Alumni Awards Gala

Honoring the Gold Blazer & Distinguished Alumni recipients

Friday, April 8, 2011
Sam Rayburn Student Center
Texas A&M University-Commerce
The Gold Blazer Award was first awarded in 1984 and is given annually to an alumnus for service to The Alumni Association of Texas A&M University-Commerce, Inc., and to the University. Forty-nine Gold Blazer Awards have been awarded over the last twenty-six years. We have been fortunate to have alumni who work on behalf of the University without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain. Their efforts have provided two major benefits: economic and social. In both cases their involvement has had an overwhelming effect on the Alumni Association’s ability to reconnect with alumni and provide positive avenues for their interaction with the University and student body. The Alumni Association is pleased to present three individuals with the Gold Blazer Award, all of whom epitomize Professor Mayo’s motto: “ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought and unselfish services to others.”
Larry Goddard’s roots at “Old ET” began in 1969 when his family moved to Commerce, where his father established the university’s computer science department, the first in Texas. After growing up in Commerce and watching the campus evolve and change, he knew A&M-Commerce was his home. It was an ideal place for him to develop personally and prepare professionally as a leader in student government, as a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, and through a stint as Lucky the Lion.

Goddard graduated with his bachelor’s degree in marketing and literature, and a master’s degree in management, educational marketing, and counseling from A&M–Commerce—both with a remarkable 4.0 GPA.

Goddard’s pride for his alma mater continues to run deep. His desire to see other students succeed at A&M-Commerce led to his service as the Associate Vice President of Development, Marketing and Community Relations for A&M-Commerce. During his tenure as Associate Vice President, Goddard secured scholarship money for hundreds of students, affectionately known as “Larry's Kids.” He was also actively involved in working with the Legislature to keep the university open in 1986. He also was instrumental in raising funds to support the renovation of the Heritage House.

His extensive volunteer work for the University includes serving as a recruiter at school nights across the state, and active participation with the A&M-Commerce Alumni Association Board of Directors, Sigma Chi, and the Smith County Alumni Association.

Currently, Goddard serves as Executive Director of the Tyler Independent School District Foundation where he has increased giving to 22 times its previous level. He has won several awards for his work in events, publications, and campaigns including being named East Texas Regional Citizen of the Year in 2008. In 2010, he was named Key Communicator, the highest award given in public relations/communications for Texas public schools, and was recently named president-elect of Texas Association of Partners in Education.
With three degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce, Dr. Jan Huffstutler’s affinity for her alma mater runs deep. With a bachelor’s degree in English and library science, a master’s degree in English, and a doctorate in secondary and higher education with an emphasis in community college supervision, curriculum, and instruction, Huffstutler acknowledges wholeheartedly that education made a significant impact in her life.

Huffstutler has continued to devote herself to life in the classroom, transitioning from the role as student to a successful career in higher education. During her career, she taught English at two community colleges, served as an academic counselor, instructor, director of continuing education, dean, vice president of community services, assistant to the president, and vice president of instruction at Trinity Valley Community College.

Throughout her career, Huffstutler has maintained strong ties to the university, serving on the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni Association Board of Directors since 1993. She has also been an Alumni Ambassador for East Texas State University/A&M-Commerce. From 1989-2006, Jan was a member of the Center for Community College Education Advisory Council at A&M-Commerce. She was also the first woman to be admitted to the Kiwanis organization in 1988.

Huffstutler is married to Ron and has a son, daughter, and a stepson. Her son is also a graduate of A&M-Commerce.
Harry Power

For Harry B. Power, Lion pride is a family affair. Not only did he graduate from Texas A&M University-Commerce with a bachelor’s degree in marketing, his wife Georgia; sons, Craig and Kyle; and daughter-in-law, Morgan, all graduated from the University as well. During his time at the University, Power was a Dean’s List honoree, Vice President of Pi Sigma Epsilon, a professional sales and marketing fraternity, and a resident assistant at Sikes Hall.

Power’s blue and gold blood runs deep, and has been a catalyst for his involvement after graduating in 1973. Since that time, Power has served on the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni Board, co-hosted receptions for A&M-Commerce alumni from Kaufman County, and been an avid supporter of 88.9 KETR, A&M-Commerce athletic events, summer camps, and plays at the university’s Performing Arts Center. While Craig and Kyle were students on campus, Power and his wife were also frequent attendees at Parents’ Day. His volunteer activities also extend to recruitment, and include hosting Lion’s Night for Forney High School seniors, an event encouraging students to attend A&M-Commerce.

Power’s professional endeavors include positions as a regional sales manager, sales trainer, and marketing director. He currently serves as director of marketing for Sleep Therapy Associates of Texas, a network of sleep centers that specialize in diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea.
The first Distinguished Alumni Citation was awarded in 1967. With the growth in membership of the group, they organized and formed the Distinguished Alumni Chapter on November 5, 1983. Its membership consists of all recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Citations awarded by East Texas State University and Texas A&M University-Commerce.

The purpose of this chapter is to maintain a medium for serving Texas A&M University-Commerce, to further the interest and well-being of the University, and to foster an appreciation for the rich heritage left to the great University by its students, its faculty, and its administration during its more than 120 years of existence. A host of graduates of East Texas Normal College, East Texas State Normal College, East Texas State Teachers College, East Texas State College, East Texas State University, and Texas A&M University-Commerce have achieved illustrious careers in many different walks of life. It is from the vast pool of outstanding graduates of the educational institution in Commerce that Distinguished Alumni are selected and honored.
Wayne Chumley, former president and C.E.O. of Chrysler Group (China), has enjoyed an illustrious 24-year career with Chrysler that has taken him throughout Asia and the United States.

After completing his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural education at Texas A&M University–Commerce, he went on to work for International Harvester before transitioning to Chrysler in 1986.

During his time at Chrysler, Chumley quickly moved through the management ranks, and was selected in 1994 as the regional service operations director for Chrysler Asia Pacific Regional Operations in Tokyo, Japan. Two years later, Chumley was selected as president and C.E.O. of Daimler Chrysler Korea thanks to his intercultural skills and experience managing and growing an automobile distribution company. He was selected as president and C.E.O. of Chrysler Group (China) in 2008.

Chumley’s influence in Korea extended beyond the boardroom to the community, where he was recognized and elected chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, served four years as president of the USO Council of Korea and was nominated by President Rho to his Economic Advisory Council in 2004. Two of Chumley’s proudest achievements in Korea came in 2005 and 2006 when he was selected as an honorary citizen of Seoul by the former Seoul Mayor Myung-bak Lee, and awarded an honorary doctorate in international business administration from Far East University.

Soon to be retired, Chumley will join his wife, Joan, and two daughters Cassandra and Jessica, in Texas. Jessica is currently following in Wayne’s footsteps as a freshman animal science major at A&M-Commerce.
W.W. “Chip” Harper

Chip Harper has more than 40 years of experience in the management of industrial, commercial and institutional construction, real estate development, logistics and banking. Currently, he is the fourth generation owner of Harrison, Walker & Harper, Inc., a construction and engineering firm established in 1887.

Harper completed his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Texas A&M University–Commerce in 1970, and graduated in 1990 as class chair from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Business, Owner/President Management Program. He also served 14 years with the Corps of Engineers (seven years with the Texas National Guard, and seven years with the U.S. Army Reserve).

Harper’s numerous business accomplishments include serving as owner and president of H&W Investments Company, a warehousing, distribution and real estate development firm; and Harper, Harper, Harper, Inc. specializing in investment properties.

Harper’s community involvement also includes 10 years of service on the board of St. Joseph’s Hospital and Health Center in Paris. He was co-founder of NET-MOB, an organization dedicated to improving transportation in Northeast Texas, and served on the Texas State Job Coordinating Council Executive Committee and the Ark-Tex Private Industry Council.

Committed to public education, Harper co-founded the Lamar County Coalition for Business, Education and Industry. He was honored by the Texas State Board of Education with the Hero of Children Award for his dedication to education, and the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. He served on the Texas A&M University-Commerce Foundation Board, and played an instrumental role in helping the University establish bachelor’s degree programs in both industrial engineering and construction engineering.
Dr. Jai Nagarkatti

Dr. Jai Nagarkatti, a beloved father, husband and leader, served the employees of Sigma Aldrich Corporation, a $2 billion global life science and high technology company, for the entirety of his career, climbing the ranks from developmental chemist to president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board.

He earned a master’s degree in organic chemistry at Osmania University in Hyderabad, India, and went on to complete a doctorate in organic chemistry at Texas A&M University–Commerce, where he also met his wife, Susan.

Nagarkatti’s career with Sigma Aldrich began in 1976, when he joined Aldrich Chemical Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was named president of Aldrich in 1987, and was later transferred to St. Louis in 2000 to lead the Fine Chemicals Division of Sigma-Aldrich. In 2003, Nagarkatti was promoted to president of the Scientific Research Division, the company’s largest business unit, and was promoted to president and chief operating officer in 2004. Nagarkatti was named C.E.O. in 2006, and chairman of the board in 2009.

In addition to his career at Sigma-Aldrich, Nagarkatti served on the boards of numerous scientific and academic institutions in the St. Louis community including St. Louis Science Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, Engineering School of Washington University in St. Louis, and Trustee of Washington University in St. Louis.

On campus at A&M-Commerce, Nagarkatti was known for his commitment to giving back in relevant and inspiring ways. He and Susan established the Jai and Susan Nagarkatti Graduate Fellowship in Chemistry at the University. From donations toward the new science building to scholarships for high-achieving students, Nagarkatti’s gifts provided the resources necessary for students to pursue scientific research, and he hoped, catch his enthusiasm for life in the lab.

“I want to inspire the next generation of scientists and chemists, and giving back is a great way to accomplish that goal. Just imagine the things we could do if even more alumni gave back,” Nagarkatti said. “Think of the innovation that could be developed, and the leaders that would spring forth for future generations to follow. When I think about it, it gives me goose bumps.”
Judy Castle Scott

Judy Castle Scott is the director of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Center on Vision Loss in Dallas where she is involved in developing and expanding quality services for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Scott holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology, and a master’s degree in counseling and guidance/aging from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M University–Commerce). She was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and numerous other campus organizations.

She is a member of the Reading and Radio Resource for the Blind Advisory Committee, and past chair of the Vision Services Consortium, Texas State Independent Living Council, and Texas Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

She was a leader in developing the National Agenda on Aging and Vision Loss where she worked closely with other leaders and drove the national advocacy effort to increase federal funds for independent living programs for older persons who are blind in every state. In 1974, while working with the Texas Commission for the Blind, she helped develop a proposal to establish the first independent living program for older visually impaired persons in Texas. The program, which she directed, later served as a national model.

Her extensive community involvement has included membership in Leadership Dallas, serving as chair of the Dallas Eye Services Consortium and an appointment to the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities by former Governor George W. Bush in 1996. In 2007, she was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve as the chair of the committee, a position that she still holds.

Scott is a recognized leader and advocate for full access to information and the environment for people who are blind or visually impaired. Her efforts have helped transform significant public structures like the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Terminal D, the American Airlines Center and Cowboys Stadium into accessible environments for everyone with disabilities.

For her, almost lifelong blindness has never kept her from pursuing or achieving her goals, and she has committed to spending her life ensuring that vision loss is not a deterrent to success for anyone else.  

Judy Castle Scott
Distinguished Alumni

1968  Givon Parsons               1981  Darrell D. Tully
1969  Paul Cates                  1982  Thomas Eugene Draper
      Dr. Byron Lee Williams, Jr.  1983  Dr. Shelby R. Metcalf
1970  Dr. Tom J. Mabry            1984  Jo Ann Rutherford Parkman
      John Dean Moseley, Sr.      1985  Virginia Scoggin Stone
1971  Dr. William Eugene Hollon   1986  Dr. Robert Trent
      Col. Wilson Edward Speir    1987  Lee Poston Sturgeon
      Lee Poston Sturgeon        1988  Dr. James Edward Armstrong, Jr.
1972  Dr. James Edward Armstrong,  1989  Robert R. Ashworth
      Jr.                        1990  Dr. William Eugene Hollon
      Dr. Haldeen Braddy         1991  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. Billy Byrd Oliver      1993  Lee Poston Sturgeon
      Dr. William C. Shive      1994  Dr. Haldeen Braddy
1974  Henry C. Cheek              1995  Dr. William Eugene Hollon
      Dr. Raymond H. Fletcher    1996  Dr. Robert Trent
      Dr. Ruth Riley Swords     1997  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. Helen Whiteside       1998  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
1975  Mrs. Willa Kay Fall         1999  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      J. Harold Stringer       2001  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Robert William Hensom, Sr.  2003  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Sam Howard Moore          2004  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. Eli Robert Cox       2006  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Howard H. Martin         2007  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. William A. Webb      2008  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
1978  Raymond B. Cameron          2009  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Robert Kyle Campbell     2010  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Ford Winston Hall        2011  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Martha Jo Lee McDowell   2012  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. Imogene Bentley Mohat  2014  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Lesby Daniels Ray         2015  Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Dr. Joe Bob Rushing      2016  Col. Wilson Edward Speir

Alumni Association
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The Alumni Association was founded in 1890, just one year after the founding of the university. The first class of students to complete a course program organized what was then known as the Alumnal Association. Serving the former graduates of East Texas Normal College, East Texas State Normal College, East Texas State Teachers College, East Texas State College, East Texas State University, and Texas A&M University-Commerce, the association is proud to serve the alumni of a dynamic educational institution that boasts quality and access to those with a desire and passion for learning.

Joining the Alumni Association is one of the many ways to convey your pride in your alma mater. Join today as a new member or renew your membership and enjoy the benefits of being a member by completing the membership form. Annual rates are $30 for an individual or $50 for joint membership.

For more information about membership, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 903-886-5765.
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