

NAADAC Honors 2016 National Award Winners

By Kristin Hamilton, JD, NAADAC Communications & Digital Media Coordinator



Each year NAADAC honors the work of dedicated addiction professionals, organizations, and public figures during its President's Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference. This year NAADAC will present awards to four outstanding individuals for their extraordinary service and contributions to the addiction profession and to one outstanding organization for its strong commitment to the addiction professional and individual addiction professionals.

Lora Roe Memorial Addiction Counselor of the Year: Sandra Farrell, MS, CADC

This award, renamed for Lora Roe in 1988, is presented to a counselor who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of addiction counseling.



This year's recipient of the *Lora Roe Memorial Addiction Counselor of the Year Award*, Sandra Farrell, is a motivated, confident, reliable, and humble individual with over 30 years of addiction counseling experience in a variety of counseling modalities. She specializes in substance use disorder recovery, mental health issues, and couples therapy. She has worked with individuals,

agencies, prisons, boot camps, couples, families, groups, and long and short term rehabilitation programs. She has also maintained a NAADAC membership for 22 years.

After beginning her career in 1984 as an assistant counselor for Norcap, Farrell worked in Norcap's detox unit and with long term in-patient treatment before moving on to Leonard Morse Hospital. Farrell also worked as a senior counselor in multiple correctional facilities, including Longwood Facility, Bridgewater Boot Camp, and Old Colony Prison. She went on to work in a halfway house and at an out-patient detox center. Currently,

Farrell is in private practice at Counseling For Today's Issues, of which she has been the owner and director since 2009. Farrell holds a CDC from the Massachusetts Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification since 1989, a Master's degree in Counseling & Human Services, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Farrell has positively impacted countless clients with her caring nature, empathy, and passion for recovery. The enthusiasm and humor she brings to her work allows her to connect with her clients and she has positively contributed to the lives of many.

Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year: James Joyner, LICDCCS

This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to the advancement of the addiction counseling profession.

James Joyner, the recipient of the *Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year Award*, has been an exemplary addiction professional over the course of his 45 year career.

Joyner was an instrumental voice in the fight against legalization of marijuana in the State of Ohio, advocating against the proposed constitutional amendment that would have legalized both recreational and medical use of marijuana. He traveled across Ohio to speak and participate in Town Hall meetings and televised debates that contributed to the defeat of the amendment.



In addition to being a Master's level Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor Clinical Supervisor (LICDCCS) certified by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board, Joyner is the Founder and Director of Joyner and Associates LLC, which provides intervention, consultation, education, and counseling services for parents and others who are concerned about a loved one's use of alcohol or other drugs. He is also a well-known presenter and trainer. Over the course of his career, he has provided education and consultative services for a variety of organizations, associations and institutions, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, The Cleveland Clinic Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, Case Western University, Guardian ad Litem Project of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Ohio Lottery, and the Ohio Chapter American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Joyner has been the guest on numerous media programs and forums and has hosted both radio and cable TV programs focusing on topics related to alcohol and other drug use.

Joyner currently serves as the President of the Ohio Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors (OAAADAC) and Chairperson for the Greater Cleveland Municipal Drug Court Advisory Council. As president of OAAADAC, he has worked to secure not-for-profit status for the organization, a goal that was on the agenda for 20 years before it was accomplished by Joyner. He has also been an essential part in the organization of two very successful OAAADAC conferences.

Joyner served in his previous position as the Manager of Public Information and Training for the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC) for over 15 years. In that capacity, he supervised all Training Institute sponsored events, directed and coordinated all Board Public Relations efforts, assisted service providers with their specific public relations requests, provided training on topics related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues, participated in and represented ADASBCC on numerous state and local committees and initiatives, and coordinated Health and Human Services Levy campaign activities annually for the ADASBCC network provider system.

In his 45 years of professional experience, Joyner has worked in a number of other treatment and prevention settings. He has a reputation for excellence in the services he provides and a passion for assisting those impacted by a loved one's addiction. Joyner believes that the consequences associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs represent the single greatest negative factor of the quality of life that touches every man, woman and child in this country today. He further believes that through effective education, prevention, and low risk lifestyle choices, these problems can be arrested. He has dedicated his professional life to this belief.

Medical Professional of the Year: Phyllis Prekopa, PsyD, BSN, CARN-AP, LCADC

This award is presented to a medical professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the addiction profession.



Dr. Phyllis Prekopa, recipient of the *Medical Professional of the Year Award*, is a highly intelligent and compassionate professional with a depth of understanding, empathy, and willingness to help those in the throes of addiction. She not only makes contributions in her daily role as a provider for patients and their families, she is also a role model and mentor to her peers and disseminates

addiction counseling information to other medical professionals and the public. Because of her positive disposition, her reflective way of operating, and her willingness to go above and beyond her role, she has touched the lives of many people. As an educator, Prekopa never leaves a question unanswered and always helps those experiencing addiction discover that addiction is not just about the drug of choice but rather about behavior and making choices.

Prekopa has co-owned Drugcheck Consulting, a specialized drug testing company, since 2001. She has spent the last 10 years as facilitator to several peer support groups through the Recovery and Monitoring Program (RAMP). She also worked as a Nurse Manger of a medical detox unit for four years and as a Director of Nursing and Family Counselor for two years prior to that. Her many years of working in the addiction field, both psychologically as a counselor and medically as a nurse, has earned her professional recognition and respect as a knowledgeable colleague and specialist in her fields of expertise. She has been working with impaired nurses for over 10 years and recently was involved in initiating special mental health groups for nurses with co-occurring diagnoses through her work with RAMP.

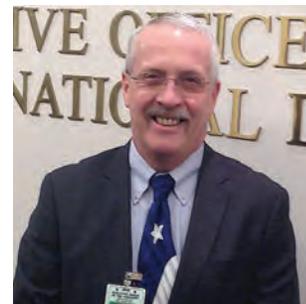
Prekopa has always been an innovator in her practice, in her business, and in RAMP. She is the only facilitator with numerous meetings spread over the weekdays and weekends to allow for the convenience of participants, and these meetings give participants the feeling of hope instead of despair, and allow them to know that they will have a good chance of being able to return to their beloved professions.

Despite an already impressive resume and busy schedule, Prekopa earned her Doctorate in Addictions Studies when she was 70 years old. She continues to influence political change, share innovations in patient care and inspire others in the healthcare field.

William F. "Bill" Callahan Award: Donald "Frank" Davis

This award recognizes sustained and meritorious service at the national level to the profession of addiction counseling.

Donald "Frank" Davis, winner of this year's *William F. "Bill" Callahan Award*, has had a significant impact on advancing the professional credential. His work with the Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals is extensive and he has worked tirelessly advocating for on behalf of counselors both legislatively in the halls of Texas government as well as working closely



with Texas Department of State Health Services. His work has benefited every licensed chemical dependency counselor and criminal justice addiction professional working on the state and national level to bring to light workforce issues in the behavioral health field. He has been a mentor to many in and out of the addiction counseling realm. He has and continues to be committed to the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals (TAAP), NAADAC's Texas Affiliate, and the Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals (TCBAP) and has been the Chairman of the Board from 2005 to 2011, and then re-elected in 2012 as Chairman once again. Davis has been a Texas delegate to the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC), and currently serves on the marketing, finance, and criminal justice committees.

Currently, Davis works as an Administrative Director for the Gateway Foundation, Inc., a position that he has held since 2005. He recently was promoted to that position and is responsible for three treatment locations in the Houston area. He also continues his work as a counselor at Memorial Hermann Prevention and Recovery Center, which began in 2012. Davis has been an adjunct faculty member at Alamo College-San Antonio College, where he teaches drug and alcohol classes, since 2012. In the past, Davis worked as a Program Director, first for Correctional Medical Services and then for CiviGenics, Inc., where he directed and oversaw prison and correctional therapeutic programs from 1996 to 2004. He holds a Master's of Education in Counseling and a Bachelor's in Addiction Studies, as well as being a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and a Certified Criminal Justice Addictions Professional.

Davis is a tireless worker whose efforts with TAAP, TCBAP, and IC&RC have afforded counselors recognition, advancement, acceptance and protection as a workforce. He is selfless and humble and works diligently toward advancing the profession. Davis is known to his peers as being committed to the profession, a champion for treatment and recovery, and a kind soul who cares about all individuals who struggle with the disease of addiction and its associated challenges.

Davis has been married to the same beautiful lady for over 41 years and has three daughters and six grandchildren. He attributes all of these blessings to God and over 27 years of long term recovery with lots of help from many mentors.

Organizational Achievement Award: Sierra Tucson

This award recognizes an organization that has demonstrated a strong commitment to the addiction profession and particularly strong support for the individual addiction professional.



SIERRA TUCSON®
Where Change Begins®

NAADAC recognizes Sierra Tucson as its 2016 Organizational Achievement Award winner for its high level of care, support, and dedication to its staff members and the addiction professionals in the behavioral health field. Sierra Tucson has not only demonstrated a strong commitment to the addiction profession over the years, but continues to innovate programs and communication methods to keep professionals engaged and informed of their clients' progress as they continue through residential treatment.

Sierra Tucson joins with professionals to align the mutual objectives of maximizing an individual's opportunity to grow healthier, and views referring professionals as true partners. It has long operated with a clear mission to be inclusive and informative in a spirit of collaboration by maintaining open communication with all of its referring professionals.

For more than 32 years, Sierra Tucson's longstanding legacy of clinical excellence and compassionate care has resulted in recovery for those struggling with substance use disorder, trauma-related issues, eating disorders, chronic pain, and mood anxiety disorders. Sierra Tucson believes that real recovery begins only after healing progresses beyond the symptomatic to embrace the whole person. Its approach to residential treatment helps residents move past underlying problems to authentic recovery with a multidisciplinary team of professionals that uses the Sierra Tucson Model® — a biopsychosocial-spiritual approach which recognizes that the mind, body, spirit, and emotions must be in synchronization for change to occur. The Sierra Tucson Model ensures accurate diagnosis and individualized treatment for each resident, combining integrative and experiential therapies with evidence-based practices to provide a full range of treatment modalities. Residents receive the resources, support, and tools necessary for long-term change to occur, including one full year of continuing care and a lifetime of alumni services.

The team at Sierra Tucson has a reputation for being comprised of true pioneers in behavioral health treatment. Their influence has healed many relationships and saved countless individuals and families that have found recovery amid their serene and beautiful campus in Tucson, Arizona.

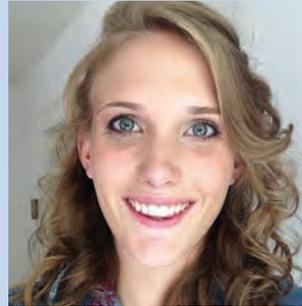


Kristin Hamilton, JD, is the Communications and Digital Media Coordinator for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She works on NAADAC public relations, communications, and digital media, including the NAADAC website and social media, and is editor of NAADAC's two ePublications, the bi-weekly Addiction & Recovery eNews and weekly Professional eUpdate. She also contributes to the planning, organization, and administration of communication campaigns. Hamilton holds a Juris Doctorate

from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.

William L. White Scholarship Award Winners: Kelsey Henning and Jacqlyn Stein

NAADAC is proud to announce the 2016 winners of the *William L. White Scholarship Award*, created to promote student addiction studies research and develop the importance of student research projects in NASAC accredited programs, NAADAC approved programs in higher education, or an accredited addiction studies higher education program acknowledged by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) that provides research or education to the addiction profession. It is awarded annually to one undergraduate student and one graduate student for the best student addiction research paper. This year's assigned topic was "Recovery Oriented Systems of Care: How Research is Changing the Addiction Profession." Winners receive a monetary award and are recognized at the NAADAC Annual Conference.



Undergraduate: Kelsey Hennig is a senior Addiction Studies and Psychology student at the University of South Dakota. Hennig is known to her professors as being a very mature, responsible and personable young woman. She demonstrates intellectual curiosity, works hard, and shows a general interest in learning new material. Hennig has served as a student representative for the University of South Dakota Addiction Studies Department at last year's NAADAC Conference

and she worked to lobby for addiction legislation during the 2015 Hill Day. She serves as the Vice President of the Coalition of Addiction Students and Professionals Pursuing Advocacy (CASPPA), a student organization whose mission is to advocate for the addiction profession on a state and national level, and is a member of the Psychology Club.

During her time at the University of South Dakota, Hennig has been a member of a research team conducting research on how personality and mental health conditions are related to substance use concerns. She was responsible for conducting experimental sessions with individuals who experienced traumatic stressors and core characteristics of posttraumatic stress disorder. Hennig also participated in a research project regarding the cognitive, emotional and developmental impact of family substance use disorder and addiction on children, and presented the findings at the 2016 South Dakota Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals Conference and the 2016 School of Health Science Research Day. After graduation, Hennig plans to begin working towards obtaining a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling, as well as her LAC credential.



Graduate: Jacqlyn Stein is working toward obtaining her Master's degree in addiction counseling from Grand Canyon University and her certification as a recovery life coach. Her professors have described her as an exemplary student always striving to succeed and producing excellent work that is above and beyond what is required. Stein spent over 20 years in the legal field before starting down the path to become an addiction professional. She plans to use her legal background to engage in advocacy for those in need of support.

In addition to working toward obtaining her Master's degree, Stein is participating in a coaching program called Be A Loving Mirror (BALM), which asserts that the family is their loved one's best chance at recovery. Stein has been described as a critical thinker about the issues related to addiction treatment, and has demonstrated an astute understanding of theory and counseling, as well as co-occurring disorders. Further, she exudes warmth and a caring nature that is essential for an addiction professional. After completing her degree, Stein plans on working with individuals with substance use disorders and their family members. She feels very strongly that addiction is a family disease and the family members need treatment as much as their loved one.