Alumni Awards Gala

Honoring the Gold Blazer & Distinguished Alumni Recipients

Friday, April 19, 2013
Rayburn Student Center
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Alumni Awards Gala Recognition Dinner

**Master of Ceremonies**
Mr. Derryle G. Peace  
Director, Alumni Relations  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Invocation**
Mr. Johnny Kirkpatrick  
President, Student Government Association  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Dinner**
Ms. Nina Lee, Piano & Ms. Esther Hsieh, Flute  
Current Music Students  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**University Welcome**
Dr. Dan R. Jones  
President  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Alumni Association Welcome**
Mr. Stan McKee  
President, Alumni Association  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Introduction of Recipients**
Mr. Derryle G. Peace

**Gold Blazer Recipients**
Mr. Robert V. “Buddie” Barnes, Jr.  
Ms. Sandra Doyle  
Mr. Billy Marshall  
Ms. Faye Branch Williams

**Distinguished Alumnus Welcome**
Mr. Alton Biggs  
President, Distinguished Alumni Chapter  
Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Distinguished Alumni Recipients**  
U.S. Representative K. Michael Conaway  
Ms. Toby McDowell Rives Harty  
Carl Richie, Jr., JD  
Paul Rountree, MD  
Mr. Ben Scholz  
Mr. Robert L. Walker  
Dr. Cliff L. Wood

**Closing Remarks**
Mr. Derryle G. Peace
The Gold Blazer Award was first awarded in 1984 and is given annually to alumni for service to The Alumni Association of Texas A&M University-Commerce, Inc., and to the University. Fifty-four Gold Blazer Awards have been awarded over the last twenty-seven 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 four individuals with the Gold Blazer Award, all of whom epitomize Professor Mayo’s motto: “ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought and unselfish service to others.”
Robert V. “Buddie” Barnes, Jr., class of 1976, grew up in the construction industry and received his bachelor’s degree in industrial technology with a double major in architecture and business management. In 1976, he began working for his father-in-law’s company, Dee Brown Masonry, Inc., and became the first contact administrator. After Dee Brown Masonry, Inc. closed in 1990, Barnes became President and CEO of Dee Brown, Inc. and Masonry Technology, Inc.

In January 2008, Barnes was named Chairman of the Board and CEO of DBI. His son, Robert V. “Rob” Barnes, III was named DBI’s third President and CEO. Barnes continues to serve the construction industry through a multitude of service and professional endeavors, while his son runs the family business. His service to the university includes his recent activities as Chairman of the A&M-Commerce Foundation and President of the A&M-Commerce Distinguished Alumni Chapter.
Sandra Doyle, class of 1975, earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics in preparation for her career in business. She now serves as the Director of Public Affairs for Atmos Energy Corporation overseeing public affairs managers throughout Texas. Before joining Atmos, Doyle was director of gas transportation marketing for TXU Gas.

Doyle has been active in various industry and community associations as well as civic and charitable organizations. She is chairman of the A&M-Commerce Foundation board, past chairman of the North Dallas Chamber and Rockwall Area Chamber boards, North Texas Commission executive board, Urban League of Greater Dallas board, chairman of the Corporate Partners board for the Dallas Library, Texas Workforce Commission board, the Center for Nonprofit Management board, Greenville and Rockwall Boards of United Way, and Friends of Fair Park board.

Doyle is a graduate of Leadership Dallas and Leadership Rockwall and participates as a mentor in the North Dallas Chamber and the Dallas Regional Chamber’s Young Professionals mentoring program and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She was also a recipient of the 2009 Dallas Business Journal’s 25 Top Women to Watch award.

A native of Dallas, Doyle and her husband reside in Heath, Texas.
Billy Marshall

Billy Marshall, class of 1968, taught and coached at the middle school and high school level for twelve years. He was a board member of the Dallas Coaches Association for four years, and during that time, he was the youngest head coach in the Dallas Independent School District.

In 1980 he transitioned to Texas Instruments, and when it was purchased by Raytheon, he was one of only four people chosen to combine Raytheon, TI, Hues and E-Systems. After the merger, Marshall was chosen as Director of Enterprise Services which put him in charge of all facilities, grounds, maintenance and computer support nationwide for Raytheon. He retired from Raytheon in 2000.

Mr. Marshall is perhaps best known on the A&M-Commerce campus for assisting the Advancement Services office and other groups within the school in the stewardship of donors for the last six years by making personal telephone calls to thank them for their gifts and letting them know that each and every person is important to the university.
Faye Branch Williams, class of 1973, completed her bachelor’s degree in biology and sociology and went on to begin her career as a laboratory technician at Parkland Memorial Hospital. However, the isolated nature of the work was not well-suited to this lively alumna’s personality. She eventually made a switch to zoning and code enforcement where she used some of her established skills but in a new capacity. Fast forward 30 years, and Williams made the decision to retire from her position as Director of Community Relations for Fair Park. Never one to take life slowly, she now trains professionals all over Texas in code enforcement via her position as Senior Training Specialist for the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Ms. Williams also maintains a rigorous and well-established relationship with the university through her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, Theta Nu chapter. Williams has helped establish scholarships for students, and she is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.
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 Whitener
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
       Ann Julian
2007  Dian Fife
       Evonne Richardson
       Dwight York
2008  Jandy Thompson
       Mick Trusty
       Dr. Patricia Turner
2009  Charles McCasland
       John McCasland
       Beverly Pirkey
2010  Larry Goddard
       Dr. Jan Huffstutler
       Harry Power
2011  Dr. James Randy McBroom
       Ron Skrasek
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, 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.
Congressman Mike Conaway served in the Army from 1970-1972 and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1974. He has worked as a chief financial officer, and from 1981-1986 was the Chief Financial officer of Arbusto Energy, Inc. Soon after former President George W. Bush was elected Governor of Texas, Bush appointed Conaway to the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy where he served for seven years, the last five as chairman.

Conaway is the chairman of the House Ethics Committee, a deputy Republican whip and a member of the House Agriculture, Armed Services and Intelligence committees. He has sponsored legislation to create a simpler and fairer tax system, increase accountability in government funding, and protect small businesses and family farms from tax increases.

Conaway is an ordained deacon in the Baptist church in Midland, and he is married to Suzanne with four children and seven grandchildren.
class of
1970
class of 1968
Toby McDowell Rives Harty

Toby Harty, class of 1968 and 1969, comes from a long line of Lions. Her mother, siblings and several relatives hold degrees from A&M-Commerce. She worked as a secretary in the counseling center during her time on campus, and after graduation, she became Dean of Women at Southwest Missouri State University.

Once Texas A&M University in College Station began admitting female students, the campus was in need of a Dean of Women. Harty applied and became the first and only Dean of Women at A&M in College Station. When the government decided it was discriminatory to have gender-specific deans, Harty’s position was eliminated. She has held varied positions during her professional career, including employment in Dallas at Club Corp of America, Athletics and Wellness.

She returned to campus in 2009 to be a member of the Silver Leos graduate course in memoir writing. She is also a contributor to the newly released Memories of Old E.T.

Harty is now retired and lives in her birthplace, Yantis, with her husband, Jim.
Carl S. Richie, Jr., JD

Carl S. Richie, Jr., class of 1981, has worked on all three levels of government—local, state and federal. He began his legislative career by serving as a fellow to a member of the U.S. Congress. Then he served as a legislative assistant for two state senators before becoming Deputy Chief of Staff to Texas Governor Ann W. Richards and led the governor’s ethics task force, which established the Texas Ethics Commission, and he became the agency’s first interim director.

In March 1991, Richie was one of 60 people to be named “A Rising Star” in American politics by Campaigns and Elections magazine. He was also one of 35 individuals selected to participate in the Henry Toll Fellowship and was elected President of the 1993 Henry Toll Fellowship Class.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce named Richie “Volunteer of the Year” for his work in education and workforce development and for governmental relations. He is also recognized as one of 2007’s Best Lawyers in America by Woodward/White, and he received the Healthcare Heroes Award by the Austin Business Journal in 2007.

Richie has been ranked as the 23rd top Hired Gun Lobbyist by Capitol Inside. In its 2009 and 2011 lobby power rankings, the publication ranked him second and fourth respectively in the “Corporate In-House Lobbyists” category as the lead lobbyist for TXU Energy.

Recently, he has served as Vice President of Government Affairs for TXU Energy, where he managed the company’s state legislative and regulatory advocacy team and external consultants. He also managed the employee-based political action committee and its associated activities.

He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Austin Bar Association, Austin Black Lawyers Association, Professional Advocacy Association of Texas, and Gulf Coast Power Association.

Currently, Richie serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority for the City of Austin. He has earned the highest awards that can be given to a public housing commissioner. He represents clients before the Texas legislature on many public policy issues. He also represents clients in administrative matters before state and federal agencies in the areas of campaign finance, energy matters and housing issues.
class of 1981
class of 1965
Dr. Paul Rountree, class of 1965, received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry, biology, and English before graduating from medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1969.

In 1972, Rountree became the director of the East Little Rock Community Clinic, and he was also appointed Assistant Professor in the department of family practice at the University of Arkansas for Health Sciences. He returned to Texas as Gulf Coast Regional Medical Director for Union Carbide Corporation in 1989.

The American Board of Preventive Medicine certified Rountree in 1990. He frequently contributed professional articles and book chapters on topics in the field of occupational medicine while working at the University of Texas Health Center in Tyler (UTHCT). After being recognized as “Teacher of the Year” many times, he retired in 2006 from UTHCT as the Houston Endowment Distinguished Professor in environmental science.

After retirement, and never one to rest for too long, he was offered employment with ExxonMobil Corporation as Manager for Medicine and Occupational Health in the Baytown Complex and currently works as Assistant Manager for Medicine and Occupational Health in North America. Rountree also served in the Navy and retired as a Captain in the Medical Corps with 26 years of service.

He and his wife, Susan, are proud parents to four wonderful children. 😊
Ben L. Scholz, class of 1969, received his bachelor’s degree in technical agriculture while forming a partnership with his father in a farming and ranching operation called Scholz Farms. He had the responsibilities of management, marketing, planning and computerizing financial records.

In 1999, Scholz became General Manager of a cotton warehousing company. While there, he changed the corporate structure of the company to C-corporation and became the President and CEO of Producers Compress, Inc.

He formed a legal partnership with his wife called B Scholz Farms, which continued the original business, but changed a few things. The primary sources of revenue became corn, grain sorghum, wheat, beef, cattle and hay. He adapted the newest technical electronics for more efficient operations of equipment and developed a minimal-till cropping system for better opportunities for improved net returns.

Scholz was a charter member of the Wylie Area Chamber of Commerce promoting several events such as scholarship and philanthropy. He also served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Wylie.

Currently, Scholz serves as President of the Texas Wheat Producers Association; Director of the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates; and Chairman of Forage Committee for a regional Texas AgriLife Extension program called ‘Big Program’ presenting educational programs to improve understanding of quality forages for regional livestock producers.
class of 1969
class of 1970
Robert “Bob” Lee Walker, class of 1970, became an assistant administrator at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas shortly after his graduation from A&M-Commerce. He stayed there for four years as an administrative coordinator where his responsibilities included overseeing Woodlawn Hospital, a facility for psychiatric and extended care. He was also in charge of emergency services for Parkland.

He spent time as an assistant administrator for Doctors Hospital in Dallas from 1976 to 1979. After his time there, Walker joined Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. He was promoted to Hospital Administrator in 1982, and in 1989 he was named Executive Vice President and Administrator. Bob Walker was elected President and CEO by the hospital’s board of trustees in January of 2012.

He has served as a member of the Texas Hospital Association board of trustees, chairman of the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council board of trustees, a board member for the Ronald McDonald House in Dallas since 1986 and sits on the board for Special Camps for Special Kids. He has been in leadership roles for United Way campaigns and was chairman of the Shelton School Learning and Evaluation Center board of directors for three years. Walker was awarded the Trinity University Leonard A. Duce Award for Excellence in Health Care Administration in 1992. He holds Fellowship status in the American College of Health Care Executives.

Walker is an avid runner and has served on the board of directors for the Dallas Marathon since 1997. He ran the Boston Marathon three times and has run several others throughout his adult life. He is a proud Eagle Scout, a 33 degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall where he previously served on the Elder Board. He and his wife, Pat—an alumna—have been married for 46 years and have two children.
Dr. Cliff L. Wood, class of 1966, 1967 and 1973, became Director of Student Activities for Tarrant County Junior College shortly after receiving his master’s degree in science. After graduating with his doctorate in education from A&M-Commerce, Dr. Wood served as Dean of Institutional and Student Services for the Houston Community College System.

He spent time at Northern Virginia Community College as an associate professor of human services and psychology as well as the chairman of visual arts and engineering on campus. He was acting Provost for three months and Instructional Dean for six years at Montgomery College. From 1987-2004, Wood was Vice President of Academic Affairs for the County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey.

Wood has received many awards including: JCC Rockland “J” Award, Patterns for Progress Regional Achievement Award, Spring Valley NAACP Humanitarian Award, Nyack College Social Justice Day Award, ACT (Adults Caring For Teens) Inc. Mentoring Award, New York Community College Trustees Special Award of Recognition, and Nyack Branch NAACP 2010 Award in Appreciation for Empowering the Future of Our Youth.

Currently, he serves as President of Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York. Dr. Wood has served on several boards for charity and community service organizations. He has been published many times, and is a respected professional in the field of education.
class of 1966
Distinguished Alumni

1967  O. Pendleton Thomas
1968  Givon Parsons
1969  Paul Cates
      Dr. Byron Lee Williams, Jr.
1970  Dr. Tom J. Mabry
      John Dean Moseley, Sr.
1971  Dr. William Eugene Hollon
      Col. Wilson Edward Speir
      Lee Poston Sturgeon
1972  Dr. James Edward Armstrong, Jr.
      Robert R. Ashworth
      Dr. Haldeen Braddy
1973  Staley T. McBrayer
      Dr. Billy Byrd Oliver
      Dr. William C. Shive
1974  Henry C. Cheek
      Dr. Raymond H. Fletcher
      Dr. Ruth Riley Swords
      Dr. Helen Whiteside
1975  Mrs. Willa Kay Fall
      Jewel L. Walker Howard
      J. Harold Stringer
1976  Mrs. Cecille L. Terry Hargrave
      Robert William Henson, Sr.
      Sam Howard Moore
1977  Alton Odell Bowen
      Dr. Eli Robert Cox
      Howard H. Martin
      Dr. William A. Webb
1978  Raymond B. Cameron
      Robert Kyle Campbell
      Ford Winston Hall
      Martha Jo Lee McDowell
1979  George Warren Barrow
      Dr. Imogene Bentley Mohat
      Lesby Daniels Ray
      Dr. Joe Bob Rushing
1980  Leonard Boyd Prewitt
      Darrell D. Tully

1981  Thomas Eugene Draper
      Dr. Shelby R. Metcalf
      Jo Ann Rutherford Parkman
      Virginia Scoggin Stone
1982  Thomas E. Blakey
      Jerry Howard Flemmons
      Larry Daniel Franklin
      Robert Arnold Jordan
      Frank H. “Bub” McDowell
1983  Duane David Allen
      David Glenwood Williams
1984  Larry Olin Calvin
      Ogle Lee Drain
1985  Fred Edwin Allen
      William Garland Button
1986  Earl Luna
1987  Dr. William A. Owens
      Dr. Robert Alvin Rix, Jr.
1988  Joe Bob Hinton
1989  Dr. Don Wayne Shaw
1990  Homer Kent Biffle
      Bob H. O’Neal
      Sam Rayburn
1992  Gary J. Fernandes
1993  Dennis Alphonso Dyce
      Robert Earl Edison
      Dr. William T. Lowry
      Mark Seliger
1994  Dr. J. Davis Armistead
      Dr. Jennie Cecile Kitching
      Dr. Sally R. Lancaster
      Gary McCollum
      Stephan Pyles
1995  Thomas A. Quarles
1996  Dr. Cecil Groves
      James T. Mann
1997  Dr. Lilian Brannon
      Elmer G. Ellis
      Dr. Zora Frances Greenway
      Bill A. Jackson
      Susan M. Wood
1998  Gary Hancock
      E. Durwood Merrill
1999  Dr. Charles Sterling
2000  Dr. Barry B. Thompson
2001  Dr. Mike Moses
2002  Dr. John Horn
      Lynne Liberato
      Dr. Ralph Wood
2003  Alton Biggs
      James Ragland
2004  Robert V. “Buddie” Barnes
      Dr. Cleatus H. Rattan
2005  Dr. Thomas Huddleston
      Dr. Daniel P. Moore
2006  Mr. Mike Cavender
      Captain Louis Freeman
      Dr. Otha Spencer
2007  H. Dan Farell
      Dr. Michael L. Johnson
      Mrs. Geraldine “Tincy” Miller
      Dr. Fred Tarphey
2008  Mr. Jim Ainsworth
      Ms. Mary Helen Spencer
      Dr. James Turman
2009  Dr. Richard De La Garza
      Ted B. Lyon, Jr.
      Dr. Johnette McKown
2010  R. Wayne Chumley
      W. W. “Chip” Harper
      Dr. Jai Nagarkatti
      Judy Castle Scott
2011  Dan W. Bobst
      Honorable Hilda G. Tague
      James Thrower
      Dr. Larry Walker

Alumni Association
Board Of Directors 2013

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Alumni Relations Staff
Derryle G. Peace, Director
Jane Martyn, Assistant Director
Rachel Evans, Communications and Events Coordinator
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.

**Group Pictures**
After the event, photographers will be available in Traditions to groups wishing to commemorate this event by taking photographs with their honoree. Traditions is located to the left of the conference room doors, at the end of the hallway.

*Event photographs will be made available to the public after the event. Please visit our Alumni Awards Gala page at www.TAMUC.edu/alumni.*
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— William Leonidas Mayo