

## 2011 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

A Broadway star, a local entrepreneur devoted to preserving the town of Lincoln's history, and a long-time resident of Lincoln – all members of the Lincoln College alumni family – were honored for their distinguished service and accomplishments during this year's alumni reunion weekend. Two alumni achievement awards and one very special new award were presented at the 2011 Reunion Dinner and Awards Program on Saturday night, April 16, 2011. Lincoln College celebrates and commends the award winners on their exemplary achievements.



The **Young Alumni Achievement Award** was established to recognize future leaders among Lincoln College's young alumni, defined as those who have been alumnus/a for twenty years or less. This individual demonstrates leadership capabilities, has a substantial indication of commitment to the service of others, demonstrates the potential for leadership/distinction in the long term, and has substantial commitment to Lincoln College and its mission. Lincoln College was proud to present the third Young Alumni Achievement Award to **David A. Doolin, class of 2005**.

David Doolin, class of 2005, received several honors and awards during his time at Lincoln College. After graduating from LC with his Associate's degree and receiving a Bachelor's degree from Bradley University, Doolin returned to his hometown of Lincoln and immediately began immersing himself in community development and civic pride. He has taken a very special interest in our city's history, and utilized his time and talents towards advocating on behalf of historic preservation. As a young entrepreneur, Doolin started his own technology business, Infinity-X, in Lincoln in 2009. In recognition of his demonstrated leadership capabilities, commitment to service to others, and commitment to Lincoln College's mission, Doolin was nominated and presented with the Young Alumni Achievement Award.



The **Alumni Achievement Award** is considered to be one of the most prestigious honors bestowed on Lincoln College alumni. It is presented to a Lincoln College graduate who shows inspiration to others, characterizes the values and ideals of Lincoln College, gives distinguished service through professional or personal achievement and demonstrates continuing interest in Lincoln College. Since 1962 Alumni Achievement Awards have been presented to alumni from all walks of life who have left their mark on the lives of others and their communities. Lincoln College was proud to present the 2011 Alumni Achievement Award in Fine Arts to **Stephen R. Buntrock, class of 1988**.

Stephen Buntrock came to Lincoln College in 1986 to play soccer. However, when he graduated in 1988 with his Associates degree, he took with him a passion for theatre. He went on to receive his BA in the Fine Arts from Roosevelt University in Chicago. He attributes LC with turning his life around and placing him on the path toward a career in which he has enjoyed over 20 years of success. LC's late President

Jack Nutt and former faculty member Bill Buffington were instrumental in instilling in Stephen the confidence and drive he would need to garner that success.

Buntrock's starring Broadway credits include Fredrick Egerman in *A Little Night Music*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Gaston in *Beauty and The Beast*, St. John in the original cast of *Jane Eyre*, Barrett in *Titanic*, Enjolras in The Tenth Anniversary Cast of *Les Miserable*, covering the role of the Phantom in *The Phantom Of The Opera*, and creating the role of Teen Angel for the latest revival of *Grease!* He has toured extensively across the United States and Canada as Rueben in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* and originating the role of Arnaud du Thil in Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Martin Guerre*.

Buntrock has enjoyed many concert appearances as well, performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Louisville Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. He is the very proud father of Haley Paige and her little sisters Anna Louise and Catherine Caroline. He is married to actress Erin Dilly.

Buntrock came to campus early to spend Thursday and Friday, April 14-15 working with the LC fine arts students. He held two Master classes as well as meeting with the Theatre Appreciation class, the Musical Theatre class, and working directly with the theatre majors in their Theatre Lab course. This was an incredible opportunity for the fine arts students. They had ample one-on-one time to learn the tricks of the trade from a Broadway professional. Buntrock also performed at the end of the Lincoln College Jazz Band & Show Choir Spring Music Concert on Friday, April 15, in the Johnston Center Auditorium. Stephen Buntrock received the Alumni Achievement Award in Fine Arts for his great success on Broadway and in the fine arts world.



**The LaVeta Zurkammer Alumni Award** was established this year of 2011, in honor of LaVeta Baker Zurkammer, class of 1936. This award will be given out in the future only when merit warrants. LaVeta has set high standards for this award, and it was our honor and pleasure to establish this award in her honor.

LaVeta Baker Zurkammer is an outstanding example of the kind of person we hope each Lincoln College student will become: empowered to realize their full potential for success in life, engaged and active in their community, committed to serving others and having a positive influence on those around them.

For 75 years, LaVeta has been an extraordinary ambassador for Lincoln College. So, it is fitting and my distinct pleasure to announce this evening, that Lincoln College has established, the LaVeta Zurkammer Alumni Award, an award which will recognize and honor future generations of Lincoln College alumni whose love and enthusiasm for their alma mater are demonstrated by their life-long dedication to and involvement with Lincoln College, its mission and programs, as exemplified by LaVeta Baker Zurkammer.

**LaVeta (Baker) Zurkammer, class of 1936** was the first recipient of **The LaVeta Zurkammer Alumni Award** at Lincoln College!

LaVeta (Baker) Zurkammer, class of 1936, came to Lincoln College with the hopes of becoming an elementary school teacher. As everyone knows, plans change, and instead of becoming a teacher, Zurkammer stepped up and helped her mother raise her younger siblings. After she married and had two children, Tom and Phyllis, she did enjoy a career as an Occupational/Recreational Therapist at the State School. Zurkammer enjoyed organizing activities and crafts for kids. She has always been happiest working hard and helping where needed. Consequently, over the past 75 years, Zurkammer has volunteered with and supported Lincoln College. She learned valuable life lessons at LC and loves everything the college stands for. No matter what the event, she has been there in either a volunteer role or as a participant. In looking back over the past 75 years since she attended LC as a student, Zurkammer has exemplified what it means to be an alumna. She volunteered at Honor's Day ceremonies for 70+ years, attended every Founders Day (now called Charter Day and held every five years), volunteered at and attended numerous reunion dinners and awards programs, served as secretary on the Alumni Board for more than ten years, and she has attended countless LC theatre productions, student concerts, and LC sporting events. Having her son, Tom, attend Lincoln College and then enjoy a long, successful career with the College, no doubt also makes her very proud. Zurkammer will be presented with a very special alumni award.