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## Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

John M. Dunn

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Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner  
President John M. Dunn Remarks  
Friday, Oct. 7, Bernhard Center

*(Notes from Jamie: For dinner, you and Linda will be seated at a table in front of the podium with Phil Chludzinski and his significant other, Sarah Vanstelle, who is currently pursuing a graduate degree, Jeanne Carlson and her gues, Judy Avallone.*

*Mo Davenport and Keith Pretty will be at tables on either side of yours, sitting with family members.*

*More than 320 people are attending, including Again this year, many of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Award recipients, the College of Engineering Alumni Academy inductees and the College of Health and Human Services outstanding alumni will be with us.*

*Others attending will be Carol Haenicke, Jim and Cathy Brady, George and Molly Franklin and Don Gilmer. Borges is sending 8 people--but not Paul Spaude. Tony McDonnell, secretary of the Borgess Foundation and Sister Mary Joan Walsh are among the Borgess representatives.*

*Following dinner, you will be called on by Phil to make some brief welcoming remarks, 4-5 minutes.)*

- Thank you, Phil, for that kind introduction. Alumni, students, community members, faculty and staff, Welcome to your University. We're glad to have you here with us for this Homecoming celebration. (Single out any other for specific introductions-- Trustees Emeriti Brady and Franklin, Carol Haenicke, Don Gilmer.)
- I want to welcome all of our honorees who are being recognized over the course of the weekend and add my congratulations to the winners of the College of Arts and Sciences-Achievement Award, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Alumni Academy inductees and those being named outstanding alumni of the College of Health and Human Services. Congratulations.
- And it is my privilege and honor to extend my personal welcome and congratulations to the Distinguished Alumni we have gathered here this evening to recognize. I want to note that this is the largest gathering ever for this event. We are here to honor:

• **Morris C. Davenport** of Avon, Conn., senior vice president and general manager of ESPN Radio. Mo, we're glad to have you--a former Bronco Football player--back for a great football weekend and to honor you as a role model who gives form to the aspirations of so many young people who want to make a difference in the communication world. Your professional accomplishments and renown reflect positively on the grounding you received here at WMU.

• **Keith A. Pretty** of Midland, Mich., president and CEO of Northwood University. Keith, it's nice to have you--another football Bronco-- back to the University community you know so well. Your career in as a teacher, legislative specialist, attorney and university administrator reflects your passion for education and your tireless advocacy for the critical role higher education plays in making our state and nation all that it can be.

Mo and Keith, I know you'll enjoy your return to Waldo Stadium tomorrow as spectators in what we promise will be a great game. Go Broncos.

• **Dr. Anthony R. Tersigni** of St. Louis, president and CEO of Ascension Health--was unable to be with us this evening, but we all want him to know how much his career in health care is admired. His leadership, compassion and insight are reflective of the qualities we try to instill in all of our students. We have several people here from Borgess Health, part of Ascension Health, and their presence signifies the esteem in which Dr. Tersigni is held in his industry and here in Kalamazoo.

- Our three honorees join a distinguished group of past recipients of this important award. This annual event serves as a signature moment each year--a reminder of the achievements and contributions of those who are alumni of this great University.
- Mo, Keith and Tony, you and your fellow Distinguished Alumni are quite simply exemplars of the level of achievement to which we hope all of our current and future alumni aspire. You are a source of pride. Your achievements coupled with your WMU background bring added distinction to our University every day.
- For the young people here this evening I hope you leave this event newly committed and determined to succeed. I hope you are firmly fixed on building a life of service and accomplishment that may see you honored at an event like this in the future. And I hope you realize that graduating from a University that can boast alumni like these makes your degree all the more valuable.
- And to all the alumni here with us this evening, I want you to know that all of us work hard to continue to make this a University in which you can take pride. It is wonderful to have you all here for the traditional Homecoming weekend, but I want to make sure you always feel that this is your home, your University. Please don't miss any opportunity to visit campus or reconnect with fellow alumni in your home communities.

Enjoy this Homecoming weekend. I look forward to spending time and talking with each of you.

Thank you, and Go Broncos!

*(At the conclusion of the dinner, you will be needed for 10-15 minutes for some photos with the recipients as a group and individually.)*

