2009 Alumni Award Winners

Outstanding Young Alumna Award
Jennie Brown ‘02
“After graduating from Harcum with a degree in Interior Design, I knew that I wanted to be involved with the textile portion of design. Bringing my personal designs to life on glass and being able to share them on my own website has been a dream of mine for a long time. I hope you enjoy my designs as much as I enjoy creating them.” www.jbeedesigns.com

Jennie is a true entrepreneur and has never in her success forgot Harcum. She communicates on a regular basis with the Alumni Office and is constantly asking how she can be involved in mentorship to our current students and young alumni.

Outstanding Alumna Award
Jeanne Lawler Frank ‘82
After receiving her degree in Retail Merchandising, Jeanne began her career in retail, working her way up the ladder for a select group of national retailers.

In 1988, she took a bold step and joined the QVC network and began traveling the globe looking for distinctive products that would be a hit with QVC viewers.

In 1997 she started Options in Time. Combining her 20 years of retail experience with her knowledge of specialty timepieces with fashion trends, and real customer needs, she knew she could raise the bar on customer service and product innovation.

What began as a one-woman venture has become a $10 million-a-year business servicing some of the hottest celebrities and top retailers in the world.

I run “The Yes Company,” says Jeanne, “we never say no to a client request until we have exhausted every possibility to meet their needs.”

Service to the Association Award
Mary Ann Skelton Oaks ‘52
Mary Ann has been a member of the Harcum College Board of Trustees since 1997 and served as a member of the National Alumni Board since it’s inception in 2004. She has hosted College and alumni events in her home and is always visible at alumni and college events, attending receptions, basketball games, and reunion weekends. She and her husband Bill have been regular, generous supporters. She can always be counted on to reach out to alumni via phone, letter, and in person.

Mary Ann is active on several committees of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has also been involved in the National Organization for Hearing Research Foundation and was honored by the latter on May 3, 2007 at the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia for her volunteer work as “a representative of all the volunteers who do so such great work in raising funds for research for
the hearing impaired.” She is also involved with a new group funding stem cell research and has been active in various charitable organizations through the years.

Community Service Award
Elizabeth Fitz Hedrick ’80
Elizabeth recently participated in a research project funded by Disney’s Animal Kingdom at Kruger National Park in South Africa. The study evaluated the effect of stress in white rhinos during confinement periods before translocation to other wildlife reserves in South Africa. She also assisted the veterinary staff at Kruger by teaching proper laboratory techniques for research studies.

In May, Elizabeth was awarded a $1000 Disney VoluntEARS grant for the SPCA of Central Florida to recognize her efforts in several volunteers programs at the shelter.

At that time, she also received The President’s Service Award, a national Points of Light acknowledgement given for outstanding community service.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Faye Rieder Bennet ’46
Faye was a pioneer in sailing. She won the Herreshof Top Yachting award in the US. She is the 4th woman to receive this award. The Naval Academy recognized her achievements in sailing and she is in the OSNA Sailing Hall of Fame.

In 2004 the Faye Bennet Sportsmanship Award was established. It’s a perpetual trophy awarded to the singlehanded sailor who exhibits the highest tradition in fairness during the US Junior Singlehanded Championship regatta.

In 1994 the Faye Bennet Trophy was established. The award is given annually to the winner of the MAISA Women’s Singlehanded Championship. It was established to recognize Bennet, a senior judge and junior championship chairman.

Bennet is among the list of Medalist Donors in US Sailing’s Sailor of the Week. She was the first female sailing judge in the US, the first woman to compete in the US Men’s Championship, the first woman to chair the US Jr. Championship Committee, to sit on US Sailing’s Board of Directors and to be elected President of her regional sailing association.