The Temple University Alumni Association presents the 2015 Russell H. Conwell Award, its highest award to a non-Temple alumnus, to John Chaney for his outstanding service to the University community.

Few college coaches are as well-known as Mr. Chaney, one of two Naismith Hall of Fame Temple men’s basketball coaches, who led the Owls to 516 wins, 17 NCAA Tournament appearances and five trips to the Elite Eight in his 24 years at the helm (1982-83 thru 2005-06). He is the University’s all-time winningest basketball coach and retired in 2006 with 741 career wins over 34 seasons, including 10 at Cheyney University. His Temple success put the University’s basketball program on a national stage, increasing interest in Temple University and applications to its academic programs to record numbers.

Mr. Chaney earned consensus National Coach of the Year honors in 1988, the year he led Temple to its first and only #1 national ranking. He also earned USBWA National Coach of the Year honors in 1987. He won a record 296 Atlantic 10 Conference games and was named A-10 Coach of the Year a record five times. His Temple teams won eight regular season A-10 titles and six A-10 Tournament championships. In all, he led Temple to 23 postseason appearances in his 24 seasons at the helm. His six trips to the National Invitation Tournament were also successful as he guided the Owls to a third place finish in 2002 and a spot in the quarterfinals in 2003.

Mr. Chaney’s mentorship and Proposition 48 advocacy positively impacted hundreds of student athletes during his time at Temple — both on and off the court. In 2003, two of Chaney’s most prominent former players, Aaron McKie and Eddie Jones, established the John Chaney Endowed Scholarship Fund at Temple University. The two Hall of Fame players and NBA standouts each contributed $250,000 to the fund.

The legendary coach was inducted into the Temple University (2009) and Philadelphia Big 5 (2010) Halls of Fame following his retirement in 2006. Mr. Chaney also received the Temple University Alumni Association’s Exemplar Award in 2000.