



# Willowbrook Distinguished Alumni Awards

## 2010



**DIANNE ENGLER**  
CLASS OF 1965  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Dianne Engler**  
*Class: 1965*

### Accomplishments:

- 34 years in the airline industry
- Winning the appearance award from Trans World Airlines
- Being chosen as Flight Attendant of the year by American Airlines
- Receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from Willowbrook
- Starting a new career in my later years as a lifestyle model/ talent in the entertainment industry



**DR. JOHN FERO**  
CLASS OF 1960  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Dr. John Fero**  
*Class: 1960*

### Accomplishments:

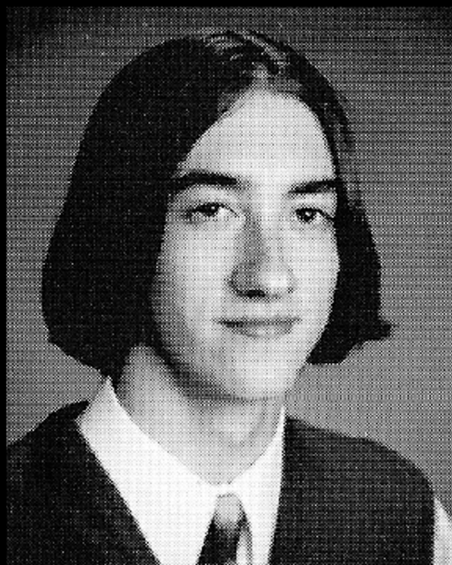
- Montana Principal of the Year 1992 and School Administrator of the Year 1991
- National Distinguished Principal, 1986
- President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals
- Nebraska Speech and Theatre Arts Association School Administrator of the Year, 2002
- International Doctoral Dissertation of the Year on Early Childhood Education
- Montana State University's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, 2001





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**TOM HIGGENSON**  
CLASS OF 1997  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Tom Higgenson**

*Class: 1997*

## **Accomplishments:**

- Earned all-academic honors in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division - Tennis 1st Place, Honors Program, Honor Roll four years
- MTV U Woody Award Winner
- MTV V Video Music Award Nominee
- Teen Choice Award Winner
- VH1 Best Video Nominee
- Two-Time Grammy Nominee
- One Gold Record and two Multi-Platinum Singles
- More than two million albums sold worldwide, and more than five million song downloads
- No. 1 song in 10 countries
- Member of Plain White T's band



**MELISSA MAHONEY**  
CLASS OF 1992  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Melissa Mahoney**

*Class: 1992*

## **Accomplishments:**

- CU-Chemical & Biological Engineering Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award - 2007
- TR35 MIT Technology Review's Top Innovators under age 35 - 2005
- University of Colorado, Junior Faculty Development Award - 2005
- BMES Rita Schaffer Memorial Young Investigator Award - 2003
- Professor Demetrios Papahadjopoulos Award for excellence in drug delivery research - 1999







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**PETER LINDSAY SCHAUDT**  
CLASS OF 1977  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Peter Lindsay Schaudt**

*Class: 1977*

## **Accomplishments:**

- Harvard University Master of Landscape Architecture
- Chicagoan of the Year for Design in 2010 from the Chicago Tribune
- Dozens of national and international awards for large projects:  
New Soldier Field Park, Wrigley Field, Daley Plaza, IIT and UNC
- Prestigious AIA Collaboration Award, Rome Prize and ASLA Fellowships
- Highly respected nationally in the Architecture and Landscape Architecture professions



**JULIE W. SPARKS**  
CLASS OF 1992  
INDUCTED – 2010

**Julie W. Sparks**

*Class: 1992*

## **Accomplishments:**

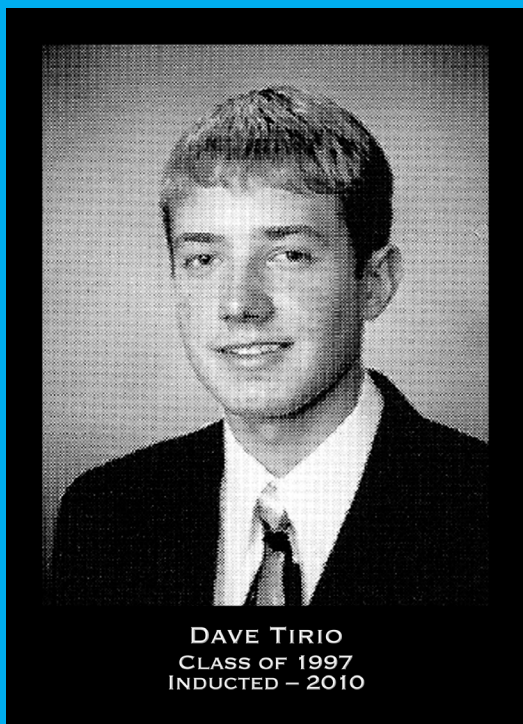
- Attended Illinois State University as a theatre major on a Talent Theatre Scholarship
- Transferred to Belmont University (graduated in 1998)
- Landed a spot with the world-renowned Belmont Chorale and a summer internship with Bette Midler
- Sang backup with Shania Twain and opened for Joan Osborne and Hootie and the Blowfish
- Founding President of the WB Theatre Alumni Association
- Has helped raise funds for Northern Illinois Food Bank and American Cancer Society
- Although she can no longer sing because of thyroid cancer, she will continue to use her voice to stand up for those in need





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DAVE TIRIO  
CLASS OF 1997  
INDUCTED – 2010



Dave Tirio  
Class: 1997



### Accomplishments:

- Member of Plain White T's band



DEBBIE VENEZIA  
CLASS OF 1972  
INDUCTED – 2010



Debbie Venezia  
Class: 1972



### Accomplishments:

- Founder and executive director of the After Hours Film Society
- Executive Director of the Naperville Art League since 2002
- Executive Director of the Riverwalk Fine Art Fair in Naperville since 2005
- Appeared in Daily Herald's Top 100 Newsmakers of 2003
- Received an Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award from the Naperville Art League in 2009







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MIKE VENEZIA  
CLASS OF 1963  
INDUCTED – 2010

Mike Venezia  
Class: 1963

## Accomplishments:

- Created hundreds of print ads and TV commercials for major clients; also Pro bono work on accounts such as The Easter Seals Foundation
- Wrote and illustrated many published children's books
- Won The American Library Association's Notable Children's Video Award for his animated Monet, Van Gogh, DaVinci, Mary Cassatt and Andy Warhol videos
- Was honored by the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans with The Giubileo Award - Man of the Year for the Arts
- Member of the Art Institute of Chicago, The Phoenix Art Museum and the Naperville Art League; also a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans and The School of the Art Institute Alumni Association
- Created and designed a 60-by-12-foot mural for the Naperville Fine Arts Gallery Building



MICHAEL A. VENEZIA  
CLASS OF 1997  
INDUCTED – 2010

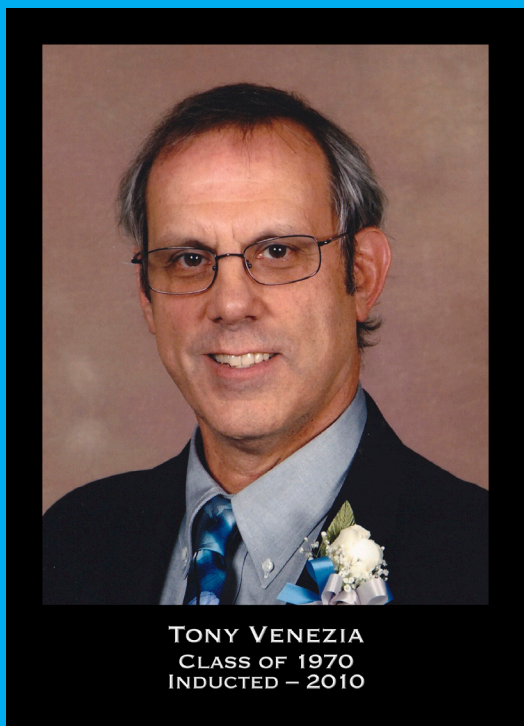
Michael A. Venezia  
Class: 1997





# Willowbrook Distinguished Alumni Awards

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Tony Venezia  
Class: 1970

## Accomplishments:

- Award-winning film “Grapefruit Coconut” won many awards
- “Revelation” won even more awards, including 2nd place in the Chicago International Film Festival student animation category
- Founder and President of Electric Filmworks Inc., a Los Angeles-based company that specialized in creating and producing digital and film optical effects, motion graphics, logos, motion-control model shots and second-unit photography
- Created effects and graphics for dozens of major films and television releases
- Associate Professor College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL - Was hired to design, develop, and execute an AAS degree in animation.

