The Leon Doane Young Alumnus for 2007 is Joseph (Jody) Lanham of Ketchikan, Alaska, a 2000 graduate in business administration with an emphasis in finance.

Jody began his career with Wells Fargo Bank shortly after graduation. With several moves and promotions, Jody now serves Wells Fargo as Community Banking District Manager and VP for Southeast Alaska.

The Leon Doane award criterion looks for demonstrated leadership from an alumnus who graduated within the past 15 years. Beyond his career advancement, Jody is involved in a variety of community pursuits including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Safari Wish program for youth with disabilities. He presently serves as president of the Ketchikan chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Jody is an active churchman, preaching in the pastor's absence, serving as N.Y.I. president and board member. Both Jody's accomplishments and character are worthy of recognition.

Jody was nominated for the Leon Doane award by his college roommate Shawn Blenker, who says of him, "Jody has never wavered from being the man of incredible character and Christ-likeness that I got to know in college." Jody gives generous credit to the overall NNU experience as invaluable preparation for life.

Through his major professors, Jody found himself prepared to excel in business with the knowledge and real life examples they passed on. In Jody’s words "For the first three years of my career, a day would rarely go by that I did not remember something one of my professors taught me." Beyond the School of Business, Jody credits professors who helped him look at life through a broader lens. "Classes I never thought I would truly need keep benefiting me."

Extracurricular pursuits through ministry clubs such as Hope House also had an impact, instilling in Jody a passion to volunteer. Jody left NNU with a love for the Word and a desire to serve God regardless of his career pursuits. Admittedly, at the top of Jody's list, the "most important thing" he found in his four years at NNU—his life's partner, Trisha (Wiebe), also class of 2000. Jody and Trisha have two children, Mikayla and Kaden, and a bird dog named Kimmick.

Dr. Darrell Marks has been named recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service award. The criterion for this award calls for service to NNU considered to be above and beyond. For the nine years since his formal retirement from NNU with emeritus status in 1998, Dr. Marks continues to work on a half-time basis as a volunteer in the Office of University Advancement. As an undergrad student from 1954-1958, and his return in 1959 as a faculty member for 35 years of service in the physics classroom or as chair of the science department or division, and culminating with four years as VP for University Advancement, Darrell has impacted literally hundreds of lives that have passed through the halls of NNU. In his nomination of Dr. Marks, Professor Bill Fyffe put it this way: "During his years at NNC, he (Marks) provided leadership that developed the science departments, and then as vice president he developed the campus."

According to current Vice President for University Advancement Gary Skaggs, Darrell's institutional history makes him very effective in the development of endowed scholarships. He has special enjoyment raising money to endow scholarships for retiring NNU faculty, and documenting their history for future students. Darrell has worked tirelessly initiating scholarships as well as pursuing completion of funding for scholarships that have been started but remained only partially funded. Since "retirement," Darrell is credited with the completion of 50 scholarships for a total value of more than $1 million. Darrell is also taking leadership in fundraising for the new science building, assisting with grant writing and contacting Science, Math and Nursing Associate (SMNA) members.

The respect that teaching students continues to have for Dr. Marks is amazing, as is the respect Marks has for NNU. He felt called to Christian higher education, and still talks about the steps of faith that led him here, and the personal fulfillment he feels from his years of sacrifice.

In his spare time, Dr. Marks and his wife, Neva, enjoy times with children and grandchildren, especially while enjoying God's creation.
In recognition of 30 years as a dedicated professor and teacher of music, along with a national reputation as composer/arranger, Dr. Walden Hughes was selected for the 2007 Professional Achievement Award. He graduated from NNU with a bachelor of arts in applied piano and music theory in 1977 and began his college teaching career two days after his 23rd birthday. He earned a master of music in piano performance, and a doctor of arts in music history and literature and piano pedagogy. In 1995, Hughes was awarded the coveted Master Teacher Certificate by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), presented annually to three music teachers in the US.

During his years at NNU, Dr. Hughes molded and mentored an accomplished group of piano performers and teachers. One of his first piano students, Glenda (Keesler) Bernhardt, was recently named a Music Educator of the Year by the California Association of Music Education. Glenda says of Dr. Hughes, “He has a gift for seeing potential in students and giving them encouragement to pursue excellence. He not only possesses the rare gift of being both artist and teacher but inspires, instructs and continually leads the way by example to pathways of imaginative musical creativity.”

Accomplished musician and former student Dr. Paul Christianson describes Hughes as a person of tremendous range and ability stating, “Walden Hughes is an exceptionally gifted individual who exhibits remarkable musicianship. The deep knowledge he has of his artistic discipline, his highly crafted talent, and his ability to communicate with students all combine to make him an outstanding educator.”

Hughes’ publications include numerous articles published in professional journals, CD and book reviews. He has composed 88 piano ensemble scores and was commissioned to write works specifically for performance by Hvaler School of the Arts, Norway; Katholische Universitaet Eichstaett, Germany; Kipnis/Kushner Duo, New York; Santa Fe Guitar Quartet, Argentina; and the Louisiana Music Teacher's Association 2004 state convention. His piano ensemble works have been performed in 45 states and 49 countries.

Dr. Hughes and his wife, Monica (Hoyle), have two children, Camden, 24, and Kendra, 20.

The 2007 Alumnus of the Year recognition is awarded to Hugh ‘65 and Evelyn ‘66 (Young) Friberg. They have been selected for their exemplary representation of the University as career missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene.

Hugh grew up in a Nazarene parsonage and felt the call to missions at the age of eight when Louise Robinson Chapman, class of ’20, spoke at their church.

Hugh and Evelyn served in Michigan and Washington before pursuing missions. They attended language training in Portugal and then spent their first term ministering in Mozambique. During a time of political unrest and Marxist government control, Hugh was imprisoned for eight months along with fellow missionary Armand Doll. Evelyn and their children, Gayla and Michael, waited in South Africa.

Later the Fribergs relocated to Johannesburg, South Africa where Hugh assumed leadership of the Africa Publishing Office, and they functioned as regional hosts. During their next term, both Hugh and Evelyn taught at the Bible College in South Africa, and later taught at the Bible College in Siteki, Swaziland.

In subsequent years, Hugh served as pastor, registrar, book manager and acting academic dean, while Evelyn added the role of librarian to her teaching assignment. In addition, she provided pastoral transportation, music and leadership at a refugee camp.

In addition to their 19 years at Siteki, the Fribergs witnessed the opening of Mozambique and were able to visit the area several times. The Fribergs served as missionaries-in-residence at NNU both in 1993 and 1997, and plan to retire in 2009. Throughout their ministry they watched the departure of many medical missionaries when the hospital in Swaziland was turned over to the national church, and recently were a part of a cooperative effort to bring the nurses' training college, the teacher training college, and the Bible college in Swaziland under the accreditation of the University of Swaziland.

They have been selected for having lived lives of service as creative and redemptive agents to a hurting world. Hugh and Evelyn have three children: Gayla Stillman ‘93, Michael ‘00, and Lynnee Rogers ‘99.