the Crescent by the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce (South Carolina's highest award for volunteer service for his work with Healthy Learners)





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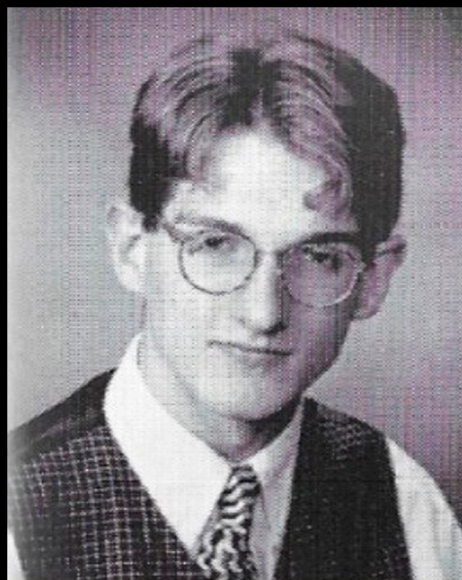


RON RAKOSNIK
CLASS OF 1975
INDUCTED – 2015

Ron Rakosnik
Class: 1975

Accomplishments:

- While at Willowbrook, Rakosnik was a member of the wrestling team and the hockey club team
- He was in the United States Marine Corp and received the Devil Dog Award
- He is a published author in various trade journals
- He appeared on Dateline NBC for a fire investigation
- He serves as Fire Chief for Villa Park



RICH RAMAZINSKI
CLASS OF 1997
INDUCTED – 2015

Rich Ramazinski
Class: 1997

Accomplishments:

- During his sophomore year at Willowbrook, Ramazinski was recognized as an outstanding art student of the quarter in animation and cartoon drawing
- He is a DreamWorks Studios after-effects artist and creates special effects for their films
- His work on films include: "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," the Christmas classic "ELF", the Christmas episode of "The Simpsons" and "Team America"





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IRENE SHAFFER
CLASS OF 1963
INDUCTED – 2015

Irene Shaffer
Class: 1963



ERNIE SLAVIK III
CLASS OF 1964
INDUCTED – 2015

Ernie Slavik III
Class: 1964

Accomplishments:

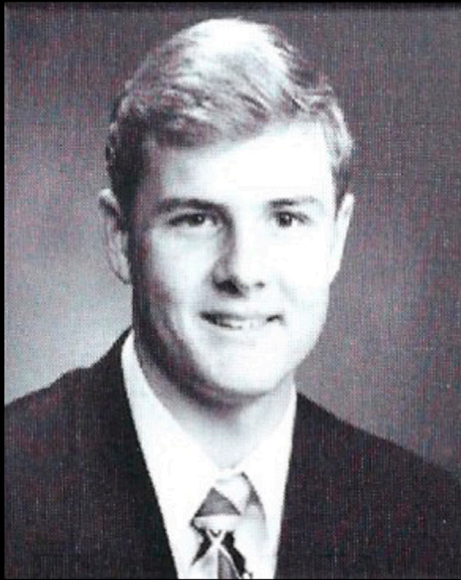
- During his junior and senior years at Willowbrook, Slavik participated on the Varsity Wrestling Team
- Served in the Army
- Became involved in lithography in 1968
- Enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, hunting and working on his 31-acre hunting property in southern Illinois





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ROBERT STAHELIN
CLASS OF 1994
INDUCTED – 2015

Robert Stahelin
Class: 1994

Accomplishments:

- Stahelin joined the Indiana University School of Medicine-South Bend in July 2006, after a post-doctoral appointment in chemistry from University of Illinois at Chicago
- He received a grant from the National Science Foundation to explore the architecture and growth properties of plants in support of cell engineering in modern food production

