

ALUMNI AWARDS

Distinguished Service Awards

Muskingum University Distinguished Service Awards honor those alumni who have attained the highest levels of achievement in their professions and whose service to others has had an extraordinary impact on the world.

JOHN D. FISHER '76

John's 42-year career of serving others was capped by his 21 years as Executive Director of the Licking County Department of Jobs & Family Services, leading the community's federal, state, and county programs for employment and training, social services, protective services for children and seniors, and self-sufficiency services. Upon his retirement, the Ohio JFS Directors Association created the annual John Fisher Service Medallion award, of which he was the first recipient, in honor of his exceptional leadership and compassion in serving residents and his dedication to continual program improvement. He earned his Muskingum Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Dayton. John and his wife Marcia have four children and nine grandchildren. His son Joseph '12, daughter-in-law Brianna Burke Fisher '12, step grandson Jackson Hargraves '23, niece Leeah Mahon '18, and nephew John Mahon '05 are all Muskies.



JAMES A. MCDONALD '73

President and Chief Executive Officer of Allwell Behavioral Health Services since 2013, James has served the organization for 50 years. He is Chair of the Board of Directors of Genesis Healthcare System, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Zane State College, the founder of Forever Dads, a founding board member of the Ohio Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families, the originator of Enterprise Muskingum, and an Ordained Elder with The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Muskingum, a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Ohio University, and Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist licenses. He and his wife Lisa have two children, Sarah and Michael, and a grandson, Jordan.



DEBRA L. CLAUSING SUDAN '85

Division Chief of Abdominal Transplant in the Department of Surgery, Professor of Surgery, and Professor of Pediatrics at Duke University, Debra is a ground-breaking surgeon who completed North Carolina's first-ever abdominal-wall transplant. Her clinical interests include all abdominal organ transplants. In 2020 she became the first woman to be honored with Duke's Master Surgeon award. She earned her Muskingum Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry summa cum laude with minors in Biology and German and completed her M.D. degree at Wright State University. She previously served as Professor of Surgery and director of the living donor liver transplant program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Emerging Alumni Awards

Muskingum University Emerging Alumni Awards recognize alumni who in their first 15 years of their careers have made significant contributions to their professions and their world.

MICHAEL S. KLAMO '15

As Chief Assistant Prosecutor at the Madison County (Ohio) Prosecutor's Office, Michael seeks justice for victims, families, and citizens. He is President of the Madison County Bar Association, on Church Council at St. John's Lutheran Church (London), and coaches basketball at West Jefferson Middle School. Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in History and Political Science and his J.D. degree cum laude from Case Western Reserve University School of Law (Criminal Law concentration). He enjoys listening to baseball, golfing, and hiking with his dogs Toby and Marney.



JUSTIN P. KUME '06

The Associate Athletic Director for Football Compliance at The Ohio State University, Justin guides Division I student-athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders in NCAA rule compliance. While earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Public Affairs, he was a three-year football letter-winner, student representative to the Board of Trustees, and M.A.C.E. Club officer. He holds a Master of Science degree in Education (Sport Administration concentration) from Florida State University. Justin and his wife Lauren reside in New Albany, Ohio with their sons Mason and Nolan.



TAYLOR J. LOOS-LITTLE '16

As Manager of Onsite Education Experiences for COSI: Center of Science and Industry (Columbus), Taylor manages performances, curriculum, and experiences for guests of all ages, and ensures accessibility for people with special needs and underserved youth. He is a Board Member of Tuscarawas Valley Heritage and previously served the C&O Canal National Historical Park and the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum. Taylor earned his Muskingum Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science and a Master of Arts degree in Applied History from Shippensburg University.



JILLIAN B. VON GUNTEN '09

An attorney with Allen & Baughman, Jillian champions the arts as President of the Zanesville Community Theatre Board of Directors and Treasurer of the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. She helps meet the needs of marginalized individuals as President of the Board of Directors of the Zanesville Pride Group and through her service at Legal Aid Clinics. Jillian earned her Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude with majors in Political Science and Theatre and her J.D. degree from Capital University Law School.

