

Eleanor Roosevelt



“The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Walla Walla Public Schools



Graduates of Distinction 2006

These Walla Walla Public Schools graduates
have distinguished themselves in their
communities, professions, and careers.

They continue to give of themselves to
society and bring honor to the district.

We proudly salute our...

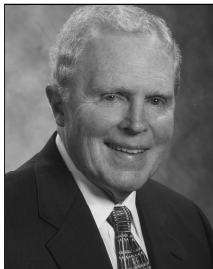
2006 Graduates of Distinction



With the Graduates of Distinction Program, Walla Walla Public Schools wants to recognize and honor the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. In addition, we want to pay tribute to school staff members who provided positive school experiences, and were inspirational in the lives of these graduates. Our Graduates of Distinction will serve as positive role models for current and future students. It is important for students to see how impressive their future accomplishments, both personal and professional, can be to our community and society. As we celebrate with our distinguished graduates and staff members, we also bring honor to Walla Walla Public Schools. Quality education is our past, present and future.

Val Jensen - Class of 1947

*Investment Advisor
Community Volunteer*



Family and business have always been important in Val Jensen's life. After serving in the U.S. Army and graduating from Washington State College, he returned to Walla Walla to run the family apparel store until 1957. With that good experience, "Val then realized he should try to achieve other goals and did so," according to his nominator, James Aylward.

He went to work in contract administration for Boeing and then began an investment career as a broker/dealer for a variety of Northwest firms from 1958 through 1982. He founded both Charter Securities and Jensen Investment Management, Inc., and established the Jenson Portfolio, a mutual fund, in 1992.

His nominators consistently praised his integrity, strict investment discipline, strong character, and caring attitude. His family is very important to him, as is the community of Portland, Oregon, where he worked with the Scandinavian Heritage Association, the Symphony and Portland Art Museum. Val and his wife, Mary Ellen, will soon return to Walla Walla in retirement and "Wa-Hi can be justly proud of having one of its top graduates so near at hand," says friend and nominator Louis Perry.

Inspirational Staff Members

Agnes Little and Bess Kirk, Walla Walla High School; Helen Fritsche, Green Park Elementary School

AnnRené Joseph - Class of 1973

*Advocate for the Arts
Visionary Leader*



From the time she was 11 years old and brand new on the picking crew at Klickers Strawberry Farm, AnnRené Joseph was already proving her ability as a reliable worker and dedicated leader. She worked at Klickers through high school and returned every summer to work in the office while attending Eastern Washington University.

Her early teaching career was in Spokane, where she and nearly 1,000 students gave spring recitals in the Spokane Opera House, and the Tri-Cities. AnnRené was successful as both teacher and school administrator, but in her current work as Washington State Program Supervisor for the Arts, she has "established herself as a visionary and exciting leader," says one nominator. Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Schools, writes that "AnnRené lives and breathes the Arts. Her passion is inspiring to anyone who has had the opportunity to hear her speak."

Even though her job requires a lot of paperwork and travel, she still finds time to stay involved with her family and community. As a professional vocalist, she sings for weddings, funerals, ball games and other special events. AnnRené's nominators are unanimous in their praise for her commitment to students and her continuing leadership in the arts.

Inspirational Staff Member

Margaret Joseph, AnnRené's mother and retired district teacher

Dr. Stephen Hayner - Class of 1966

*Theologian/Educator
Religious Leader*



A friend who was also his junior high track coach says Steve Hayner did not have a great deal of natural athletic talent, even though he was a top academic student, but "his work ethic enabled him to become a quality hurdler and significant contributor to the track and field program." It is this strong work ethic and his leadership abilities that have formed the backbone of Steve's life and career since graduating

from Whitman College, Harvard Divinity School and St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Steve has been a pastor, theology professor and international speaker. From 1988 to 2001, he was president of Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, managing a staff of 1,200 and an annual budget of \$60 million, and overseeing programs on nearly 700 college campuses across the country. He currently is a professor of evangelism at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses at the Masters and Doctoral levels and is chairing a new curriculum development committee.

His nominators praised his integrity and humility, as well as his leadership on the boards of The Nehemiah Community Development Corporation and World Vision/USA. One friend summed up his nomination by saying, "Steve is a devoted husband and father, friend and servant of others."

Inspirational Staff Member

Jim Chubb, Garrison Junior High School

Past Graduates of Distinction Recipients

2005	Gerwyn Jones	Class of 1928
	Michael Maiden	Class of 1968
	Dr. George Williams Jr.	Class of 1947
2004	Harold R. Frank	Class of 1941
	Jeffrey Ray	Class of 1978
	Ned Shafer	Class of 1961
2003	Mark Anderson	Class of 1973
	Gene Frank	Class of 1946
	Irene Gonzales	Class of 1980
2002	Robert I. Brunton	Class of 1953
	James K. Hayner	Class of 1968
	Charlotte Wirth	Class of 1944
2001	Vickie Anderson-VanZandt	Class of 1972
	H. Eugene Blattman	Class of 1954
	Jeanne Parker-Miller	Class of 1969
	Gordon L. Jaynes	Class of 1946
	Edward N. "Ned" Lange	Class of 1952
2000	Bruce T. Bjerke	Class of 1968
	Dr. William C. Dement	Class of 1947
	Philip N. Lane, Jr.	Class of 1962
	Wilber Pribilsky	Class of 1951
	Gordon S. Riess	Class of 1944
1999	James F. Aylward	Class of 1946
	Karen E. Glover	Class of 1968
	Eric Johnson	Class of 1968
	Michael M. Murr	Class of 1969
	Richard P. Neher	Class of 1949