The Florida State University College of Education proudly recognizes outstanding alumni who have distinguished themselves through scholarly, creative and humanitarian achievement and service to their profession. Peers nominate the candidates, and an esteemed committee of College of Education emeritus faculty selects the winners.
welcome

MARCY P. DRISCOLL
Dean and Leslie J. Briggs Professor of Educational Research, College of Education

presentation of awards

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
Laurence Hewick
Ph.D. in Comparative Leadership Styles (1979)
Nominator: Dr. Steve Gruber

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
P.C. Wu
M.S. in Educational Leadership (1969) and Ph.D. in Education Leadership (1973)
Nominator: Judith Wu (Wife)

INTERNATIONAL
Johnson Odharo
Ph.D. in Adult Education, Measurement, and Evaluation (1985)
Nominator: Dr. Julia Goodwin

K-12 EDUCATION
Thomas Weightman
B.S. in Physical Education (1957) and M.S. in Education (1961)
Nominator: Dr. Mary Giella
presentation of awards

POSTSECONDARY SYSTEMS: COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Robert Breuder
Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration (1972)
Nominator: Dr. Lou Bender

POSTSECONDARY SYSTEMS: UNIVERSITY
James Morrison
B.S. in Social Studies Education (1960) and Ph.D. in Higher Education (1969)
Nominator: Dr. Dale Lick

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR
Jan Visser
M.S. in Instructional Systems Design (1987)
Nominator: Dr. John Dempsey

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
William Roetzheim
B.S. in Physical Education (1952)
Nominator: Dr. Richard Gutting

closing remarks

MARCY P. DRISCOLL
ABOUT OUR WINNERS
Hewick is President of Hewick Research Inc., who specializes in market research and commercialization. Hewick Research performs work on projects for government, business, and academe to bring together market intelligence and venture capital to expand existing markets. Within the community, Hewick is very active. Locally, he is President of the Golden Horseshoe Venture Forum which brings ideas and business resources together. He is the former Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Science and Technology Committee, former Director at the Hamilton Incubator of Technology, and former International Advisor to the Slovenia Association on Technology Parks.

For 15 years, Hewick worked in Canadian academe, teaching undergraduate and MBA students in the area of entrepreneurship and venture capital. He has also enjoyed visiting professorships in Moldova, Romania, and Bolivia. Currently, he lectures in Slovenia on entrepreneurship and innovation. Hewick has spoken at international economic development conferences in Austria, Bolivia, Croatia, China, Hungary, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Moldova, Slovenia, Serbia, and the Ukraine. He is known for his “grass-roots no nonsense approach” to economic development.
Wu began his teaching career at Rickards High School in Tallahassee in 1967. In 2005, he retired from University of West Florida as Professor of Educational Leadership. Upon retirement, he was named a UWF Professor Emeritus. Wu received several Ft. Walton Beach Outstanding Professor awards and the UWF Distinguished Faculty Service Award. He is the Past President of: the Florida Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Florida Association for Teacher Educators, and the Florida Association for Staff Development.

Wu was elected to the Pensacola City Council in 2004, and he is currently the President. He is the Past President of the Northwest Florida League of Cities and was selected as the Outstanding Municipal Official of the Year in 2011. In August of 2013, he became the President of the Florida League of Cities. Wu’s community service includes being the Rotary District 6940 Governor, the Secretary of the NW Council on Aging, and is on the Navy League Board of Directors. He has worked on over 20 Habitat for Humanity homes and is a member of St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church. He served as a commissioner on the Florida Commission on Human Relations. Wu is married to Judith McQuade Wu – they met at FSU in 1966 and she is also an alumni of the College of Education.
Odharo emigrated to the United States in 1974 from Nigeria. His career began with the Florida State University Instructional Systems program as a Senior Technical Advisor in the Botswana Junior Secondary School Improvement Project.

Odharo served as Senior Technical Advisor/Chief of Party in USAID projects for 26 years. His major contributions include developing programs for training teachers for all levels – primary, secondary and universities; using instructional technology in training teachers (in Botswana and Ethiopia). He has helped to develop and influence policies for training more than 200,000 teachers in Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Liberia and South Sudan. In Ethiopia, Odharo developed the first-ever distance education master’s degrees program in education management and, curriculum, and instruction used to upgrade some 220 education managers and curriculum developers. With the University of Massachusetts, he assisted in developing contents for a M. Ed and Ed. D. on Education Planning and Policy, Education Measurement, and Curriculum Design. Graduates are now education leaders in the ministry and teacher trainers in colleges of education.
Weightman received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Florida State and continued his post-graduate studies at the University of Florida and University of South Florida. His teaching career began at Gulf High School where he served as Basketball and Football Coach, Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and Assistant Principal. He later served as Principal of Cypress Elementary and Gulf Junior High. Weightman was elected Superintendent of Schools in Pasco County from 1974-1996. He was named Florida’s School Superintendent of the year for 1986-87. He held the office of Superintendent for 22 years -- the longest anyone in Florida has continuously held that position.

Weightman culminated his career as CEO of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Following his retirement, Governor Jeb Bush appointed him to the Board of Trustees for Pasco Hernando Community College where he served for eight years. In 2004, Weightman was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Administrators. His mother was a teacher and expressed to him when he was young that she would like him to become a teacher one day. She told him there was no profession more honorable than teaching.
Raised in Queens, New York, President Robert L. Breuder earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Florida State University in 1972. In 1981, at the age of 36, he became the youngest community college president in the nation at Williamsport Area Community College in Williamsport, Penn. He later conceived of and facilitated the merger of that institution with Pennsylvania State University in 1989 to create the Pennsylvania College of Technology. He went on to serve as President of William Rainey Harper College, located in Palatine, Ill., from 1998 to 2008 and is currently President of College of DuPage, located in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

Through extraordinary communication skills and exceptional strategic planning, he has transformed and effectively told the story of every institution he has served. A highly successful fundraiser, he secured passage of three capital referenda totaling $415 million and introduced 149 degree/certificate programs, including 22 baccalaureate degrees. At COD, he introduced 12 on campus 3+1 baccalaureate degrees involving five partner universities, and has overseen more than $550 million in campus improvements involving more than one million square feet.
Morrison received a B.S. in Social Studies Education, M.S. in Social Science, and his Ph.D. in Higher Education, all from FSU. In addition, he studied German at the University of Heidelberg and German and sociology at the University of Munich. He currently is Professor Emeritus of education at UNC-Chapel Hill. He served as Vice President (Division J) of the American Educational Research Association and received the Distinguished Scholar Award from AERA’s Special Interest Group on Strategic Change.

Visser is a lifelong learner who has benefited from carefully negotiating opportunities in informal and formal learning environments alike. He is an accomplished scientist with published research in both theoretical physics and the sciences of learning. As a practitioner, he is devoted to enhancing human existence by advancing the capacity to learn in a lifelong, life-wide, and life-deep perspective. He has worked internationally for almost half a century. Having lived in four different continents, he feels at home in a multicultural world and enjoys conversing in multiple languages.

He is President and Senior Researcher at the Learning Development Institute (LDI) and Professor Extraordinary at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, while formally residing in France. In the 1990s, Visser was UNESCO’s Director for Learning Without Frontiers (LWF), a global transdisciplinary initiative which aimed at slashing barriers to education around the world while helping to construct new visions of learning. LDI, an autonomous not-for-profit organization, is the successor to LWF. Visser is also a musician (who built some of his own instruments) and an avid walker.
In 1951, William Roetzheim, then an FSU sophomore, did something unprecedented which can never again be matched anywhere in the United States. He single-handedly outscored all gymnastics teams in the National Collegiate Gymnastic Championships. His individual score was higher than the team score of every team in the competition and won FSU the first national athletic team championship in any sport and in any college or university in Florida history. This “one man team” accomplishment prompted the NCAA to change the entire scoring system to prevent anyone from repeating his overwhelming performance. Roetzheim’s contribution to the sport of Gymnastics is weaved throughout his career. He was a member of two USA Olympic Gymnastics Teams (1948, 1952). He was the first American to bring home gold in the Pan American Games in 1951. Roetzheim served as a superior judge at the Olympic Games in 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996. He was the first American elected to the Federation International of Gymnastics Men’s Technical Committee, serving from 1984 to 1996. Roetzheim was inducted into the Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1975, followed by his induction into the FSU Hall of Fame in 1977.

He worked as a successful high school coach and physical education teacher for 14 years (1955-1969). Roetzheim was employed as the Athletic Director and Gymnastics coach at the University of Illinois – Chicago from 1969 until his retirement in 1985.