



# Willowbrook Distinguished Alumni Awards

2017



VIRGINIA L. BOYD  
CLASS OF 1980  
INDUCTED - 2017

Virginia L. Boyd

Class: 1980

## Accomplishments:

- Was selected to be in the 16 Singers Choir ensemble and Choir solo
- Lettered in music and badminton
- Earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the University of Michigan in 1984
- Earned her M.B.A. from UCLA in 1992
- Was the fourth employee of Intuit, Operations and Human Resources, Executive Committee Member from 1985-1990
- Served as Treasurer for The Alliance to Revitalize California
- Stanford Graduate School of Business Alumni Consulting Team Member, pro bono business consulting for local non-profit organizations
- SV2, Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund Member, contributor and pro bono consultant for growing nonprofit organizations
- Board Member Breakthrough Collaborative San Jose, CA



CATHERINE COOK  
CLASS OF 1981  
INDUCTED - 2017

Catherine Cook

Class: 1981

## Accomplishments:

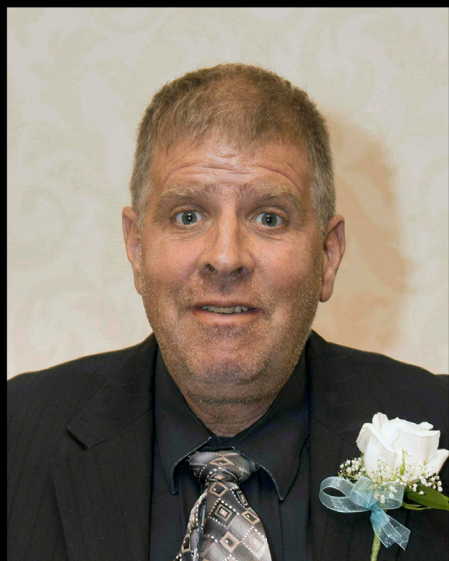
- Leading roles and soloist in Willowbrook Theatre productions and choir concerts and 1st-place winner in local voice competitions
- Young Alumni Award from Millikin University
- Outstanding Alumni Recognition from Wichita State University
- National winner of Metropolitan Opera Competition in New York
- Adler Fellowship/Apprentice Artist at San Francisco Opera
- Currently holds the "Frederica Von Stade Distinguished Chair in Voice" at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she has been a professor for 10 years





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**BRENDAN MCARDLE**  
CLASS OF 1982  
INDUCTED – 2017

**Brendan McArdle**

*Class: 1982*

## **Accomplishments:**

- Has been a NEDSRA participant for 40 years
- His first NEDSRA program was a Lombard Summer Camp in 1977
- As time went on, he became involved in various trips and special events and many Special Olympics sports at NEDSRA, including basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer, track and karate
- Received the “Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award” from the Village of Villa Park in 2010
- Has volunteered at St. Alexanders Church for many years, serving daily mass
- Is a Knight with the Villa Park Chapter of the Knights of Columbus
- Has served as the Ball Boy for the Willowbrook girls and boys soccer teams for nearly four decades



**JOAN "J.M." (GUARDALABENE) PASQUESI**  
CLASS OF 1979  
INDUCTED – 2017

**Joan “J.M.”  
(Guardalabene) Pasquesi**  
*Class: 1979*

## **Accomplishments:**

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University Chicago (English major, classical civilizations minor), and graduated Cum Laude
- Multi-award-winning author and travel writer
- Writer and contributing editor to international publications
- Author of “Rome with Kids: An Insider’s Guide,” which won six awards
- Endorsed by the Italian Government Tourist Board of North America
- President of Solo Roma Inc. Publishing
- Serves as a travel consultant and expert, specializing in Rome, Italy







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**SHEILA L. RYAN**  
CLASS OF 1999  
INDUCTED – 2017

**Sheila L. Ryan**

*Class: 1999*

## **Accomplishments:**

- At Willowbrook, was a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Foreign Language Honor Society and Science Honor Society
- Earned her bachelor's degree in biology and biochemistry from Augustana
- Earned her master's degree in public health and epidemiology from St. Louis University
- Earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law
- Is a clinical scientist at Texas Children's Hospital
- Has a research faculty appointment at Baylor College of Medicine as the Director of Clinical Research in Pediatric Urology
- Is the Executive Director for a 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation that bring innovative research to veterans at the Michael E. Debakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Texas
- Serves on several Boards of Directors
- Has devoted many years to the training and certification of her dog as a therapy animal, visiting and providing comfort care to hospital patients



**DUANE WILSON**  
CLASS OF 2004  
INDUCTED – 2017

**Duane Wilson**

*Class: 2004*

## **Accomplishments:**

- At Willowbrook, was the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Extemporaneous Speech State Champion and National Finalist
- Nationally ranked in track and field in AAU and USA-TF
- Created his own degree program in social entrepreneurship, while receiving a certificate in nonprofit management and a certificate in entrepreneurial management from The University of Iowa
- Earned a certificate in values-centered leadership from DePaul University
- Authored a children's book titled "Jackie and The Dreamstalk"
- Is a 2016 Chicago Defender Man of Excellence honoree
- Began The Spirit of Philanthropy foundation
- Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/y32pgfzm>





# Willowbrook Distinguished Alumni Awards

## 2017



**David Wolinski**  
*Class: 1966*

### **Accomplishments:**

- Songwriter, keyboardist, musician, record producer and actor
- Two-time Grammy Award winner
- 1983 high single "Ain't Nobody," which reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard R&B chart
- Known for composing individual songs for film soundtracks
- Had small acting roles in the films "Electra Glide in Blue" and "Men at Work"

