

Webster University
Alumni Award Recipients
2009

Leyna Nguyen BA '92

Distinguished Alumni Award

Outstanding Alumna

School of Communications

This Emmy Award winning journalist began her career as the morning drive personality for jazz radio-WEBU in St. Louis. Nguyen started her TV broadcast career at CBS affiliate WRDW-TV in Augusta, GA., then became an anchor and reporter at KCRA-TV in Sacramento, where she also hosted a program on Asian-American issues. In just eight years she rose through the ranks of the broadcast media arena to become one of the "25 Most Influential Vietnamese-Americans in 25 Years."

Soon Nguyen was hired by KCAL-TV/CBS in Los Angeles as a weekend anchor and reporter, and quickly made broadcast history by becoming the first newscaster to anchor the news on two stations in the same market. She also has many acting credits playing a newscaster on such television shows as "Boston Legal," "Pushing Daisies," "Las Vegas," "Without a Trace" and "Two and a Half Men." She has also appeared in blockbuster films such as "Garfield," "Austin Powers Goldmember," and "xXx State of the Union."

In 1997, she established a non-profit foundation called *Love Across The Ocean*, which benefits underprivileged school children and their families in Vietnam, where it has built and renovated 10 schools and purchases food and other necessities for Vietnamese families who might otherwise go hungry and who rely on emergency food and medical supplies during typhoon season.

Ann Walsh Bradley BA '72

Outstanding Alumni Award

College of Arts and Sciences

The Honorable Justice Ann Walsh Bradley is the winner of the American Judicature Society's Harley Award, a national honor that is reserved for judges whose outstanding efforts and long-term contributions have resulted in substantial improvements to the justice system. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a former associate dean and faculty member of the Wisconsin Judicial College, a former chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference and a lecturer for the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative. She serves as a member of the Judicial Council, State Bar of Wisconsin Bench Bar Committee, the Board of Visitors of the University of Wisconsin Law School, the Federal-State Judicial Council, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Commissioner of the National Conference on Uniform Laws.

Donald Huonker*Outstanding Alumni Award**The School of Business & Technology*

Donald Huonker, senior vice president of healthcare innovation with Walgreens, earned his master's degree in business administration from Webster University in 2000. His career with Walgreens began in 1995 as a management trainee in St. Louis. From there, he steadily moved up in the company — to store manager, district manager, director of store operations and vice president of pharmacy services, transforming Walgreens' pharmacies into pharmacies with new services that reduce spending and improve patient outcomes, such as Take Care clinics, in-store immunizations and specialty pharmacy offerings.

Eloise Jarvis BA '43*Outstanding Alumni Award**Leigh Gerding College of Fine Arts*

Eloise Jarvis, S.L., served as chair of the Department of Music at Webster University from 1960 to 1984 and was director of graduate students in music from 1984 to 1993. She earned her bachelor's degree in music from Webster College in 1943. Under Jarvis' leadership the number of music majors doubled in five years, in part due to the fact that men had been allowed into the program. An accomplished musician in her own right, Jarvis performed many piano recitals and concert solos, as a member of the Webster Trio, and with other musicians. Although the piano was Jarvis' major instrument, she also played the flute, having studied with the late John Kiburz, principal flutist of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. "Eloise was influential in the lives and careers of many of the piano students whom she mentored," says Barbara Ann Barbato, S.L., Jarvis' colleague and friend.

David Nielsen MAT '08*Outstanding Alumni Award**School of Education*

David Nielsen earned an MAT in mathematics from Webster University in 2008. He currently teaches math in the Wentzville School District in St. Charles County, Mo., where he was selected 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year. His first full-time teaching position was with Windsor High School in Imperial, Mo., where he received several awards during his tenure, including the student-voted Teacher of the Month Award, which he won several times; the Windsor National Education Association's Rising Star Award; and the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award for Arnold, Mo.

Khiang-Kay Soe BA '03, MA '06

Young Alumni Award

Works as a human rights advocate for many marginalized groups and their issues. She worked at a regional women's human rights organization, APWLD, focusing on rural and indigenous women's and migrant women's issues. She traveled to Pakistan to make a documentary film on how women's rights were being sidelined during the reconstruction process in the aftermath of the earthquake. She was also involved with the Tsunami reconstruction projects in the South of Thailand, focusing on land dispute issues between fishing communities and businesses.

She served as program officer - Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility in Asia where she successfully organized a high-level dialogue with the Labor Ministry on Jordan, the Middle-Eastern regional UN agency for the advancement of women's rights and various stake holders from the Middle East region on the need to better protect the rights of women migrant workers in the Middle East. As a result a Tripartite Working Committee has been established to address the issue. She was a program officer for Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development in Chiang Mai, Thailand and served an internship where she participated in the preparation for and attended the 2nd annual consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrant Workers.

She has been awarded a scholarship by the French government for her master's study. While doing her degree, she continues to work for issues linking democratization through a number of NGOs and Think Tanks in the EU. She was one of the lobbyists during the review session on women's rights status at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva last year.

Grace Adhiambo Akumu BA '86

Loretto Award for social justice and humanitarian work

Grace Akumu was the lead author for the Inter-Governmental Panel of Climate Change - a Nobel Peace Prize laureate in conjunction with Al Gore in 2007. She has worked with Climate Network Africa since 1992, where she is now the executive director. She won a fellowship from the World Bank in 2002 and helped create and design the Prototype Carbon Fund – now the Community Development Carbon Fund. Before that, she worked with Climate Network Africa publishing works that explain how sustainability can work in Africa. She is a strong advocate for community rights and justice at national, regional and international levels.

Irma Tirro MA '94

Mary Elizabeth Newell Loyalty Award

Irma Tirro has been involved with Webster alumni for the past fifteen years. She is a founding member and past president of the Space Coast Alumni Chapter and served as member of Alumni Board of Directors from 2002-2008, serving as vice president from 2005-2008. Irma participated in and coordinated the Space Coast Webster Works Worldwide community service projects since 1995. She served as chair person for the Alumni Awards Committee from 2003-2006 and Regional Alumni Chapters Committee from 1999-2005. She and the chapter hosted the annual Alumni Leaders Conference in Space Coast in 2006. Irma serves on the Annual Fund Ad Hoc Committee and has been a member of the Daniel Webster Society since 2001.

2009 Notable Alumni

Brenna Aileo MA '82

Justin Blandford '99

Michelle Bossy '02

Kimberly Bouldin-Jones '87

Julie Campbell BFA '98

General Carroll H. Chandler MA '78

Kelly Ann Corcoran BFA '90

Valdez Demmings MA '96

Marion Demmer MA '02, MA '06

Diane Fassel '68

General Michael Gould MA '86

Jason Hackenwerth BFA '97

Ryan Janovic MBA '04

Jennifer Johnson BM '06

Eric Madkins MA '05, MA '08

Phil Marie MA '80

Steve Meyer '99

J. D. Parran '69

Kemal Saiki MA '88

Samman Thapa '03

Margaret Williams MAT '85

Darrell R. Wilson MA '77