Alumni Awards Gala
Honoring the Gold Blazer & Distinguished Alumni recipients

Friday, April 20, 2012
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. Fifty-two 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 two 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.”
Dr. James Randy McBroom

Dr. James Randy McBroom is an extraordinary alumnus who has invested time and resources toward the efforts of the alumni association and university. He is a man of many talents dabbling in aviation, music, social work, and horse training, plus is an ordained Baptist minister. A planned career in special education was put to a halt when he was offered a teaching assistantship in the Sociology Department of East Texas State. He then moved up the ranks recently retiring as Associate Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. McBroom served as a member of the alumni association board for many years. He was instrumental in helping move the organization forward and has been a staunch supporter of alumni activities. He is married to his childhood sweetheart Dana McBroom and they raise and train ranch horses at Henson Creek Ranch near Bonham. He also serves on the Friends of Sam Rayburn Board of Directors, and is a trustee for Bonham Independent School District.

Ron Skrasek

Ron Skrasek has assisted the alumni association in its efforts for many years. His presence and annual support of alumni endeavors including homecoming, FIRST/LAST Dinner Dance and the alumni golf tournaments have aided in the perennial success of these events.

Ron is the president and owner of Oklahoma Business Forms in Oklahoma City, specializing in the print and promotional products industry. A 1968 graduate of East Texas State he was also a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity while on campus.

Ron is also an active member of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Edmond Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Leanne have 5 children and reside in Edmund, Oklahoma.
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.

Gold Blazers

1984 Sherman Burns
Diane Carpenter
1985 Sandra Crane
Rocky Miracle
1986 Jim Ainsworth
Derald Bulls
Kenny Carnes
1987 Harry Icenhower
Kay Partridge
1988 Gene Casselberry
1989 Dr. Fred Tarpley
Wyman Williams
1990 Rheba Icenhower
Earl Stubbs
1991 Judy Anderson
1992 Dr. Kenneth Clinton
Col. Billy Phillips
1993 Carolyn Burt
Rebecca Davies
Robert Whittener
1994 Samuel McCord
1995 Dr. Mary Beth Tuck
Dixie Turman
1996 W. Jerry Hyde
Janet Peek
1997 John Newman
1998 Ted Crim
1999 Peggy Fox
Bobbie Purdy
2001 Diane McDowell
2002 Dr. Trezzie Pressley
Gwendolyn Smith
2003 Gary Finney
2004 R. Winston Williams
2005 Jerry Carrington
Dr. Jack Pirkey
2006 René Castilla
Hoyle Julian
2007 Ann Julian
2008 Dian Fife
Evonne Richardson
Dwight York
Jandy Thompson
Mick Trusty
Dr. Patricia Turner
2009 Charles McCasland
John McCasland
2010 Beverly Pirkey
Dr. Jan Huffstutler
Larry Goddard
Harry Power
Dan W. Bobst earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing from East Texas State University in 1990. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Heath, Texas and have three children: Alexis, Brody and Briana.

Bobst is the founder and owner of Trend HR in Rockwall, a human resources outsourcing company that provides professional employer organization (PEO) services, employee benefits, human resource support, management and consulting services, and other HR services to clients throughout the United States. It’s commitment to superb customer service allowed the company to quickly become one of the largest staffing companies in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Since the company’s founding in 1997, Trend has made the Inc. 5000 list of America’s fastest growing private companies four years in a row (2007-2010), with an estimated $44.8 million in revenue in 2009. Trend HR has also been named “Largest Staffing Services” and one of Dallas’ “100 Fastest Growing Private Companies in North Texas” by the Dallas Business Journal, and “Best Place to Work in Rockwall County” by the Rockwall County Herald Banner.

In 2010, Bobst and his wife established the D.W. Bobst Family Endowment at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and have given generously to support the men’s basketball team and the general scholarship fund. Most recently, Bobst established the Lion Apprentice Challenge Fund within the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. This challenge is a project-based learning and team building experience that prepares students for the real world.

Active in his community, Bobst serves on the Economic Development Corporation for the City of Heath, and is an officer of Life of Praise Ministries in Rockwall. Established in 2004, the Christian outreach program reaches out to countries throughout the world. Bobst also served on the 2011-2015 Strategic Planning Committee for Network of Community Ministries Inc. in Richardson.
A
ger graduating from high school in 1965, Hilda G. Tagle enrolled at Del Mar
College, where she received an associate’s degree. She then attended East Texas
State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in library science. In 1971,
she obtained her master’s degree in library science from North Texas State University.

In 1975, Judge Tagle entered the University of Texas School of Law and graduated
in August 1977. She worked as an assistant city attorney for the City of Corpus Christi
for a year. She was then recruited as a Nueces County assistant county attorney where
she was one of very few women trying criminal jury cases. In 1980, she was recruited
by the Nueces County District Attorney to prosecute felonies. Judge Tagle went on to
solo practice and taught at Del Mar College.

In 1985, Judge Tagle was appointed as judge of Nueces County Court at Law,
becoming the first Hispanic female judge in Nueces County, the first Hispanic female
county court at law judge in Texas, and only the second Hispanic woman judge of a
court of record in Texas.

On January 1, 1995, she took her oath as judge of the 148th District Court in
Corpus Christi. In August, 1995, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton as U.S.
district judge for the Southern District of Texas. She was nominated a second time by
President Clinton in February, 1997, and was confirmed by the Senate in March, 1998.

When Hilda G. Tagle was confirmed as a United States District Judge for the
Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division, she became the first Hispanic
woman in Texas to hold the position of federal district judge.

In 2001, Judge Tagle married her best friend of 40 years, Eddie Knebel. They reside
in Brownsville.
James Thrower, class of 1970, was a three-sport athlete at East Texas State University, where he participated on the Lions’ football, basketball and track and field teams, and majored in English and physical education. The Camden, Ark. native came to ETSU on a basketball scholarship, but it was on the football field that he truly excelled. As a three-year starter on the football team, he intercepted 12 passes for 135 yards. He also earned a varsity letter in basketball and two in track and field as a member of the 440-yard relay team and in the high jump.

Following his playing days at ETSU, Thrower went on to a five-year career in the NFL. He spent two seasons as a defensive back with the Philadelphia Eagles, and an additional three seasons as a defensive back for the Detroit Lions.

After a knee injury in 1975, Thrower transitioned into corporate America serving as a loan executive and as an executive assistant to the board chairman of the NAACP. He currently serves on the City of Detroit Board of Water Commissioners, is the president and CEO of Jamjomar, Inc., and is the owner of eight McDonald’s franchises in Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area.

Thrower is very active in other corporate and community groups including the McDonald’s Operators National Advertising Committee, National Black McDonald’s Association, Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities, National Football League Alumni Players Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Golden Heritage, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Thrower and his wife Marla are members of Oak Grove African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and have four children, James II, Jamar, Joni, and Marissa.
Larry Walker, class of 1962, earned his bachelor’s degree in biology at East Texas State University prior to going on to a successful career in medicine.

After graduating from Baylor College of Medicine, Walker served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1969-1970. Walker served as a company commander of B. Co. 23rd Medical Battalion, and Brigade Surgeon for the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division. He later received the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.

Upon his return to the U.S., Walker completed his surgical training at Baylor College of Medicine and 1973 began his private practice general surgeon in Nacogdoches, Texas where he is a member of the Nacogdoches-San Augustine Counties Medical Society.

During his nearly 40-year career in surgery, Walker has been a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, and held fellowships with the American College of Surgeons and the Texas Surgical Society. Walker currently serves as a medical director of Hospice of East Texas, is the chief of surgery for Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital, vice president of the board of directors for the Nacogdoches County Hospital District, and has been first vice president of the Texas Surgical Society.

Walker and his wife of 47 years, Diana, have three sons and four grandchildren - Andrew, wife Cynthia, Sophia and Logan, Craig, wife Bianca, Liam and Sylvia and youngest son Kevin.
### Distinguished Alumni

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>O. Pendleton Thomas</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Dr. James Edward Armstrong, Jr.</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Givon Parsons</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Robert R. Ashworth</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Paul Cates</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Dr. Haldeen Braddy</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Tom J. Mahry</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Lee Poston Sturgeon</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Dr. William Eugene Hollon</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Dr. William C. Shive</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Dr. James Edward Armstrong, Jr.</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Mrs. Cecille L. Terry Hargrave</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Henry C. Cheek</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Robert B. Ashworth</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Mrs. Willa Kay Fall</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Robert R. Ashworth</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Mrs. Cecille L. Terry Hargrave</td>
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<td>Leonard Boyd Prewitt</td>
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### Alumni Association Board Of Directors 2012

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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Dr. Cecil Groves</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Dr. Barry B. Thompson</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Dr. Lilian Brannon</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Dr. Mike Moses</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Dr. John Horn</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Alton Biggs</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Dr. Jan Huffstutler</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Robert V. “Buddie” Barnes</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Alvin Rix, Jr.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Huddleston</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Dr. Daniel P. Moore</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. Mike Moses</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Dr. J. Davis Armistead</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>H. Dan Farell</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Armistead</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Dr. Patricia Turner</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Armistead</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Dr. Richard De La Garza</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Ted B. Lyon, Jr.</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>R. Wayne Chumley</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Dr. Jai Nagarkatti</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dwight York, President</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Judy Castle Scott</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dr. William Crabtree</td>
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**Alumni Relations Staff**

- Derryle G. Peace, Director
- Jane Martyn, Assistant Director
- Rachel Evans, Communications & Events Coordinator

**2012 Officers**

- Dwight York, President
- Oscar Faye Williams, Vice President
- Lea Anne DeVeiga, Secretary
- Michael Callahan
- Rene Castilla
- Dr. James Cowley
- Dr. William Crabtree
- Susan Dacus
- Dian Fife
- Gary W. Finney
- Russell “Rusty” Harden
- Marion Albert Houff
- Alton Biggs
- James Ragland
- W. Jerry Hyde
- Rhea Icenhower
- W. Ben King
- David Lizzano
- Amaia Lopez
- John McCasland
- Stanley C. Hickey
- Michael “Mike” Oglesby
- Don Peoples
- Beverly Lytle Pirkey
- Harry Power
- Pamela Swindling
- Dixie Turman Stachowiak
- Jandy Thompson
- Frank Turner
- Dr. Patricia Turner
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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.
“ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought and unselfish services to others”
— William Leonidas Mayo