

Inaugural Founders Award (2005)

Diana Elvin

At the 2005 ADRP International Conference and Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, the inaugural Founders Award was presented with great admiration and appreciation to Diana Elvin, Director of Donor Relations at Williams College.

The ADRP Founders Award recognizes the highest ideals of the donor relations and stewardship profession. Recipients are individuals who, through a lifetime of work, have had a significant and inspiring impact on donor relations. The ADRP Founders Award is not an annual award, but rather, is an occasion to recognize, in a singular way, exemplars within our field.

During the award presentation, then-ADRP President Joe Donnelly made the following remarks:

"Diana, both as a person and a professional, has set the bar and demonstrated the level of achievement that will be demanded of all future recipients of this award, ADRP's most prestigious honor.

If there are generations of practitioners within a profession, this person represents the very early days — to art historians she would be a cave painter at Lascaux.

To those of us in the next generation, who have followed in her footsteps, she has been a Greek sculptor, inspiring us to ever-higher heights of achievement and range.

Like Raphael, she has a deep understanding of the meaning of our work and has imparted her knowledge generously, with a kind and caring manner, to all who asked. She is the very definition of grace.

And like Picasso, she is an iconoclast who is not afraid to question convention in her quest to provide better service to the philanthropists who are the very reason for our organizations' existences.

Though both her height and her name might indicate a little person, to us she is a giant.

Please join me in congratulating Diana Elvin, the inaugural recipient of the Association of Donor Relations Professionals Founders Award."