

2018 BRAVO AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE BRAVO AWARDS acknowledge individuals who are making our entire community a better place to live, work, and visit. They inspire the rest of us to work harder and notably contribute to the reason we love this community. These residents and leaders add an intangible quality to our area that makes it unlike any other place. They give us confidence in our people and pride in our workplaces, homes and the places we frequent.



THOMAS AGRAN

Thomas Agran is the Director of Public Art for the Iowa City Downtown District (ICDD). Thomas was born in Stanford, Kentucky, grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Iowa in 2005 to attend Grinnell College, graduating with a BA in Studio Art. While permanently residing in Iowa City, he received his MFA in painting from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. As an artist, Thomas has an interest in the transformation of the midwestern landscape as it relates to agriculture. He passes on his passion for art by teaching both at the University of Iowa, Coe College, Iowa BIG, and by working at the ICDD.

Thomas started with the ICDD in 2015 as the project manager for the Downtown District's UICCU Benchmarks program, after being a participant in the program. Thomas's ability to support public outreach processes and navigate community input with grace has been his hallmark, particularly with the Iowa City Mural Project. These murals adorn downtown alleys, bringing in new energy and project opportunities for local artists. He also established Iowa City's first literary projections with the International Writing Program. The collaboration supported international writers-in-residence at the IWP in sharing their writing with Iowa City, a UNESCO City of Literature, both in English and in their mother languages.

RON ALLEN

Ron is Senior Director Solutions Consulting at BCD Travel, a leading provider of Corporate Travel Management. He grew up in Grinnell, and after living in Denver, Chicago, plus a few other places, he is thrilled to be back in Iowa, and especially happy to be in Iowa City. Allen loves to garden and is especially good at growing things that would normally not be attempted in Iowa (cotton, rice, palm trees, banana plants and numerous other tropical plants). He is an avid traveler and dedicated Hawkeye fan. Allen is a passionate drone hobbyist, with particular interest in making videos and taking photos that capture the beauty of Iowa. It is this hobby that drew the CVB's attention to Allen. He posts gorgeous photos and videos on at least a weekly basis that display the richness of our community.

"Social influencers like Ron organically promote Iowa City without even thinking about it," said Nick Pfeiffer, Vice President of Marketing at the CVB.



BOB DVORSKY

Bob Dvorsky has been a State Senator for 24 years and has represented our area for four decades. Before serving in the Senate, Dvorsky spent seven years as a State Representative in the Iowa House. Throughout his career as a state legislator, Senator Dvorsky has been a leader at the Capitol, working for support for the University of Iowa and other Regents institutions. He has worked diligently to make the Iowa Communications Network operational statewide and has driven legislation to strengthen and streamline prisons and community based corrections. Dvorsky is currently the president of the Board of Directors for the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County and serves on the Community Corrections Improvement Association Board. He co-founded the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa, brought expansions to the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Coralville, and added improvements to Lake MacBride State Park. In 2017, he announced his retirement and we are certain he will continue to be an advocate for our community.

Honored Posthumously **KURT FRIESE**

Kurt Friese was a Johnson County Supervisor and a longtime Iowa City restaurateur. For over fifteen years, Kurt, along with his wife Kim, owned and operated Devotay. Friese was a known community leader in sustainable cuisine, as well as a champion of local farmers and sustainable agriculture. He served on the National Board of Directors for Slow Food in the United States and was the founding leader of Slow Food Iowa; an organization that seeks to change the world through food that is good, clean, and fair for all. Friese was the editor-in-chief and co-owner of the local food magazine *Edible Iowa River Valley*, a magazine promoting local authors focusing on Iowa's food, drink, and restaurant culture. He was also a well-regarded freelance food writer and photographer, with regular columns in six local, regional, and national newspapers and magazines. His first book, *A Cook's Journey: Slow Food in the Heartland* was published in 2008 and his final book, *Chasing Chiles: Hot Spots Along the Pepper Trail*, was co-authored with two friends and released in 2011. Friese's influence is what has made the Iowa City local food culture what it is today. A friend to all who knew him, he is greatly missed by this community.



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RAQUISHA HARRINGTON

RaQuisha Harrington is a program supervisor with the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department (ICPRD) and a champion of the marginalized. A part of the Iowa City Parks & Recreation staff for two years, Ms. Harrington's role is to develop recreational programming for underserved and special populations. Her duties span a laundry list of initiatives, from a teen leadership camp and biking workshops to a beginner gardener classes and the Special Olympics.

Ms. Harrington serves on a diverse range of boards and committees, including Habitat for Humanity, Juvenile Justice Youth Development, Iowa City Area Juneteenth, The Neighborhood Centers for Johnson County and The Iowa Children's Museum. She is also a co-founder of G! World, an after-school mentor program for minority girls in 7th-12th grade which has created awareness campaigns for teen hunger, HPV, human trafficking, and body image. She volunteers with the Sankofa Outreach Connection, a nonprofit that supports women of color. She views these volunteer opportunities as a way to stay informed and be a well-rounded citizen. "I want to know what's impacting our community, so I seek out ways to educate myself," she said. "I want to use my experience of having been on the outside looking in to help policy makers understand reality and challenge the stereotypes they might have."

PHIL JULSON

Phil Julson, Associate Director of Aquatics at the University of Iowa was born and raised just outside of Madison, Wisconsin. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts degree in Sports Management from Ohio State University. He has worked in the aquatics field for his entire professional career and has been the Aquatic Director at the University of Iowa for 9 years.

Julson's leadership has allowed Iowa City to host a wide variety of swimming and diving events, bringing thousands of visitors to our community. These include the Speedo Champions Series with over 800 competitors in 2011 and 2014, Speedo Sectionals in 2015 and 2018 with over 800 and 600 competitors respectively, plus three Big Ten Swimming & Diving Championships (Women's and Men's) and the 2015 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships. 2017's Speedo Winter Junior National Championship - West brought in over 1,200 swimmers.



ERIC & LAURA KOME



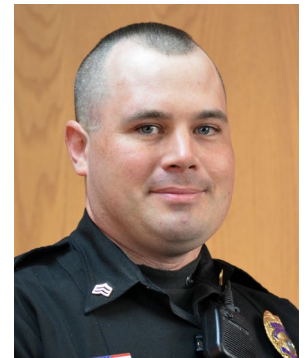
Laura Kome serves as Senior Communications Manager at ACT, while Eric Kome is the Vice President of Creative North America at Pearson. Jointly Laura and Eric are the founders of Carpool Creative Agency, which focuses on large-scale video, motion graphics, and animation projects. You've seen some of their work with the Iowa City Downtown District. The Kome's are ardent supporters of community art programs. Their passion and creative work were evident this summer when they designed and created the RAGBRAI arch that welcomed riders on Iowa Avenue. This monumental project truly showcased our community, including collaboration between multiple organizations; it would not have been possible without Laura and Eric's vision.

Whether it is producing drone footage of the downtown Iowa City Block Party or putting on a show with City Park (the band), Laura and Eric are deeply committed to our community.

TYSON LANDGARD

Lt. Tyson Landgard of the North Liberty Police Department began his Law Enforcement Career in Knoxville, Iowa in 2003. In 2005, he took a position with the department as a police officer in North Liberty. While as a patrolman, he became a field training officer to assist in training other beginning officers. Tyson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2009 and served as supervisor to patrol officers who worked the night shift. In 2016, he was promoted to Lieutenant, making him second in charge in the department. The promotion also meant taking on the commander duties for the patrol division. He is the lead firearms instructor and teaches public courses on active shooter threats and safe practices for environmental design in order to prevent tragedies. His assistance with public safety and course route guidance were also integral in the success of RUN CRANDIC.

Lt. Landgard will graduate with his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in December 2018. He is selfless, honest, and a consistent and caring leader. Because of these traits, Landgard received the Officer of the Year Award for the North Liberty Police Department in 2014. He is a role model for others both on and off duty.



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NATHAN MCNURLEN

Nathan McNurlen is a Producer and Editor for Trilix in Des Moines. The Waterloo native and 2012 University of Iowa grad built his resume and experience in video and animation production in Arizona after graduation and returned to Iowa last summer to work with Trilix. There he has worked on projects for the NCAA, Iowa Wild, and University of Iowa Athletics, among other clients.

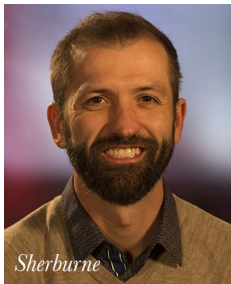
Nathan served as the Director and Editor of *Cultivation: Writing and Wrestling in Iowa City*, the documentary short produced by Think Iowa City to capture the week in April 2018 in which Iowa City hosted the UNESCO Cities of Literature Annual Meeting and the UWW Freestyle Wrestling World Cup. This documentary went on to be recognized with an EMMY Award by the Upper Midwest Chapter of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The film has also been entered in several documentary film festivals throughout the country in 2019. Nathan's

vision and creativity took the documentary to another level and made it the award-winning story that has now been viewed by thousands around the world.

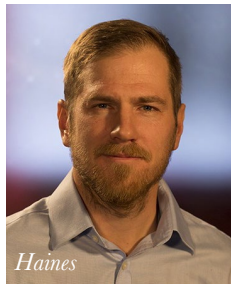
DAVE MOORE

Dave Moore, Director of Operations at Big Grove Brewery, is a founder and Chair of North Liberty's Blues & BBQ Festival. The festival, which completed its 12th year in 2018, has grown to be the premier summer event in North Liberty and one of the largest events of its kind in Iowa. Moore leads a group of volunteers with year-round planning to make the July event a unique experience for the area.

"Blues & BBQ simply does not happen without Dave Moore," said Nick Bergus, Communications Director for the City of North Liberty. In his spare time, Moore is spending time with his two boys, playing golf, and beer tasting and socializing with friends and neighbors.



Sherburne



Haines

ANDREW SHERBURNE, TOMMY HAINES & JOHN RICHARD

John Richard is an independent documentary filmmaker, video producer and photographer living in Iowa City. He works on a variety of projects for clients including *The Guardian*, *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *BBC Around the World* and has a background in photojournalism. Richard's work combines a strong visual sense with intimacy and humor. His short films have won top prizes at festivals including the Nordic International Film Festival, Chicago International REEL Shorts Films Fest, Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival and Iowa City Documentary Film Festival.

Tommy Haines and Andrew Sherburne are documentary filmmakers based in Iowa City. Their debut nonfiction feature, *Pond Hockey*, an ode to outdoor ice hockey, has been called "the best hockey movie ever" by ESPN, and broadcast across North America on PBS. *Gold Fever*, an examination of a destructive gold mining operation on a remote village in the Guatemalan highlands, won the 2013 International Federation for Human Rights Film Award and has screened in 35 countries worldwide. Sherburne is the co-founder of FilmScene, a nonprofit cinema in Downtown Iowa City where he serves on the Board of Directors.

The three have collaborated on *Saving Brinton*, the documentary about the Washington County man who owns some of the oldest pieces of film in cinema history, has played at AFI Docs, Rotterdam, Doc NYC and numerous festivals around the globe. It has been hailed as "a cinephile's delight" by *The Hollywood Reporter* and has earned serious Oscar-buzz. The Brinton Collection of films are now on display at the University of Iowa Libraries.



Richard

PAST RECIPIENTS 2017: Ben Anderson, Nick Bergus, Tim Carty, Greg Fender, Bob Goodfellow, Anna Jensen, Terry Kaeding, Marian Karr, Brad Kunkel, Wendy Nolan 2016: Doug Alberhasky, Paula Bakey, Barry Bedford, Eric Dickerson, Wayne Fett, Guy Goldsmith, Tom Hamilton, Amy Hospodarsky, Keith Jones, Randy Lackender 2015: Katie Colony, Crystal Hansel, Mallory Hellman, Jim Kelly, Eric Fitzgerald, Nick Pfeiffer, Betsy Potter, Mike Quinlan, Lynn Snyder, Matt Steele, John Meehan