

Outstanding Alumni: Mrs. Winnie Jones Lindstam '76



Winnie Lindstam graduated from St. Olaf Collage in 1980 with a B.A. in English.

What advice would you give students as they prepare for college and the challenges of our world today? Approach the future with an open mind and a willingness to try new things even if at first they do not sound appealing.

How did attending Anniston Academy / The Donoho School make a difference in your life or your education? For me, the Anniston Academy was a wonderful place. We had great teachers who challenged our close knit class to stretch our minds and communicate our thoughts. I'm, of course, biased as one of my favorite teachers was my mother, Katherine Jones - she was remarkable as were so many of my other teachers!

Current position, past work experience, licenses / certifications, and special awards or honors received: I've worked in the Reinsurance broking industry my whole career - mostly at Guy Carpenter & Co (we're owned by Marsh & McLennan Cos) where I've spent the past 30 years as a broker. I'm currently a Senior Vice President. Reinsurance is essentially insurance of insurance companies and is a worldwide business. I've found the business to be very interesting and stimulating, with very interesting people from all over the world.

Community Service and Volunteer Experience: I've been involved in music both as a participant in various choirs and on some church committees. I volunteer at various food bank opportunities and am an active library supporter. I've just recently begun learning about the Citizen's Climate Lobby and hope to become an active member. I also support my wonderful husband's significant volunteer work with adult ESL education.

The annual Founders Day program was held in the Truman Dent Donoho, Jr. Cafetorium on November 12, 2002. The keynote address was given by Cleo Thomas, who recognized former board members Charlie Doster and Miller Sproull for their courageous stand in integrating the public library during the civil rights struggles in the 1960's. Alumni M. Lee Taylor '83 gave the alumni reminiscences. The



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occasion was especially meaningful for Taylor, a former student of Mr. Gorey.

Former alumni president, John Thomason '69, presented the Outstanding Alumni Awards for 2002 to Winnie Jones Lindstam '76 and Eric Hamilton '81. Nominated by her sister, Lucy Jones Clyde '73, of Dallas, TX, Winnie has spent her career with Guy Carpenter, a reinsurance company, where she is currently a senior vice president.

After graduating from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, she married Keith Lindstam and settled in Minnesota. Of her work she

says, "Reinsurance is essentially the insurance of insurance companies; as a broker, we help our insurance company clients spread their risk to the worldwide reinsurance marketplace. My work calls on various skills (many of which I began learning while at Donoho)-communication, organization, presentation (both verbal and written), management, technical (program design) and even some algebra!" She goes on to say, "I have such pride in my company for many reasons, especially for September 11, 2001. The home office was in World Trade Center 2 about midway up. We were so fortunate that everyone (700 or so) got out of the building safely. A branch office in World Trade Center 1 wasn't so lucky. Our organization lost 295 that day . . . Our organization was phenomenal-first order of priority were our people and their families . . . The handling of this tragedy is a side of corporate behavior which is a shining example of compassion, concern, professionalism, and extreme competence." She has also been active in her church, serving on various committees and on the church council as head of worship and music. She enjoys sports and has sung in various choirs. (Those who remember Winnie's mother, the late Katherine Jones, a long-time French teacher at Donoho, will remember her love of music, as well.) The concluding words of Lucy's nomination serve as a fitting summary, "One of the greatest

legacies the Academy gives its graduates is teaching the confidence and independence to 'bloom where one is planted'. Well, in suburb of Minneapolis, a light emanates through the snow each springtime as our Anniston Academy Alumnus from the Class of '76 'blooms'. Winnie's father, Dr. Earl Jones, was unable to attend the ceremony due to health reasons, but shared in the family's excitement. Lucy Jones Clyde came from Texas for the occasion.