

Dominique Thompson Memorial Alumni of the Year

Jerome Wszalek '73

This award is in memory of alumna Dominique Thompson '04, who during her short time dedicated an immense amount of time and resources to Hilbert College and the Greater Buffalo Community. Nominated by his/her peers, this award recipient demonstrates the Franciscan values of hope, peace, service, joy, integrity, respect, compassion, and vision as well as encompassing the true spirit of Hilbert College. This individual is active with the community and remains connected to Hilbert College by giving back to the college in various ways, including volunteering at various events.

Jerry graduated from Hilbert in 1973 with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. To Jerry, Hilbert was instrumental in his outlook on life as the Franciscan values are apparent in his volunteer work at Hilbert and the Community.

Jerry currently resides in West Seneca and is actively involved in his community. He serves as the Chairman of the Queen of Heaven Carnival, is a Member of the Knights of Saint John, and is involved in the Citybration, formally known as Buffalo Homecoming. For eight years Jerry has been on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and is very proud of how much the organization has grown stronger.

Sister Adrienne Rapnicki
Faculty/Staff Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Edward Qualey '74

This award was named in memory of Sister Adrienne Rapnicki, a faculty member who encompassed the spirit of Hilbert College and continuously gave back to the Hilbert community in many ways. The recipient of this award is a current or former member of Hilbert's faculty or staff who emulates the characteristics that Sister Adrienne exhibited while on the Hilbert campus. He or she should display integrity and leadership within the classroom or workplace. This individual provides an environment that promotes lifelong learning and discovery in a truly global society. He or she should possess the Franciscan Core Values of Hope, Peace, Joy, Integrity, Vision, Respect, Service and Compassion. These Franciscan values should be demonstrated to the students within the lessons learned at Hilbert and be evidently displayed in their interactions within their homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Professor Qualey is a part of the Hilbert family both as an alumnus and faculty member. He returned to Hilbert as Chair of the Criminal Justice Department and Associate Professor in the Forensic Science/Prime Scene Investigation Department. He was the first full time faculty member in his department and is certainly helped grow these programs into the successes they are today.

Professor Qualey is truly a leader at Hilbert College. He was the first faculty member to receive the Hilbert College President's medal in 2001. His consistent support of Hilbert College and his community at large showcases his belief in the Franciscan values of Hilbert College.

Saint Francis Award for Community Service

Detective Todd Ehret '98

This award goes out to a Hilbert alumna/us who has distinguished his or herself by making vast contributions of time and talent to his or her respective community over the course of many years of service. The recipient could be considered a role model for other Hilbert graduates - past, present and future, for exhibiting dedication to improving the community and those he or she serves.

Todd is a Hamburg resident and a Detective with the Hamburg Police Department. He graduated from Gowanda High School and continued his education at Hilbert where he graduated with an Associate Degree in 1996 and a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice in 1998. While at Hilbert, Todd was a Resident Assistant, a member of the ski club and was voted Hilbert Man of the Year. Todd has said, "My experience at Hilbert taught me to care not only about myself but also about the community I live and serve in."

Todd, along with our other Saint Francis Award recipient, was an integral part of the investigation that resulted in solving the case of the hit and run driver that killed Meghan Sorbera, a Hilbert student, in October 2008.

Saint Francis Award for Community Service

Detective Scott Kashino '96

This award goes out to a Hilbert alumna/us who has distinguished his or herself by making vast contributions of time and talent to his or her respective community over the course of many years of service. The recipient could be considered a role model for other Hilbert graduates - past, present and future, for exhibiting dedication to improving the community and those he or she serves.

Scott is a resident of Lakewood. He graduated from Lakeshore High School and continued his education at Hilbert where he graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice in 1996. He worked with the Angola Police Department from 1993 - 1998 and has worked with the Town of Hamburg Police Department since 1998. He became a Detective in 2005. He was the recipient of the Erie County Stop DWI Program Award in 1994 as one of the top DWI law enforcement officers in the county. He has also been recognized numerous times as Officer of the Month.

Scott, along with our other Saint Francis Award recipient, was an integral part of the investigation that resulted in solving the case of the hit and run driver that killed Meghan Sorbera, a Hilbert student, in October 2008.

Hilbert College Franciscan Values Award

Robert Drago

This award was established to recognize a friend of Hilbert College who exemplifies the principles on which the College was founded and who has distinguished him/herself in career and community. Each of Hilbert's Franciscan Core Values: Hope, Peace, Joy, Integrity, Vision, Respect, Service and Compassion should describe the recipient's character.

Robert Drago is truly committed to Catholic education and has proven his dedication to the education of the Hilbert College students for the past several decades. From 1993 to 2002, Robert served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Hilbert College and for honored with the "Hilbert College Medal" in 1998 for service, advocacy for higher education and financial support of the college. The college honored him with the title of Trustee Emeritus in 2003.

Robert is a resident of Hamburg and is the President of Goya Food Great Lakes. He has served as a member of the advisory board of the Cornell Institute of Food Service and was a member of the board of directors of the Associated New York State Food Processors. He is an inductee of both the Lake Shore Central Wall of Fame and the Evans/Bryant Sports Hall of Fame. In October 2006, he and his wife, Doris, were one of three recipients of the Immaculata Academy Mater Christi Award given to individuals whose lives embody the meaning of exceptional personal commitment and contributions to build greater communities.

Graduates of the Last Decade Award

Thomas McArthur '06

This award is presented to a Hilbert Graduate of the last decade who has achieved career success and demonstrated significant volunteer service to his or her community and/or Hilbert College.

Tom graduated from Hilbert in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. In addition to his studies at Hilbert, Tom was involved in student leadership as he was a Resident Assistant, the Student Government President, a Presenter on the Students in Free Enterprise National Competition Team and an Orientation Leader. In May of 2006, Tom received the "John Kissel Man of the Year" Award for all of his accomplishments including his active involvement on campus.

Today, Tom resides in Rochester, New York and is the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at the University of Rochester. Tom has remained a part of the Hilbert Community by joining the Hilbert Alumni Association in February 2009. The great amount of talent and dedication he brings to the Alumni Association has made the organization stronger.