

Hugh Ellis Walker Service Award 2012

The Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award was established to recognize outstanding service and contributions to Delta State University by an alumnus. This year's recipient is Nan Sanders. A native of Cleveland, Sanders earned her B.A. and B.S.E. in English from Delta State University in 1967. She was named Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities and was a member of the Phi Phi Chapter of the Delta Delta Delta Fraternity. She is currently service her third term on the Delta State University Foundation Board.

Her enthusiasm for the Arts is found throughout the community and especially on the Delta State campus. The Sanders family built the Hazel and Jimmy Sanders Sculpture Garden on the front lawn of the Bologna Performing Arts Center, dedicated to the memory of her late friend Pam Mathews, who founded the garden in 1999. It showcases 27 pieces of sculpture in the garden and around campus, giving Cleveland, MS more outdoor art than any other town in the state. In 2009, Sanders won the Delta State "Year of the Arts" Community Service Award, and in 2010, the Bologna Performing Arts Center's President's Award. She also serves as 1st vice-chair of the Mississippi Arts Commission Board, a member of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Delta Arts Alliance and the Cleveland Music Foundation (Grammy Museum Project).

Sanders has been married to Mike for 43 years. They have three children, Ellen Voelkel, Amanda Turner, and Michael Sanders, and six grandchildren: Jackson Voelkel, Mary Michael and Martin Turner, and Willis, Elizabeth James, and Catherine Sanders.