Alumni Achievement Award

Award History
The word “tradition” takes on added significance when recalling a campus event launched in the 1960s. A tradition etched in Grove City College annals is the Alumni Achievement Award, sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Alumni Association leaders including Walter L. Moser ’15, Bob Neely ’34, J. Marvin Suter ’50 and Jim Schalles ’42 initiated the program and adopting the award guidelines. Working with them was Alumni Secretary Jack Kennedy.

After a year of preparation, the award program was approved by Alumni Council vote at the April 1964 meeting. The areas of awards began with five fields, and have been expanded during the years to include a variety of fields that mirror the majors and areas of study at the College.

Worthy Candidates
Nominations come from alumni through mentions in The GêDUNK alumni magazine, faculty, family and friends, the committee, College staff and news releases received in the Alumni Office. Nominations should be sent to the Alumni Office by February 1 of each year. Complete biographical information for a candidate is very helpful to the selection committee.

The initial guidelines encouraged alumni to excel in worthwhile service. This service brings honor to the College. Distinctive success in one’s occupational field is worthy of honor and is recognized as an extraordinary commitment to bettering the world around us. This fits into the mission and values of Grove City College.

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In 1980, the award was renamed the Jack Kennedy Alumni Achievement Award in honor of the College’s first alumni secretary and placement officer. Jack Kennedy served his alma mater for 32 years before his retirement in 1980. He had an indelible influence on the lives and future careers of hundreds of Grovers. In 1987, following Jack’s death, the award was renamed the Jack Kennedy Memorial Alumni Achievement Award in tribute to him.

Anyone who holds a degree from the College is eligible for the Alumni Achievement Award. They and anyone who attended the College for a period of not less than four semesters constitute the regular membership of the Grove City College Alumni Association. With approximately 27,000 living members, the Alumni Association is a vital constituency of the Grove City College family. The selection and presentation of the Jack Kennedy Memorial Alumni Achievement Award is a rich tradition that will continue for many more years.