

Adams-Friendship Educational Foundation

Academic Hall of Fame

May 27, 2023

Adams-Friendship Alumni Association



Raymond Hintz
Distinguished Alumnus



William Jansen
Distinguished Alumnus



Robert Garnett
Distinguished Educator



Darlene Rezabek Hovorka
Distinguished Alumnus

Adams-Friendship Academic Hall of Fame

<p>2016 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Tania Bonnett, J.D.</i> (1997) <i>Neda Esmaili, M.D.</i> (1997) Legacy <i>Richard and Verla Lysy</i> (1947 and 1948)</p>	<p>2017 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Rebecca Grabarski, B.S.</i> (1993) <i>David Janssen, M.D.</i> (1977) Distinguished Educator <i>Richard Colby</i> (1960) Legacy <i>Martin and Carole Janssen</i></p>	<p>2018 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Tanya Kotlowski, B.S./M.S.</i> (1990) <i>Kathleen Theisen B.S./M.M.</i> (1986) Distinguished Educator <i>Clark Staehling</i></p>
<p>2019 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Audra Hovorka Mead,</i> <i>B.S./M.B.A.</i> (1988) <i>Robert Warren, B.S./B.A.</i> (1981) Distinguished Educator <i>Linda Webster Machan</i> Legacy <i>Harvey Wagner (1956)</i></p>	<p>2020 Honorees Legacy <i>Charles and Alice Parr</i> (1957)</p>	<p>2021 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Alexis Pheiffer Bhatheja,</i> <i>B.A./J.D.</i> (1995) <i>Lisa Ann Robinson Massen, M.S.</i> (2002) Distinguished Educator <i>Sandra Swisher-Pheiffer</i></p>
<p>2022 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>James Brien, B.S.</i> (1965) <i>Richard Pease, B.S.</i> (1980) <i>Kevin Beaver, B.A./M.S.</i> (1989) Distinguished Educator <i>Robert Beaver</i></p>	<p>2023 Honorees Distinguished Alumni <i>Darlene Hovorka</i> (1962) <i>Raymond Hintz, PLS, Ph.D</i> (1974) <i>William Janssen, B.A., M.S.</i> (1980) Distinguished Educator <i>Robert Garnett</i></p>	<p>Accepting Nominations for 2024</p> <p>Visit Adams-Friendship Area Education Foundation - Academic Hall of Fame (afedfoundation.org) for more information or email afedfound@gmail.com</p>

Raymond Hintz (1974)

As years fly by, experiences from high school tend to fade for many. Class of 1974 Academic Hall of Fame inductee Raymond Hintz is an exception. He vividly recalls people and experiences that set him on a journey that took him from Wisconsin to Maine as a Professor of Surveying Engineering Technology.

Ray observed upper-level math teacher, Mr. Toltzman, spending an “inordinate amount of time creating the next day’s lectures and assignments” after school. Mr. Toltzman’s desire to see his students succeed made a deep impression on Ray who said, “I would never have become what I am today” without him. When Ray thought forestry might be his calling, Mr. Sullivan, the career advisor, handed him a copy of the UW College of Engineering brochure. In Ray’s words, “He simply knew what I needed to do.”

Lessons were learned both inside and outside of the classroom. Mrs. Manning went swimming in Friendship Lake each morning from May to September before heading to her social science classes. There were communication and Spanish classes taught by Mr. Hunt. These lessons were preparation for becoming an educator at the university level and at professional presentations. Ray fondly recalls teaching a seminar to Cuban migrants who poked fun at his “Mexican” Spanish. He learned the importance of physical health from Mr. Kuss and Mr. Waller and eventually ran marathons with some finishes that met the qualifications for U.S. Olympic Trials. Ray continues to run every day even though the distance in an hour has changed over the years.

Then there were the “quasi science” lessons outside the classroom with Mr. Toltzman, Mr. Stormann, and Mrs. Manning’s son on what Ray referenced as “the most important competition of all—ice fishing.”

Those three amigos had the audacity to think they could out-fish me! I started fishing every moment I had in the 4th grade and even had my own ice shanty that I could manage by myself. I thus had many hours of science invested in this that the three amigos had no time for. At first, they thought how could a little kid know more than them about ice fishing. In a couple years they gave up and would always move their ice shanty within feet of mine, but they still ignored science and thus caught 70% less fish than me while 6 feet away. To this day many people still believe I went to Maine to become a fishing guide.

Nominees for the AF Academic Hall of Fame submit resumes/biographies in a range of styles. The submission for Dr. Hintz is beyond extensive. The narrative below is his summary.

The required resume will put even the most caffeinated reviewer into a deep sleep. So, I will document three items of significance. Note while I am a surveyor, I sometimes measure unusual things.

(1) In the early 1900’s it was “proven” glaciers cannot move by a process called convection. By limited data I understood why this was believed. My glacier expert always disputed that but needed a massive amount of data (supplied by me) to prove it. Obviously changing the minds of scientists who assumed something over the last 100 years was not easy. Now that process has become part of the modeling of glaciers which of course has huge impact on climate. It is hard to predict if your model is incorrect.

(2) Measuring the largest mammal (whales) is a very complex problem but understanding them is again critical to analyzing climate. The largest whale can be traveling 40 mph and open its mouth to ingest krill – we would be in bad shape if we opened our mouths while traveling 40 mph underwater. Building the proper 3-D model

from measurements allowed us to understand why this can work. It has an impact on travel in water today. My veterinary science friend became an expert at measurement from photography because I forced him to.

(3) Finally, a surveying problem. The federal government still owns approximately 27% of the lower 48 states mostly in the western United States. Moving the U.S. Public Land Survey System from a system of maps and notes to a digital system where positions can be updated was critical and was completed by software that I supervised the development of. The Federal Lands in Wisconsin have positions on them derived from this process.

Unlike some faculty members at the university level, Dr. Raymond Hintz is not threatened when he sees his graduate students make advances adding contributions a step beyond what he has taught them. In his words, “It makes me proud when I realize a graduate has become smarter than I am... it is an important process in academic evolution.” He added, “The academic system in Adams-Friendship continues a long history of excellence. I am amazed at the professional success across a wide variety of disciplines that continues on an annual basis. I am proud to be part of that heritage.”

The lessons learned in Adams-Friendship set Raymond Hintz on his path of “academic evolution.” His teachers would be proud.

Darlene Rezabek Hovorka (1962)

Though 2023 A-F Academic Hall of Fame inductee Darlene Rezabek Hovorka describes herself as a “farm girl living in the country” with limited time for extracurricular activities when she was a student, she made the most of those opportunities. Darlene’s strong work ethic, no doubt a result of a strict upbringing and the many chores of farm life, did not lessen her appreciation for parents that allowed her to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible.

A peak in the 1962 *Sandbur* reveals activities in vocal music, instrumental music and as an accompanist. Darlene shared that these activities were “her first real exposure to the fine arts.” Flash forward, and you may find her singing in the church or community choir. As a band majorette, she learned leadership and developed the ability to work as a member of a team. Perhaps these experiences foreshadowed her devotion to the arts and her “Charter Member” status in the *Adams-Friendship Educational Foundation*. This organization set a goal and with the support of the electorate, provided our students and community with a beautiful Fine Arts Facility. Search the *Sandbur* pages a bit more and you will find her listed as the co-editor in 1961 and the editor of the 1962 edition. No doubt, skills learned were utilized when, in 1986, she became the administrative assistant for the Adams-Friendship School District Superintendent. Her professional affiliations include a variety of national and state associations for office professionals. In 2006, Darlene received the Friends of Education Award from the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators for her contributions in the field of education and providing further education for school office professionals in both Wisconsin and nationally.

Students from the rural K-8 schools develop close bonds. Entering high school, a time of teen anticipation and nervous tension, is a milestone for all students. Those, like Darlene, coming from the familiar connections of smaller, rural schools encounter a new environment with new expectations. Darlene reflected on the transition.

I attended dances, sporting events and daily school functions that allowed me the chance to get to know all the other students – the art of socialization, learning to recognize and honor the uniqueness of others, and

developing relationships. After all these years, some of these students are still close and dear friends...relationships for life.

Adams-Friendship schools provided amazing teachers who **expected us to learn**. We had a dress code and were expected to follow it. Girls could only wear jeans on Friday. We had to wear those crazy one-piece blue gym suits. Oh, how I hated them. Not only were we expected to respect our teachers and elders, but they also respected us. If you needed help, then they went out of their way to help you solve any situation. They cared! We learned that failure was the key to success, which required us to learn from our mistakes and failures. We were given the tools needed to problem solve and find solutions to any challenge we encountered. This environment taught me the purpose of rules, the benefits of mutual respect, and if you wanted to make your own way, it not only required you to be proactive and open-minded, but it most times included others to provide some level of assistance or guidance from time to time.

I could write more about what most people would expect to learn from their education growing up, i.e., creative thinking, competition, basic life skills (yes, that includes Home Economics!), work ethics, etc., but let me share the most impactful lesson I was taught that prepared me for my life. Adams-Friendship Schools taught me the importance of service and community. Part of this lesson was learned while I attended the school as a student, when I became a parent of three children who all attended Adams-Friendship Schools, and it continued when I became employed by the school district, which I proudly served (actively) for 30 years and continue to serve today as a volunteer. Investing in our community's education is an investment in our community's future...through the eyes, lives, hands, and hearts of our children. Building the relationship between our school and community takes students, parents, teachers, administration, and local residents. It's a collective effort that takes work. "Adams-Friendship School District means the world to me and anything I can do to make it a better place for our staff and students, I'm in. I'm ready for the "work."

Darlene's senior portrait in the 1962 *Sandbur* declares, "Her fate is undecided, but her love undivided." Her fate is no longer undecided. Her fate demonstrates loyalty and devotion to her family and community. Her love remains undivided.

William Janssen (1980)

When you're a kid, the answer to "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is asked by adults who may have forgotten what those tender elementary and turbulent middle school years were like. Those are the years when possibilities are endless and before dreams encounter a harsh reality. One day the answer is a fireman. Other days a football player...maybe a doctor, a movie star or a truckdriver. On Monday it could be a veterinarian and by Friday an astronaut. Answers seem to change in the blink of an eye when so much of life is ahead and possibilities are endless. Every now and then, you encounter a kid, who finds an "old beater trombone" and figures out how to play it. Every now and then, you encounter a kid who finds the answer before they hit the high school years when most classmates start feeling the pressure of deciding on a career path. Every now and then with legendary mentors like Clark Staehling and Angie LaValle, a picture of the future moves from foggy to clear. Every now and then, the kid with the trombone decides he's going to be a band director before he encounters difficult choices like who he should ask to prom.

William Janssen was one of those kids.

No longer that kid, Will describes his formative years in the Adams-Friendship School District as a diverse set of experiences with dynamic schools. The opportunity to be involved was a benefit in everyday life and in his career as a teacher. While his passion was music, Will was also a multi-sport athlete-though in his words, "I

was pretty bad at all of them, but I have great memories about working together towards common goals, of struggling through challenges as a team, and of not giving up when it would be easier to stop. Those qualities have impacted my teaching as well.”

Will’s passion for the arts in middle and high school was central to his time as a student. His two instrumental music teachers, with very different personalities but who shared both a great passion for their students and what took place in their classes, guided him. He credits Clark Staehling and Angie LaValle for their role in shaping a part of what his music classroom was like during his thirty-eight years as a teacher.

Theater experiences in Connie Waterman’s English class *at school* were a compliment with Sand County Players experiences *in the community*. These opportunities helped Will “realize the power of drama for both students and audience.” This potent blend of drama and music influenced Will to guide students participating in musicals to a comparable understanding.

Will summarized how Adams-Friendship Schools prepared him for life:

My ability to ‘perform for life’ was greatly enhanced by the collective set of experiences I was part of at A-F. Each area was valuable but the sum of all those together was significantly more powerful because of the different benefits each provided. Perhaps more impactfully, I found that set of experiences to be so beneficial that I encouraged the students I worked with to consider using the same approach. I wanted students to be part of what happened in our music classrooms certainly, but also in athletics, agriculture, drama, student leadership opportunities and any other way they could. Having a diverse set of quality experiences makes for more well-rounded, happy, engaged adults in all our communities. The benefits I got from my experiences in A-F schools became one of my career-long points of emphasis at the districts I worked in: adults should make it possible for students to have as many varied, quality experiences as possible; and the adults should do whatever is needed for that to happen. This was and is vital for the long-term benefit of our students. I am grateful that the schools in Adams-Friendship fostered that approach. It has made the lives of countless students richer. That is a great legacy to celebrate.

A Mount Horeb High School student quote *They ‘Make our souls happy’* was the front-page headline in the *Wisconsin State Journal* on May 12, 2022. Adams-Friendship Academic Hall of Fame inductee, William Janssen, was half of the “*They*” celebrated for excellence during his final days as Mount Horeb High School band director. In July of 2022, Will became president-elect of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association. His retirement plans included more time with family. With three young grandchildren, there’s always a chance to find another kid running around learning to play “a beater trombone.”

Robert Garnett—Distinguished Educator

Mr. Robert Garnett is inducted to the A-F Academic Hall of Fame as an outstanding educator in recognition of inspiring students to perform for life. A graduate of Eau Claire Senior High School, Bob graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College and later with a Bachelor of Science from UW-Whitewater. When asked what brought him to Adams-Friendship, he answered with his legendary wit, “It was a Ford. I think a Fairlane.” A car brought him here, but the family he raised with his wife, Myrna, kept him here. He joked, “We were very lucky. Two we had to pay to be good. Thankfully, one was good for nothing!” Bob’s warmth and ability to bring smiles to everyone he meets is his trademark.

Bob's positive contributions to the community are many. He is a charter member of the Adams-Friendship Educational Foundation as well as one of the founders of the Adams-Friendship Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Garnett, as his former students still call him, began his Adams-Friendship teaching career in 1962 as an elementary physical education teacher. He also served as a coach for both baseball and football. In the early seventies he became Athletic Director for the A-F District. Bob is probably most remembered for valor as he took on the challenge of teaching driver education.

When former students learned of Mr. Garnett's induction into the A-F Academic Hall of Fame as a distinguished educator, the good wishes and memories flooded Facebook:

"I hear his name every time my husband parallel parks. Thank you, Mr. Garnett!"

"I still tell people about your response to me in Drivers Ed when you asked me, What do you do when the light turns green? And I responded GO!"

"No, Linda, PROCEED WITH CAUTION!"

"You have saved my life at every green light since then!"

"I was just talking about Mr. Garnett...and how many times his teaching has saved my life living in the New York City metro area."

"Beeped my horn at Dad... he told me the horn is not a howdy doer! A deer ran out on Highway 13. Both of us slammed on the brakes. No '66 Chevy ever stopped quicker!"

Along with his humor under fire, many commented on his patience, his "nerves of steel" and his years of service to not only the kids, but to his community. One poignant memory has a connection to former student and Hall of Fame inductee, Raymond Hintz.

"My mom was born in Poland, escaped Hitler by being sent to a work camp in Germany, then sponsored by Polish Americans to the USA. She learned English and reading on her own. My dad decided she needed a driver's license when she was maybe in her 40's, and she took his class with all the 15-16-year-olds. She passed the written test the first time and got the driving down thanks to Mr. Garnett."

Bob is a humble man, prone to using his sense of humor to deflect attention from himself. Those who know him are not distracted by his quiet leadership and appreciate his many contributions. One of his three children summed it up with this Facebook post, "Good job, Dad."

Good job, Mr. Garnett. You are a genuine exemplar for *Preparing Students to Perform for Life*.