**Donald W. Maine College of Business Alumni Award**

**Donna Rae Rendina, ’94**

Donna Rae Rendina was nominated for this award by an employee, friend and fellow alumna who believed she should be recognized for her dedication, hard work and perseverance to achieve career success. A graduate of Davenport’s Merrillville Campus in September 1994 with an Associate in Applied Science, Donna was a single mother working three jobs as a student. Even though it was hard at times, she persevered and, with help from her family, was able to successfully complete her educational goals.

Not only did Donna complete her education, but she also built a business from the ground up. In December 2001, Donna began Gram Guardian Associates out of her home. What began with three corporate and ten personal clients has grown to a client base of more than 75 non-profit and corporate clients plus more than 450 personal clients.

Donna won the “Best of the Best” award when previously employed by Bank One, is a volunteer board member for the Thomas Cellini Huntington’s Foundation and provides pro-bono accountant services to a number of non-profit clients. Also, since 1998, Donna has served as a member of the Women’s Police Auxiliary in Merrillville.

Donna became a published author in October 2011 with her first children’s book, “The Golden Leaf,” which she originally wrote as part of a trilogy for her granddaughter. Donna and husband Tony reside in Merrillville, Ind. They have two children, Tony and Kristin, and four grandchildren.