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Ken Bruss '78 honored by the UMM Alumni Association

Summary: Chemistry majors Ken Bruss '78 and Randy Koopman'78 will receive the 2009 University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming festivities.

(June 25, 2009)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association (UMMAA) Board of Directors announces that Ken Bruss '78 is one of two 2009 recipients of the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honors alumni who have made noteworthy contributions in their professional lives, in public service, or in service to the University of Minnesota. [Randy Koopman](#) '78 also receives the award.

With nearly 30 years of varied positions in the food and pharmaceutical industry, Bruss currently serves as director of technical operations for sanofi-aventis, a pharmaceuticals manufacturing firm. His role encompasses three major areas including health safety and environment, site security, and the overall facilities and maintenance area for the site including site capital investments.

Bruss earned a bachelor of arts in chemistry with secondary education licensure from Morris and a master of science in business administration from Avila University, Kansas City. He was honored in 2005 as the campus's inaugural Latterell Visiting Alumnus. Currently, he is helping to establish an endowment to fund undergraduate research in chemistry at Morris.

Jim Togeas, professor of chemistry, proudly notes of Bruss and Koopman, both former chemistry students: "There is a beautiful arc to your careers beginning as bench chemists in the same lab with General Nutrition Corporation and then moving to positions of authority and high responsibility with other firms."

Bruss and Koopman, senior director for Waters Global Services, will receive the award during the UMM Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award Banquet on Friday, October 9, 2009, during Homecoming weekend.

"We look forward to welcoming Ken Bruss and Randy Koopman back to campus as part of our 2009 Homecoming celebration," states Carla Riley '85, director of alumni relations and annual giving. "For their outstanding contributions in their fields of endeavor, they will be honored as our 2009 UMM Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award recipients."

Photo: Ken Bruss '78

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