

Distinguished Alumni Award: Barbara Ackland Cade, class of 1957



Barbara Ackland Cade '57 is the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award based on her contributions in the fields of fiber technique and weaving and art education.

Following her graduation from U-High, Cade received her bachelor's degree in German from the University of Illinois. She also received a master's degree in German from the University of Washington. As a self-taught artist, Cade took the initiative to design her own looms to teach weaving classes. She also started her own business making commission tapestries for architectural interiors. She has received national recognition from juried shows at museums across the country including Tacoma, Washington; Portland, Oregon; New York City, New York; Memphis, Tennessee; Little Rock Arkansas; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Her work is part of the permanent collection at the Tacoma Art Museum. She also founded an organization entitled W.O.M.E.N., which is a group of local artists that sponsor annual showings.

In 2004, Cade received the annual scholarship from the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum for Women. This scholarship funded Cade's trip to Finland to study felt making and to collaborate with artists. While in Finland, she visited textile museums, felt factories, and a wool factory to gain insights into the art of felt making, which is the oldest fiber technique.

As an educator, Cade spends several weeks a year as an artist-in-residence at various Arkansas schools where she works with students on large-scale fiber art pieces that decorate their respective schools. She began teaching weaving classes in 1971, first offering private classes then moving on to teach at Centralia Community College, Centralia, Washington, Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Garland County Community College in Hot Springs, Arkansas. For seven years, she conducted yearly art projects with Indian communities in Arizona.

Cade currently resides in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with her husband Stephen, who is also a member of the class of 1957. Together they have two daughters, Karen and Diane. Congratulations to Barbara Cade on receiving the 2010 University High School Distinguished Alumni Award.