

Doane College honors Battle Creek native

CRETE — A Battle Creek native was one of eight individuals honored by Doane College during its recent homecoming events on campus.

Carla Prauner Mahrt, a 1988 Doane graduate, was presented what's known as an "Honor D" award, which is given to former Doane athletes who have distinguished themselves by outstanding service in their life's work.

During her years at Doane, she was a letter winner on the women's basketball team. She also was active in her sorority, serving as secretary and president. She was a Doane Delegate for three years, a peer advisor, tutor and Doane's Outstanding Senior Award winner in 1988. She also met her future husband, Lonnie Mahrt, while at Doane.

After graduation, she began her lifelong career in the electronics industry working at Dale Electronics/Vishay Intertechnology in Columbus. She completed her master's degree in business administration at the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 1994. She was recruited to California to continue her career in electronics with a primary focus on distribution management and sales for manufacturers of electronic components.

Mahrt worked for Silicon Valley innovators Raychem Corporation, as well as Tyco Electronics, the world's largest manufacturer of interconnect devices.

In 2011, she founded JJM Search, a global executive search firm specializing in the electronics industry with particular focus on placing mid- to executive-level engineering, sales, marketing and product management positions.

She also founded a non-profit organization called RePlant Woodcliff, which is designed to environmentally improve the lakes in a region of California through recycling, landscaping, tree planting and water clarity/improvement.

She and her husband have two sons, Josh and Jackson. Carla is the daughter of Carolyn Prauner of Norfolk and the late Eugene Prauner.