

Tech Distinguished Alumni Induction

Tech High School has a history of excellence and a proud tradition since 1917. In the 1990's Tech High School administration, staff, and our Alumni Association decided to initiate a Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Award. Our purpose is to both recognize the achievements and contributions of alumni while providing positive role models for our current students to emulate.

On April 26-27, 2007, Tech High School will induct its third group of Alumni into the "Tech Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame". In order to qualify for this award, Tech alumni must have graduated from Tech at least 20 years ago and have made significant contributions to his/her community, society, or humanity. Each of the inductees will be recognized for their career success and their many contributions to the greater good of society.

A banquet will be held at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn on Thursday, April 26, in honor of the inductees. On Friday, April 27, the official induction will occur before an all-school assembly in the Tech gym. Following the induction, the Distinguished Alumni visited various classes and told students about their experiences and answered students' questions. St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis officially declared the day "Outstanding Tech Alumni Day".

Two inductees, Dr. Terry Pladson and Gerald Eilers have spent their entire careers in the St. Cloud area. Alfred Grewe also spent his entire career at St. Cloud State University prior to his death in 2001.

A schedule of the Induction ceremonies follows below:

TECH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI INDUCTION EVENTS

April 26	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Reception Poolside at the Holiday Inn
April 26	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Dinner/Program at the Holiday Inn Inductees give 3-5 minute "speech"
April 27	8:30 a.m.	Gather in the Tiger Den at Tech High School for coffee and rolls. Unveiling of Hall of Fame Plaques.
April 27	9:30 a.m.	All-School Assembly and Induction Ceremony at the Tech gym. One Inductee will be chosen to briefly address the student body.
April 27	10:40 a.m.	Reception in the Tiger Den following the assembly
April 27	11:34 – 12:24 a.m.	Class presentations for those Inductees who have signed up to meet and talk with Tech students.
April 27	12:30	School lunch in the faculty lounge for those

Alfred H. Grewe, Jr. PhD

Alfred H Grewe Jr., PhD (deceased) was a 1944 graduate of Tech High School and a well-known professor and wildlife biologist. After serving in the U.S. Navy on a hospital ship in the South Pacific from 1944 to 1946, Alfred returned to St. Cloud and graduated from St. Cloud State Teachers College in 1950. He received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954 and his PhD in Ornithology and Wildlife Management from the University of South Dakota in 1966. Dr. Grewe joined the staff at St. Cloud State in 1965 and remained at the University for 36 years. He taught courses in Animal Behavior, Animal Ecology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Wildlife Management and Wildlife Populations.

One of Dr. Grewe's research interests was the Bald Eagle, which he studied for more than 40 years. Before most people gave much thought to eagles, he was researching, writing, and alerting others to the causes of, and possible remedies for stopping the decline in eagle populations. His eagle photographs have been published in a number of scientific magazines. Five of them are on permanent exhibition at the Eagle Hall of Fame of the Dan Gurney Company in Santa Anna, California. Fifty years ago, seeing a Bald Eagle was a rare delight. Because of the work of Dr. Grewe and others, today we can see Eagles on a regular basis. Dr. Grewe was also active in restoring Peregrine Falcons and Sandhill Cranes to Stearns and surrounding counties.

Dr. Grewe was instrumental in getting the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge officially established. He was a founder of the citizens' group "Friends of Sherburne" and was elected to the Board of Directors of the North American Crane Working Group. Dr. Grewe was a member of the Eastern Greater Sandhill Crane Recovery Team, finance chairman of the Minnesota Prairie Chicken society and member of the Minnesota Bald Eagle Management Group. In 1968, the Wildlife Society presented him with the Minnesota Award, which is given in honor of outstanding work in the wildlife profession. Over 65 of Dr. Grewe's former graduate students went on to become managers of wildlife refuges throughout the United States. Two became directors in the national offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Forest Service. In January 2001 Dr. Grewe received the Department of Biological Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Alfred Grewe died in 2001.

Diane L. Rotnem, Ph D.

Diane Rotnem has distinguished herself through four decades of scholarship and service to the community, society and humanity. After graduating from Tech in 1966, Diane attended the University of Minnesota where she majored in Child Development and Social Welfare. Diane then pursued a career as a Clinical Social Worker, earning a master's degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and her doctorate in Clinical Social Work from the Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Dr. Rotnem has spent the last thirty-four years working in her chosen profession of Clinical Social Work and has distinguished herself as a teacher, researcher and clinician at the Yale University School of Medicine in the Departments of Pediatrics, Child & Adult Psychiatry, and the Child Development Unit. From 1983-85, as a Fellow of the National Center for Clinical Infant Programs in Washington, D.C., Diane specialized in clinical work and research with infants and young children under the age of five. Since 1989, Diane has been on the faculty of the Yale University School of Medicine where she is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Social Work in the Child Study Center. In addition to teaching, Diane also maintains a private practice of psychotherapy for children, adolescents, adults and families and continues to be politically active as an advocate for quality health and mental health care services for children, adults and families on local, state and national levels.

Diane is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker who has authored over twenty chapters and articles from her pediatric and child psychiatric research activities. She is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who Among American Women*, *Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care* and *Who's Who Among Human Service Professionals*. She holds additional distinctions as Fellow of the American Orthopsychiatry Association and Fellow of the Connecticut Society for Clinical Work, her professional association for which she was elected to serve as President from 1997-1999.

Diane acknowledges the importance of Tech High School in fostering her scholarship and leadership abilities. Among the most important influences on her were the English Department where she learned how to write, her experience serving on the Student Council as chair of various committees; the National Honor Society, Concert Choir, AAUW, editor of the Yearbook; and American Field Service (a student exchange program). Diane's mother, Marjorie A. Moore, was the Tech school nurse for many years.

Florence R. Ruhland

Florence Ruhland has devoted her life to nursing as a nurse and as a nurse educator. After graduating from Tech in 1943, Florence received her bachelor's degree from The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul in 1950 and her master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1959. Florence then became a nursing instructor at the Sisters of St. Joseph School of Nursing of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. When she was recruited by the United States Army, she served as the first nurse for the Hospital Reserve Unit in North Dakota. Florence remained at active military status, serving two weeks of duty annually in major army medical centers or installations from 1954 to 1981. In 1978 she was promoted to colonel, and a year later she received the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding education contributions to the 5501st U. S. Army Hospital's nursing section. When she retired from the military in 1981, she received the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding administrative contributions.

Florence was a charter member of the International Diabetes Center, which pioneered in the field of patient education and developed the concept of including the patient in health care decisions. Florence was its first director of nursing education. Even though she left the center in 1971 to teach at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, she continued to devote much energy toward the education and care of diabetics locally and worldwide. She has authored and co-authored many articles in the *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing* and the *American Journal of Nursing*, as well as having authored a series of articles for the journal *Diabetes*. In 1976, Florence was honored with the Twin Cities Diabetes Association Award. In 1985 she received the WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award for her outstanding leadership as vice president and member of the board of directors for the American Diabetes Association.

Florence served the University of Minnesota as a teacher and administrator for twenty years. When she retired in 1991, Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson decreed that her retirement day be officially recognized as "Florence Ruhland Day" in honor of her many contributions to the nursing profession, the United States Army Reserve, and diabetes education. Since her retirement, Florence has been the chair of a fundraiser that has raised over \$100,000 for nursing scholarships at the University of Minnesota.

Florence Ruhland is a great-aunt to Katherine and William Gottwalt, current students at Tech High School.

Gerald H. Eilers

A 1935 Tech graduate, Gerald attended St. Cloud Teacher's College for two years and Drew Business College for one year. He then worked for Cold Spring Granite Company and Standard Brands, Inc. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served four years during WWII, attaining the rank of Chief Yeoman. He later received a Commission from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and retired as Lieutenant. While in the Navy, Gerald furthered his education at the University of Arizona and Harvard University. He returned to St. Cloud in 1946 and began a career of service to the St. Cloud community.

Gerald became a Commissioner on the St. Cloud HRA Board in 1966 and served as the Executive Housing Director for the St. Cloud HRA from 1969-83. From 1974-83 Gerald also served as the Acting Director of the Stearns County HRA. In 1983, Mr. Eilers was elected as a Benton County commissioner, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. A St. Cloud Times editorial on October 29, 1984 stated, "*Gerald Eilers is everything a county commissioner should be: intelligent, reasonable, open-minded and progressive.*" He was unopposed in his re-election.

In 1982 Gerald was recognized as the Outstanding Public Housing Director in Minnesota. He was a charter member of the St. Cloud Area United Way and received the United Way Merit Award in 1971 and 1972. Mr. Eilers has served the St. Cloud community through his membership and leadership in many organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, St. Cloud AARP, Elks Club, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. He received the Kiwanis Citizen of the Year award in 1988 and 1994.

While at Tech, Gerald said he most remembers being impressed with his teachers and administrators. Gerald and his wife Sarah Blanche have four children, 10 grand children and 5 great grandchildren.

Jim Rhode

Jim Rhode BME, CSP (Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, Certified Speaking Professional) is a 1954 graduate of Tech High School, and a 1959 graduate of the University of the Minnesota Institute of Technology with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Jim is the Founder and Chairman of SmartHealth, a 36 year old, \$110 million marketing and manufacturing company, which provides products and services to the healthcare industry worldwide. SmartHealth has 500 employees at the headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona, and over 5,000 worldwide with divisions in Japan, Australia, Canada, and major manufacturing plants in five Asian countries. SmartHealth was honored in 2004 and 2005 with the “Best Places to Work” award. The Rhodes have initiated and are funding a \$100,000 University of Minnesota Dental School Training Program dealing with doctor-staff-patient communication skills.

For over three decades, Jim has also been a professional speaker and was the 2002 President of the National Speakers Association, (NSA), a 4,000 member association of professional speakers. Jim has presented keynotes and seminars in all 50 states and 15 foreign countries. With the help of two colleagues, Jim founded and is currently a board member of the Arizona Christian Community Foundation. The purpose of this foundation is to provide a vehicle for funding meaningful projects that have a Christian emphasis including new “start-ups” as well as existing ministries dealing with Rescue Missions, and Inner City Projects and Ministries. To date, over \$1 million has passed through this new and growing Community Foundation.

In 1990 Jim was honored with the prestigious Arizona Entrepreneur of the Year Award. In addition, SmartHealth was awarded the Pioneer Award for Excellence. Jim continues to be a member of and in leadership roles of several professional associations. He is an author, a business consultant, and coach to many. Jim has been married to Naomi Reed Rhode since 1957. They have three married children and 12 grandchildren. He is proud to be a native of Minnesota and a graduate of St. Cloud Tech.

Kathryn Sikkink

Kathryn Sikkink was a 1973 Tech graduate. She attended Columbia University where she earned her Master's Degree and PhD in Political Science, with an International Relations distinction. Kathryn is currently serving as a Regents Professor at the University of Minnesota. Professor Sikkink, who specializes in international human-rights issues and nongovernmental movements, is recognized as one of the top political science professors in the country. An article in the *Minneapolis StarTribune* on April 7, 2002 reported how Harvard University tried to entice Professor Sikkink to leave Minnesota by offering her a prestigious Carr Professor of Human Right Policy position. Professor Sikkink declined the offer and subsequently was named the Aileen C. Carlson Professor of Political Science at the U of M. In 2006 she was recognized as a Regents Professor.

Professor Sikkink has written dozens of professional articles and book chapters, and has been a guest lecturer at many universities in the United States, Europe and South America. She has written or co-authored five books. Kathryn has been the winner of major academic awards for her book *Activists Beyond Borders*, which was published in 1998. Included in her recognitions for this book was the distinguished Growemeyer Award for Ideas for Improving World Order. She has been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a hall of fame for scholars that was founded in 1780 and includes such notables as Thomas Jefferson and John Adams.

Professor Sikkink has received many Awards and Fellowships in recognition of her scholarly work. She received the Distinguished Teacher Award from the University of Minnesota for her outstanding contributions to post-baccalaureate, graduate and professional education. She was a Fulbright Scholar in 2001-2002 and served as a visiting professor at the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, in Buenos Aires. In 2000 Professor Sikkink received the International Studies Association Chadwick Alger Award for Best Book in the area of International Organizations for her book *Activists Beyond Borders*.

Kathryn's special memories of Tech High School are her Spanish classes and homecoming her junior and senior years. Kathryn and her husband, Douglas Johnson, have two sons, Daniel (19) and Matthew (13).

Kent Lovelace

Kent Lovelace is currently Chairman and Professor of the Aviation Department at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. As Department Chair, Kent oversees the course work and pilot training of some 1,500 students enrolled in the program. Kent, a 1975 graduate of Tech High School, received his undergraduate degree in Aviation Administration from the University of North Dakota in 1980 and his Master's degree in Education from UND in 1984. Since 1980, Kent has been a professor, administrator and flight instructor in the Department of Aviation at UND.

As a professor of aviation, Kent has developed or co-developed and taught many of UND's aviation courses, including 15 aviation courses for a new degree in Aeronautical Studies – Air Transport Emphasis, first offered at UND in 1992. He has co-authored several publications for pilot certification courses as well as other aviation-related courses. He has given numerous presentations at local, regional and national aviation conferences. He has helped to organize the Annual National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) National Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON) every year since 1989. Kent coached the UND Flying Team 1984-89 and again in 1994, resulting in the NIFA National Championship six out of seven years. Kent has given over 3,340 hours of flight instruction in both single engine and multi-engine planes and has taught aviation courses every semester since 1980.

Kent has been instrumental in developing satellite pilot training programs for UND Aerospace in Hawaii, Spokane, WA, Phoenix, AZ and Lumberton, NC where students start their training and after two years transfer to the main program at UND. In addition to serving as the Chair of the Aviation Department at UND, Kent is currently the Chair of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association Board of Directors and is a Director on the National Business Aviation Association's Certified Aviation Managers Governing Board.

Kent has been recognized many times for his outstanding work in the UND Aviation Department. He was presented the William A. Wheatley Award for "Outstanding Contributions to Aerospace Education" in 1992, was the NIFA Outstanding Coach of the Year in 1986 and 1989, and was nominated for the National Air Transportation Association's Outstanding Aviation Education Specialist Award in 1987. He received the Mission Possible Award for significant accomplishments in Aviation Safety from the Federal Aviation Administration Fargo Office in 1995 and the McDermott Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching in 1989 and 1998. Kent was chosen by his students for the Outstanding Faculty Award for the 1981-82 school year and was selected Aviation Instructor of the Year, Student Aviation Management Association, in March of 2001. Kent and his wife Karen have two children, William (21) and Sarah (18).

Lawrence M. Brammer, PhD

Lawrence Brammer was a 1940 graduate of Tech where he played in the band, was president of his senior class, a member of the National Honor Society, and recipient of the Alva Eastman Award for service to Tech. After earning his bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University, Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46 where he was in the Calvary Branch Band and was a swimming instructor. He received his Master's Degree and PhD in Psychology from Stanford University. Lawrence was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Tehran, Iran from 1960-61. When he returned to the U. S., he became a Psychology professor at the University of Washington until his retirement in 1988.

Dr. Brammer has published six books on Psychology, seven chapters in Psychology textbooks, and over 100 professional articles and monographs. He has traveled extensively for lecturing and consulting, including four trips around the world, five to Asia, two to the Middle East and six to Europe and North Africa. He has served "on call" as a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Service since 1980. In his role as a mental health specialist for the Red Cross, he has helped with disasters including hurricanes, floods, fires and airplane crashes.

Lawrence has received the Bertness Award for Professional Achievement, the Association of Counselor Educators Research and Writing Award, the American Counseling Association Professional Development Award and the Visiting Lecturer Award from Japan Counseling Association. He has been selected to the Stanford University College of Education Hall of Fame and received the St. Cloud State Distinguished Alumni Award. He was awarded the Fulbright Intercountry Lecturer Award from the University of Leyden, University of Sarajevo, National University of Taiwan and the University of Kyoto in Japan. He has received several Service Awards from the American Red Cross.

His most memorable experience at Tech was being part of the championship Tech Hi Band, which won many contests while Lawrence was at Tech. Lawrence and his wife Marian have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Mark T. Dahl, MD

Dr. Mark Dahl is an Orthopaedic surgeon at St. Croix Orthopaedics in Stillwater, Minnesota. After graduating from Tech High School in 1969, Mark went on to receive his bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University and then attended medical school at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Dr. Dahl completed his residency in Orthopaedic surgery at the Veteran's Administration and University of Minnesota Hospitals. Since then he has completed advanced training in limb lengthening and deformity reconstruction at the Hospital of Lecco, Italy, the University of Verona, Italy, and The Restorative Center for Orthopaedics in Kurgan, Russia. He also currently serves as Clinical Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Dahl is an internationally recognized expert in the correction of bone and joint deformities, limb lengthening, and knee arthritis. His clinical results have been published in numerous Orthopaedic journals and textbooks as well as having been presented at conferences worldwide. Dr. Dahl is a founding member and past president of the Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society of North America, and the Director of the Limb Length Clinic at Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care in St. Paul.

Mark has volunteered many hours to help those in need. He has been a surgeon at Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, a surgeon and teacher in Guadalajara, Mexico, a surgeon volunteer at Hospital Vos Andes in Quito, Ecuador, and a surgeon volunteer for Ethiopian victims. He received the Golden Foot Award from Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in 1994, the Gift of Heat & Healing Hands Award, and the Minnesota Friends of the Orphans for service as a volunteer surgeon to Honduran Orphans. In addition to practicing medicine, Mark is the founder of Orthopaedic Sales Training Associates, LLC and holds twelve medical patents.

Mark and his wife Kathy (Killeen) met at Tech High School. They have three children: Dana, Jenny and Lindsay.

Terence R. Pladson, M.D.

Dr. Terry Pladson is President and CEO of CentraCare Health System here in St. Cloud. Terry, a 1967 Tech graduate, attended St. Cloud State University for his undergraduate degree and then the University of Minnesota where he received his Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1973 and completed a residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Pulmonary Disease. Terry returned to St. Cloud in 1978 and set up his Pulmonology and Critical Care Practice at the St. Cloud Hospital. From 1995 to December of 2002, Terry was Co-President of CentraCare Health Systems. In 1999 Terry received his Masters in Business Administration Degree from the University of St. Thomas. He served as CentraCare Clinic President from 1990-2002 and became CentraCare Health System President/CEO in January of 2003.

Dr. Pladson has been recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Chest Physicians and The American College of Physician Executives. He was named one of “Minnesota’s Most Influential 100 Health Care Leaders” by *Minnesota Physician Magazine*.

Dr. Pladson has given much back to the St. Cloud community through his volunteer service and philanthropy. He was co-chair of the United Way Pillar Club from 1991-93, Board member of the United Way from 1997-2004 and chair from 2002-2003. He has been a member of the College of St. Benedict Board since 1998. He has been a Board Member of CentraCare Health Foundation since 1996 and from 1991-2000 was a volunteer for the Mid-Minnesota Clinic, which provides free health care for needy patients. Terry has published articles in several professional medical journals. He has been a Board Member of the Minnesota Hospital Association since 2003, and has served as President of the Minnesota Thoracic Society.

Terry remembers participation in Student Council as a highlight of days at Tech. His responsibilities on Student Council included extracurricular activities such as school dances. He says the experience taught him the importance of deadlines and fundraising with ticket sales and contracts with agents for the musicians. His proudest moment at Tech was the recognition he received at the graduation ceremony for academic achievement with national test scores and scholarship. Terry and his wife Sue (Bohlig), who also attended Tech, have two grown daughters (Pamela and Patricia) and three grandchildren.