



The 2016 Alumni Wall of Fame induction ceremony was held during UD's Alumni Weekend. Pictured are (from left) Grace Thompson Leong; Anne G. Barretta, president of the UD Alumni Association; Tara Beckerer Manal; then-President Nancy Targett; Leo E. Strine Jr.; and Marna Cupp Whittington.

WALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Article by Ann Manser | Photo by Evan Krape | June 08, 2016

Alumni Weekend ceremony honors four accomplished Blue Hens

Four University of Delaware graduates were recognized for their professional and public service achievements as the newest members of the UD Alumni Wall of Fame.

Grace Thompson Leong (Class of 1988), Tara Beckerer Manal (Class of 1991, who also received a master's degree in 1993), Leo E. Strine Jr. (Class of 1985) and Marna Cupp Whittington (Class of 1968), all graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, were honored at the 2016 Alumni Wall of Fame induction ceremony hosted by the UD Alumni Association (UDAA) on June 4.

Established in 1984, the Wall of Fame features the names of more than 250 accomplished alumni.

"The Wall of Fame serves as a legacy for our exceptional alumni," Nancy Targett, then president of the University, said when the 2016 inductees were announced. "It's an absolute honor to have the opportunity to add more names to it each and every year.

"The honorees we're celebrating have established indelible legacies in their communities, with their colleagues and at this University. We're very proud of their accomplishments and equally proud that they're carrying on the Blue Hen tradition of excellence."

Grace T. Leong

Leong, who earned her bachelor's degree in communication at UD in 1988, is CEO and partner in Hunter Public Relations, which she founded in 1989 with Barbara Hunter.

The New York City-based firm provides strategic marketing communications counsel to national consumer brands and chief marketing officers for such Fortune 100 companies as Kraft and Johnson and Johnson. Hunter Public Relations, which began with three employees, now operates across North America and in Toronto and the United Kingdom and is regularly ranked among the top 20 consumer-focused public relations firms in the U.S.

Leong has won numerous industry awards including, just two days before the UD Wall of Fame ceremony, the John W. Hill Award for lifetime achievement from the Public Relations Society of America's New York chapter. She regularly provides guidance and internship opportunities to UD students.

Leong has been a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Council since 2009, the last two years as its chair, and also serves on the advisory board for the Horn Program in Entrepreneurship in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics. In 2013, she received the UDAA Outstanding Alumni Award.

"Thanks to UD's outstanding learning environment, I discovered my passion for communication," Leong said. "There is no doubt that my years at UD were my most formative, and I am grateful for the love, learning and pride of place this University has shared with me."