

May 9, 2009

2009 Mimi Davis Emmons '64 Alumni Association Award

The Classes of 1964-1973 gathered in the School library to celebrate their reunions and to collectively honor this year's recipients of the Mimi Davis Emmons '64 Alumni Association Award, **Anne Keefe Wiltse '64** (known as "Linda") and **Suzy Keefe Allen '73**. **Mimi Davis Emmons '64** and Interim Headmaster, Tony Blackman, presented the awards. Anne and Suzy's sister, Karen Keefe Luxton, accepted the award for Anne in her absence.

About this award and the recipients:

The Alumni Association Award was established in 1982 and was renamed the Mimi Davis Emmons '64 Alumni Association Award in 1999 in honor of Mimi's retirement and many years of service to Pingree School. This distinguished award is presented each year to a Pingree graduate who has, through extraordinary effort and dedicated service, made a significant contribution to the quality of life of his or her school, community, or society as a whole.

Suzy Keefe Allen, Pingree Class of 1973

Currently Suzy is the Director of Financial Aid at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) where she graduated from college and has been working for nearly 30 years. Suzy has been actively involved as a Leader in the professional societies of Financial Aid Administrators for many years. I have time here to mention just a few of Suzy's leadership roles within the world of Financial Aid: She has served and currently serves as: The Commission Director, 08-09, for the NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators); Chair of the Conference Committee 09-10; EASFAA (Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) and Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, 08-10 for the NHASFAA (New Hampshire)

Her three most recent Awards include: 2009 NHASFAA James Reynolds Award, 2007 NASFAA Committee of the Year, and 2007 EASFAA Distinguished Service Award.

Suzy's contributions and activities extend well beyond the 9-5 routine of her office job, and those outside activities result in clear rewards for UNH, in prestige as well as efficiency. Her willingness to serve these organizations is her hallmark. On her own time, Suzy routinely travels to local high schools, sharing financial aid information and guidance with assemblies of students and parents. In addition, for years Suzy has served the Town of Dover, NH, with her husband Sam. Their involvement in community activities includes the construction of a new hockey rink and a new fire station. She is an extraordinary leader, citizen, and contributor in her field and in her community.

Suzy deserves recognition here at Pingree for the contributions she has made as a professional and volunteer in the field of Financial Aid, and in her community. Congratulations Suzy.

Anne Keefe Wiltse, Pingree Class of 1964

Anne Keefe has spent more than forty years in the professional theatre beginning with an apprenticeship at The North Shore Music Theatre. During her prestigious career she has overseen Broadway and Off Broadway transfers of AMERICAN BUFFALO with Al Pacino, SPOKESONG with John Lithgow, the Tony Award winning THE CHANGING ROOM, also with Mr. Lithgow, as well as WATCH ON THE RHINE and THE NATIONAL HEALTH. In addition, she was the stage manager for DEATH AND THE MAIDEN with Glenn Close, Richard Dreyfuss and Gene Hackman, directed by Mike Nichols, HAMLET with Ralph Fiennes and NIGHT MUST FALL with Matthew Broderick.

Anne has worked with the most acclaimed directors in the business and is widely known and highly regarded in her field. A few years ago she was honored in New York City where she received the Del Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award from the Stage Mangers' Association of America. In 1999, Joanne Woodward requested her help in revitalizing the 75 year old Westport Country Playhouse. Along with a generous board of directors, she and Ms. Woodward raised 31 million dollars to completely restore and renovate the historical theatre. She served as Ms. Woodward's Associate Artistic Director for 6 years, through the opening of the beautifully restored 600 seat house in 2005, overseeing 25 productions (including the Broadway transfer of OUR TOWN, starring Paul Newman), the building of an education department and a community outreach program. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the theatre, and for the last 13 months she has served as Co-Artistic Director of the Playhouse. In addition, Ms. Keefe has helped to organize and run the last 20 Annual Fundraising Galas at Paul Newman's extraordinary Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. She will be involved with the June 8th Gala at City Center in NY to benefit the Camps' Association. She serves on the Advisory Board of Ballet Etudes, and has taught the third year stage mangers at The Yale School of Drama.

Anne deserves recognition here at Pingree for her outstanding contributions to local and national theatre and for the cultural impact she has made here in the Northeast and beyond.