

CHAPTER 4  
SELECTED COE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

An institution's/college's/program's reputation is largely determined by its alumni. Since its founding, EMU's numerous College of Education and professional education program alums have distinguished themselves, not only in schools/higher education institutions in the state/nation/world, but in government and many other walks of life. They have not only brought great honor to themselves, but indirectly to EMU as well.

However, during the 1991-2004 period, no one was quite sure how many "education" alums EMU had, who they were, where they were, whether they were living or not, or what professional contributions they had made. To be sure, there were records for a lot, but many had "slipped through the cracks" of the record-keeping system. Fortunately, the record-keeping system kept improving, but the record-keeping (for our purposes) was complicated considerably by institutional "definitions." For example, by 1998, the EMU Alumni office had good addresses for 33,870 living Education alumni. There were 4,088 names for whom there was not a good address. The 33,870 included 15,964 in Teacher Education, 6,903 in Special Education, 5,445 in Leadership and Counseling, and 2,897 in HPERD.

Up to a certain point some decades earlier, everyone attending what became EMU had to attest that she/he intended to be a teacher. So, for the early and middle years of the institution, all completers were "education" alums. However, after that time, it was not always clear, from available records, who was an "education" alum and who wasn't. In recent decades, yes, it was relatively easy to determine that elementary/early childhood, special education, and physical education alums were part of the "education" group, but what about all those secondary and K-12 teachers who were credited in EMU records as being alums of some EMU college other than Education? And, the COE prepared relatively small numbers of persons for fields other than "education." Were they "education" alums or not?

As a result of all this, it was very difficult to communicate with more than just "pieces" of the EMU "education" alumni network. Nevertheless, various efforts were made to identify, to contact, and to provide services, opportunities, and recognitions for EMU "education" alums.

#### An Alumni Organization

My predecessor, Dr. W. Scott Westerman, Jr., had made substantial efforts to organize a functioning, active, useful Education alumni group. Various efforts were made to identify and conduct activities, either on-campus or elsewhere, that would involve Education alums. In briefing me as I came into the dean's office, Dean Westerman shared with me that essentially none of the activities (that he and the elected leadership of the Education alumni group had planned and

conducted) had been of interest to more than just a few alums. He challenged me to find some way to “reach” many more alums, and I had to agree that this would be a worthwhile activity.

During the 1991-1992 year, I, too, consulted with the elected leadership of the Education alumni group about potential activities of interest to Education alums and we planned and implemented several activities/events, with the same lack of success (in terms of amount of participation) that had previously been the case. Ultimately, the remaining elected leadership of the group recommended that we abandon the effort and “disband.” Considering that this was taking an appreciable amount of effort, money, and other resources, with quite limited results, I reluctantly agreed to the recommendation and no further efforts to have an Education alumni “organization” were attempted.

### “Go Where the Alums Were Already Gathered”

Various efforts were made to have an “EMU presence” at places where appreciable numbers of “education” alums were already gathered (along with other people). One such effort was to have an EMU reception at the annual convention of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Various mechanisms, especially a notice in the convention program, were used to invite to the reception everyone present who had an EMU “connection”—alums, EMU faculty members attending the convention, and selected “friends.” Toward the end of the 1991-2004 period, the Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) “wanted in on” such a reception, and with MACTE willing to provide an appreciable portion of the cost involved, the AACTE reception became a joint EMU/MACTE “Michigan reception.”

Similarly, we were able to make arrangements in several additional instances for the funding and other logistics such as to hold an EMU/COE reception at selected state (Michigan) conventions of “job alike” educational personnel. In several instances, COE departments/programs arranged for some alumni “gathering” with which I was not involved, but highly supported.

### COE Celebration of Excellence

In the early years of the COE annual Celebration of Excellence, one or more “education” alums who had distinguished him/herself over time were recognized and celebrated during this event. However, it wasn’t long until the committee in charge of this event dropped this feature. Among those recognized in this context as “outstanding alumni” were Elizabeth Asmann, Timothy Dyer, and Roy Wilbanks.

## Board of Regents Recognitions

In a number of cases, we arranged to have the recipients of major awards recognized by the EMU Board of Regents, including an appearance before the Board. We often provided a lunch in connection with these Board recognitions, including participation by EMU and COE dignitaries and selected faculty members.

## Education Alumni Hall of Fame

With COE's move into the Porter Building in 1999, we had a lot of corridor wall space that "cried out" for decoration or display. I had the notion that we should have some sort of display of "distinguished alumni" that would be placed in a "high traffic" spot for students and would, I hope, be an inspiration to them (as well as of interest to faculty members and visitors to the building.) A committee was appointed to advise on this matter and we came up with the following criteria and display mechanism.

Nominees would be sought from COE faculty members and welcomed from any other interested party. A nominee must fall into one of two categories: (a) any College of Education alumnus, living or dead, who had especially distinguished her/himself in any walk of life; or (b) any EMU alumnus, living or dead, who had especially distinguished her/himself in any aspect of education. We determined that a small number would be selected by the advisory committee each year (with more the first year) and that a photo and a brief biographical sketch of each selectee would be posted on a wall in the second-floor corridor, near the Student Lounge, of the Porter Building. Further, we would hold an "unveiling" ceremony each year, to which each honoree (if living) and his/her family, or descendants, if they could be located, would be invited, along with the COE faculty and EMU dignitaries.

The first such "unveiling" ceremony was held on February 23, 2001, along with a dinner in honor of those selected. The first set of honorees, with the biographical sketch for each, included:

Carol Lynn Babcock, '66, '69, '78. Since assuming her first principalship in 1978, Babcock has been highly involved in state, local, and national school leadership organizations, capped by her term of service as president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. She received her B.A. in elementary education from EMU and began teaching in 1966. After earning an M.A. in guidance and counseling, also from EMU, she became first a counselor, then a principal. She later earned her Sp.A. from EMU as well. Since 1989 she has been principal of Grant Elementary School in Livonia. Babcock has won numerous awards as an educator and school leader, including an EMU Outstanding Alumnus Award and placement on the 1988 National School Boards Association "Executive Educator 100" list.

Ruth Boughner, '17, '23. The first woman inducted into the EMU Athletic Hall of Fame, Boughner spent a long and notable career at EMU. She received a teaching certificate from MSNC in 1917 and began teaching at the College in 1920. After earning a B.A. from the College

in 1923 (and an M.A. from UM), Boughner taught as a professor in the (then) Physical Education department until 1952, including 11 years as the chair of the Women's Division of the department. After her retirement, a scholarship fund was established in her name and the exercise science laboratory in the Warner Building honors her. Boughner died in 1989.

Don Cameron, '61, '62, '85. A product of Michigan's public schools, Cameron is a staunch advocate for public education in America. After earning B.A. and M.A. degrees at EMU, Cameron taught in the Birmingham, Michigan schools. He is distinguished by his long and varied career with the National Education Association, serving as executive director from 1983 until recent weeks. He serves on the board of a variety of educational and social organizations, and has won numerous honors and awards.

John DiBiaggio, '54, '85. President of Tufts University since 1992, DiBiaggio is perhaps best known in Michigan for his term as president of MSU from 1985 to 1992. DiBiaggio graduated from EMU in 1954 with a B.S. He practiced dentistry for several years before returning to the field of education. He held administrative appointments at the University of Kentucky and Virginia Commonwealth university and was president of the University of Connecticut before returning to his home state. DiBiaggio also has a distinguished record of public service, including the presidency of the Board of Trustees of the American Cancer Society.

Timothy J. Dyer, '61, '65. Dyer graduated from EMU with a B.A. in 1961 and received an M.A. in 1965. He served in the educational field as a teacher and principal and was mayor of Ypsilanti from 1968 to 1970. He simultaneously held positions as the superintendent of the Wayne-Westland school district and on the EMU Board of Regents (1973-1983), before he left the state to become superintendent of the nation's largest high school district in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1990, Dyer accepted the position of executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, serving in that capacity until 1998.

Arthur E. Ellis, '70. Ellis has had a distinguished career in educational administration in the state of Michigan. After earning his M.A. at EMU and serving as a member of the staff here, he became vice-president for public affairs at Central Michigan University (1970-1985). In 1985, he became president of CMU, serving until 1991. He entered state government, serving as head of the state Commerce Department and, since August 1995, as Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Michigan.

Thomas Fleming, '68, '93. As a teenager, Fleming had very limited skills in reading and writing and he dropped out of high school. Teaching himself to read, he eventually earned an M.A. in special education at EMU. The quality of his twenty-year teaching career at the Washtenaw County Juvenile Detention Center earned him the 1991 Michigan Teacher of the Year award, followed by the 1992 National Teacher of the Year award. In 1994, Fleming was appointed special assistant to the provost at EMU, a position he currently holds.

Hayes Jones, '61. While still a student at EMU, Jones won a bronze medal for the 110-meter hurdles in the 1960 Olympic games in Rome. After graduating in 1961 with a B.A. from EMU, Jones returned to the Olympics, earning a gold medal in the 1964 games in Tokyo in the same event. A member of the Michigan Athletic Hall of Fame and the Helms Athletic Hall of

Fame in Los Angeles, Jones went on to become a successful businessman and an active participant in community affairs.

Jack Minzey, '50. A longtime EMU professor and administrator, Minzey is also well known for his work in community education. Minzey earned his B.A. in 1950 from EMU. After service in the K-12 schools and in the Michigan Department of Education, he joined the EMU faculty in 1968 and served at various times as head of the Department of Leadership and Counseling, acting dean of the College of Education, and director of the Center for Community Education. Minzey also served as president of the National Community Education Association and has won numerous awards, including an Outstanding Service Award and the 1986 Distinguished Service Award from the NCEA. In 1992, Minzey was inducted into the Michigan Education Hall of Fame.

Carl Pursell, '57, '62, '80. Pursell earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from EMU. He taught in area schools, then took up a political career, serving in both the Michigan Senate (six years) and the United States House of Representatives (16 years), where he was the ranking Republican on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Pursell served on the EMU Board of Regents from 1993 to 2000.

The 2002 group of persons named to the Hall of Fame included:

The late Isaiah Bowman '01. Not long after Bowman graduated from The Normal, he became a faculty member here, teaching geography. Later, he became an internationally known leader in the field of geography, as an explorer and writer. Winner of numerous awards and recognitions, he capped his career with service as president of Johns Hopkins University.

The late Marylyn Lake '64, '66. Lake served as a K-12 special education teacher, joining the EMU faculty in 1967, where she served until her sudden death last year. Beloved by her students and colleagues, she received many recognitions, including the EMU Distinguished Faculty Award and the MAGB Distinguished Faculty Award.

William "Bill" Mays '54. Mays was a teacher and administrator in the Ann Arbor schools at a time when the district had few African-American professionals. He later had lengthy and distinguished service as the executive director of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association. He has been very active in EMU alumni and athletic matters.

Wilbert J. McKeachie '42. McKeachie had a brief career as a teacher of mathematics but, after service in World War II, he went on to become a world-famous psychologist, receiving many awards, honors, and honorary degrees for his work in that field. However, he also established himself as an authority on the undergraduate experience. He served as president of the American Psychological Association and as president of the American Association for Higher Education.

Jack Price '52. After teaching in Detroit and in San Diego, Price became director of curriculum and, later, assistant superintendent of the San Diego schools. Still later, he was superintendent of two California school districts. He never separated from his first love of mathematics

education. In 1990 he became the co-director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education at California State-Pomona and he is a former president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The 2003 honorees included:

Frank Manley '28. Frank Manley was hired by the Flint schools as a physical education teacher in 1927. He served the Flint schools until 1964 as physical education director, director of adult education, director of health/attendance/recreation, and assistant superintendent. In 1935 he and philanthropist Charles Mott began an affiliation that lasted until the death of both men. In 1964 Manley became Executive Director of the Mott Foundation, a position he held until his death in 1972. He is known as the "father of community education"--a concept that became very popular in schools during the 1960's and 1970's and which spawned many other school and community initiatives.

William P. Morris '64, '68. Bill Morris served 31 years in education, including 22 as a superintendent. He was president of the American Association of School Administrators in 1991-92. He holds many recognitions, including being a member of the National Hall of Distinguished Administrators and the Michigan Education Hall of Fame. He is currently President of the Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation, active in many civic organizations, and a member of the COE Resource Development Board.

Robert C. Parks '52. Bob Parks was a middle-distance runner at EMU during his collegiate years, following which he coached at Ferndale, Dewitt, and Redford Thurston high schools. He was an assistant coach at WMU for six years. Parks came to EMU in 1967. He led EMU track and cross-country teams to 48 MAC titles and six NAIA/NCAA crowns during that time. He was named MAC "coach of the year" 28 times, NCAA Regional "coach of the year" eight times, and was named once as national "coach of the year." At least eight of his athletes completed in the Olympics, including Hasely Crawford, gold medalist in the 100-meter dash in the 1976 games and Earl Jones, bronze medalist in the 800-meter run in 1984. Parks retired as coach and professor of HPERD in 2001. The EMU indoor track is named in his honor.

David Eugene Smith '98 (1860-1944). David Eugene Smith received the M.Ph. while on the faculty of The Normal (1891-1898). He then returned to his native New York and became a faculty member and later principal (1898-1901) of the State Normal School in Brockport, NY. By 1901 he had authored some 50 textbooks in mathematics and obtained a Ph.D. from Syracuse. He joined the faculty of Teachers College, Columbia University in that year, where he established the first secondary education methods course in mathematics. He also served as the Teachers College librarian from 1902 to 1920. He wrote *Rara Arithmetica* (1907), still the definitive bibliography of pre-1601 books on mathematics and he collected an enormous quantity of historical material and apparatus in mathematics, now a core part of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University.

James A. Wilsford '70. James A. Wilsford received his bachelor's degree from Kent State University, his master's from EMU, an Ed.S. from Appalachian State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. He served as a teacher of English, principal, and associate

superintendent in Savannah, GA and as superintendent of the Orangeburg, SC schools. In 1989 he was named the national "superintendent of the year." He was a pioneer in the use of technology to accomplish substantial student achievement in his mostly minority, low-income school district. After his retirement from the superintendency in 1991, he founded MultiMeanings Company, an educational software provider. He remains active as a consultant.

The 2004 honorees were:

Barbara Forker '42. Barbara Forker graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1942. After teaching high school and elementary school physical education, she served 22 months in Europe with the American Red Cross during World War II. In 1948, Forker joined the Iowa State University faculty, where she received her M.S. degree. In 1957, she obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and in 1958 was appointed the head of the Women's P.E. Department at Iowa State University, where she assisted in the creation of the physical education major for women. In 1974, Forker was named the Department Head for both the men's and women's P.E. departments. During the 1970s, she served on the U.S. Olympic Committee and the President's Commission on Olympic Sports. Forker has received numerous awards throughout her career to honor her achievements. Most notably, in 1997, the Physical Education building at Iowa State University was renamed in her honor.

Bert I. Greene '55. Bert Greene, a longtime faculty member at EMU in Teacher Education, graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1955. Prior to teaching at EMU, Bert taught in the Michigan public school system at both the middle and elementary school levels. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1961 while working at the Institute for Social Research. Greene joined the EMU faculty in 1963 and has since published numerous works in his field of study. He has been instrumental in enhancing learning technologies at EMU and was one of the first professors to integrate the use of the computer in his courses. Greene initiated several courses in technology, including the first course at EMU about the Internet. He has also served as chair of the COE Resource Development Board and is still very involved in the University's advancement activities.

Theo Hamilton '55. Theo Hamilton entered Michigan State Normal College in 1941 and shortly thereafter left to serve in World War II. Hamilton was the first African-American teacher in Michigan's Upper Peninsula when, in 1955, he accepted a teaching position with the Pickford public schools. Upon becoming an assistant principal and principal with the Highland Public Schools, he became one of only a handful of African-American school administrators in Michigan. In 1967, "Uncle Theo" returned to EMU to launch a career that has made him one of the University's most respected and beloved staff members. Over the next four decades, and continuing still, Hamilton has helped tens of thousands of students and alumni prepare for and find teaching and administrative positions. His unique combination of optimism, professionalism, and genuine concern for people has made him someone who has had a positive influence on everyone, leading to countless awards from the University, the community, and his profession.

Nora (White) Martin '63 '65. Nora Martin received both her B.S. and M.A. degrees from EMU. After graduating, she spent four years teaching in the Wayne-Westland Schools. She

then returned to EMU as an Assistant Professor in Special Education. In 1973, Martin received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan. Her career at EMU has earned her many awards, including the Faculty Recognition Award, Educator of the Year Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, and many others. She has also served as the EMU Comer Schools Facilitator. Martin is considered a pioneer in the area of learning disabilities and has earned tremendous respect from students, staff, and peers at both EMU and the Detroit Public Schools.

Ron Oestrike '54. Ron Oestrike served for 23 years as EMU's head baseball coach. During his career, he led his teams to the 1970 NAIA national title as well as two NCAA-Division I World Series. Oestrike retired from his EMU head baseball coaching duties in 1987 but he stayed on as a physical education instructor at EMU until officially retiring after the 1998 fall semester. He was named to the National Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990. EMU's baseball stadium was officially named Ron Oestrike Stadium, August 26, 1987.

Lloyd Olds (1892-1982) '16. Lloyd Olds graduated from Michigan State Normal School in 1916 and later earned an M.S. in 1928 and a Ph.D. in 1939, both from the University of Michigan. Olds joined MSNS's Department of Physical Education in 1921. He coached the track and cross-country teams for 25 years, during which time the track team won more than 85% of their meets. He also established one of the most extensive intramural programs in the Midwest, which was used as a model by many school systems throughout the country. Olds' success with the Normal School's track and intramural program led to his being named the Assistant Track Coach for the U.S. Olympic track and field squads in both 1932 and 1936. From 1946 to 1950 he served as chairman of the National Track and Field Association. Olds was also the head of EMU's Department of Physical Education from 1956-63 and president of MAHPERD. After retirement, he was elected to the N.C.A.A. Track and Field Hall of Fame and the EMU Sports Hall of Fame. He is also credited with the invention of the striped referee shirt, as well as the use of ribbons as awards in intramural games.

### "Bragging Points"

Of course, a great many recipients of the recognitions cited in Appendix D earned their EMU credentials well before my time. As a result, I couldn't, and didn't, make any claim related to my possible personal involvement in preparing them for their well-deserved recognition. I did, however, in public speaking about these recognitions, try to credit, at least in general, the earlier leaders and faculty members in the COE who had undoubtedly helped to bring about these recognitions. In other words, I tried to make the point that "quality" education and preparation had been going on in the COE for a long time.

Nevertheless, as the recognitions happened/became available, I used these items (all quantities are on the "low" side) about COE and professional education program alums as "bragging points" during 1991-2004. (In general, these points are in addition to the recognitions received by those in the EMU COE Hall of Fame and in addition to many recognitions earned by 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century alums.)



1. Our alums received national education recognitions—national teacher of the year; national superintendent of the year; national first-year teacher of the year (twice); presidents or executives of several major national education organizations (NEA, NASSP, NAESP, school psychologists, etc.); principal of the year (twice); and more than a dozen other national recognitions (many with a cash prize) from corporations/government agencies/media.
2. Our alums received national education awards/recognitions (usually with a substantial cash prize) that were presented to multiple people at the same time— McAuliffe Fellow (\$38,500); Milken (\$25,000, 24 with EMU affiliation, believed to be more than any other institution); and more than a dozen from corporations/government agencies/media. A vastly disproportionate number of the early Michigan receivers of National Board for Teacher Certification were EMU alums.
3. Our alums received several regional (multi-state) awards, including outstanding dissertation and thesis, and received significant recognitions in states other than Michigan (*e.g.*, Wyoming Superintendent of the Year).
4. Our alums received numerous state awards/recognitions—state teacher of the year (5); subject matter/grade level teacher of the year (21); superintendent of the year (4); principal of the year (3); several named to the Michigan Education Hall of Fame; two served as state superintendent of education; many dozens of principals (and superintendents) led schools designated as exemplary/Blue Ribbon/Golden Apple; and nearly a dozen were presidents or executives of state-level professional organizations. Several alums had buildings or other school facilities named in their honor. In 1996, the teacher of the year, the elementary/middle school principal of the year, the secondary principal of the year, and the superintendent of the year were all EMU alums!
5. Our alums received dozens of recognitions at the local level--as county teacher of the year and as district or building teacher of the year. EMU recognized many of our alums with “Distinguished Alumnus” awards or with Teaching Excellence awards and with, in some instances, Board resolutions.
6. A number of our alums achieved prominently outside the field of K-12 schools—in the political world (governor’s education advisor (2), several members of the legislature, judge, mayor, member of school and library boards); as successful actors; in the literary world (*e.g.*, Pulitzer Prize); as “Miss Michigan”; as college/university president/dean/professor; in the business world (*e.g.*, vice president of Coca-Cola, president of JanSport); in athletics (*e.g.*, Olympic medal winner); as a pastor; or in the military (*e.g.*, two generals). Several were named community “person of the year” or “citizen of the year” for their civic activities.

See Appendix D for detail on these recognitions.