



# TBHF★

ANNUAL INDUCTION  
DINNER & CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
HENRY B. GONZÁLEZ CONVENTION CENTER  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

"I have said that Texas is a state of mind ... it is more than that....

Texas has a tight cohesiveness perhaps stronger than any other section of America....

Texas is the obsession, ... the passionate possession of all Texans."

– JOHN STEINBECK

## OUR MISSION

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation honors the accomplishments and contributions of outstanding business leaders in our state by celebrating their impact on both business and community. We tell their stories to inspire and instill the same sense of enterprise, community, and excellence in all generations of Texans. The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation was created in 1982 by a small group of Texas businessmen and businesswomen to focus awareness on the positive achievements made by outstanding business leaders and to honor their contributions to their community and state. In addition to recognizing six transformational business leaders each year, the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation awards \$15,000 prizes in both the higher education and veteran community to those who demonstrate exceptional entrepreneurial aspirations and excellence.

Texas Capital is the long-time presenting sponsor of the annual Texas Business Hall of Fame Induction Dinner & Ceremony. Texas Capital is a full-service financial services firm that delivers customized banking, treasury, advisory, and capital markets solutions to businesses, entrepreneurs, and individuals. Founded by Texan entrepreneurs, Texas Capital understands the challenges faced by business owners and has products and services that enable its clients' success at every stage. Together, Texas Capital and the Texas Business Hall of Fame join in championing and celebrating the Texas entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



# LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Honored Guests, Inductees, Collegiate and Veteran Scholars, Directors, and Alumni Association,

On behalf of the Texas Business Hall of Fame, it is my distinct honor to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we gather for our annual induction ceremony. This occasion celebrates seven transformational business leaders who will be inducted into our prestigious roster to perpetuate and inspire entrepreneurial spirit, personal integrity, and community leadership.

For four decades, the Texas Business Hall of Fame has recognized outstanding individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the business landscape and lasting impact on our great state of Texas. During this time, we have provided over \$7 million in funding to our state's most promising, emerging business leaders. These funds have helped spur businesses to contribute to the state's economy and enhanced its global reputation for innovation and opportunity.

To our esteemed inductees, your remarkable accomplishments are a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence. Your leadership and entrepreneurial spirit have set new benchmarks for success, inspiring the next generation of business leaders to follow in your footsteps. We are privileged to honor your legacy and celebrate your achievements.

To our Scholar and Veteran Award recipients, your pursuit of knowledge and commitment to business growth exemplify the core values of the Texas Business Hall of Fame. As the torchbearers of tomorrow, your passion and potential give us hope for the future, and we stand ready to support you as you embark on your business journeys.

To our esteemed Directors and Alumni Association, your dedication has been instrumental in advancing our mission and creating opportunities for tomorrow's leaders. Your commitment to living our core values drives our success, and we are grateful for your continued guidance and wisdom.

As we come together to celebrate, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey that has led us to this point. The Texas Business Hall of Fame is more than an organization; it is a community of like-minded individuals committed to making a difference. Each of you plays a pivotal role in our success, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support.

Let us celebrate the remarkable achievements of our inductees, scholars, and veterans, inspire the entrepreneurial spirit, and reiterate our dedication to giving back to the Texas communities that shaped us. Together, we stand united in our pursuit of excellence and in building a brighter future for Texas.

Thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey. We look forward to sharing this memorable evening with you.

With warm regards,



John G. Keeton

Chairman of the Board 2023, Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation

# EVENING PROGRAM

## WELCOME

John G. Keeton, Chairman of the Board, 2023  
Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation

## INVOCATION

Dr. Lauren Cornell  
President, TBHF Alumni Association

## RECOGNITION OF TBHF LEGENDS & INDUCTEES

Dan Goodgame  
Master of Ceremonies

## DINNER

## SPONSOR WELCOME

Jay Clingman  
Managing Director, Head of Commercial Banking  
Texas Capital

## SCHOLAR & VETERAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

## INDUCTION CEREMONY

## CLOSING

John G. Keeton, Chairman of the Board, 2023  
Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation

## SAVE THE DATE

David S. Huntley, Chairman-Elect, 2024  
Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation

# INDUCTEES

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ARCH “BEAVER” APLIN, III

Founder, Buc-ee’s

Lake Jackson

EDDIE BLOCK & ALAN DREEBEN

Partners, Republic National Distributing Company

San Antonio

CHRISTOPHER “KIT” GOLDSBURY, JR.

Chairman, Silver Ventures

Former Chairman, Pace Foods

San Antonio

JANET GURWITCH

Operating Partner, Advent International

Founder and Former CEO, Laura Mercier Cosmetics

Houston

DANIEL LUBETZKY

Founder, KIND

Founder, Camino Partners

Austin

JACK MARTIN

Chairman, JPM Companies

Founder, Public Strategies

Dallas



ARCH “BEAVER” APLIN, III

FOUNDER, BUC-EE’S

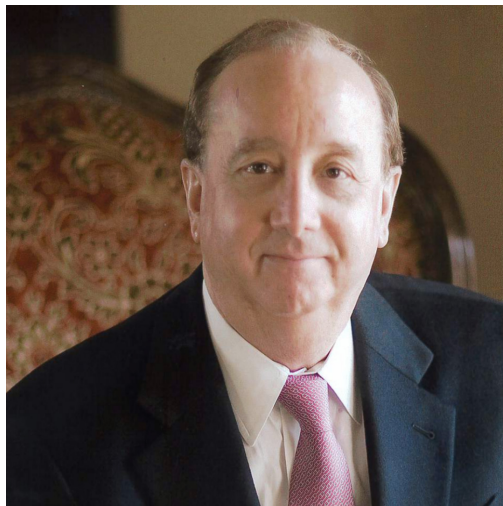
LAKE JACKSON

Arch “Beaver” Aplin, III, President of Texas-based Buc-ee’s stores, earned a Bachelor of Construction Science at Texas A&M University in 1980. In the summer of 1982, he opened his first Buc-ee’s in Lake Jackson, Texas. Over the last 40 years, he has built a chain of destination travel centers dedicated to providing an elevated experience for the driving public through service and selection.

Passionate about community involvement, Aplin has a long history of being active at the local and state levels. He is the former Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, a board member of The Association of Former Students at Texas A&M, a member of the Lieutenant Governor’s Transportation Advisory Board, and a member of the Governor-appointed ERCOT Board Selection Committee.

He received the M.B. Zale Visionary Merchant Award, the 2012 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Texas A&M University School of Architecture, the 2022 McLane Leadership Business Award, and most recently, the 2023 Friend of Wildlife Award. Previously, he was a 9-year board member of the Brazosport Independent School District, including a two-year tenure as board president.

Aplin and his wife, Joanie, reside in Texas and have five children.



## EDDIE BLOCK

PARTNER, REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY  
SAN ANTONIO

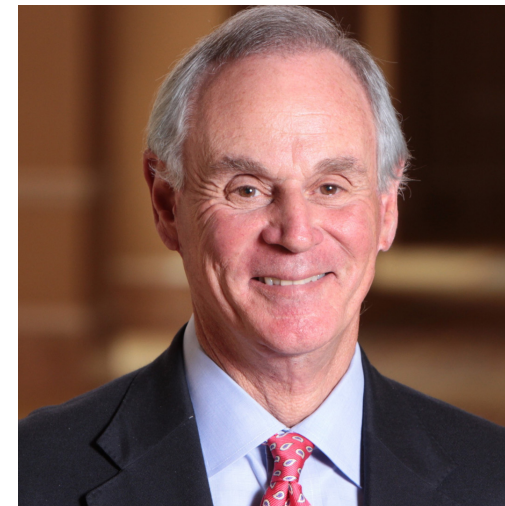
Eddie Block is a partner at Republic National Distributing Company with over 50 years in the wine and spirits industry.

Eddie's father founded Block Distributing Company in San Antonio in 1939 and Eddie began his career working at Franchise Liquors, a subsidiary in Denver. He returned to San Antonio to work for Block Distributing directly and served as its president for 17 years. Block Distributing later merged with Republic Beverage Company and Eddie served as its vice-chairman.

He has served on the boards of industry organizations, including Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America and the Licensed Beverage Distributors of Texas. He was awarded the American Beverage Licensees' Top Shelf Award, a high honor presented by America's beer, wine, and spirits retailers to those who have demonstrated professional excellence in the industry while positively impacting their communities.

As a member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the area's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Eddie has helped to improve San Antonio's business community. He has participated with many other community organizations, including San Antonio's Jewish Federation, where he was a board member, the San Antonio Area Foundation, the United Way Tocqueville Society, the McNay Art Museum, the University of Texas Health Science Center, the Cancer Therapy & Research Center of San Antonio, and the Baylor College of Medicine.

Mr. Block is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma at Norman.



## ALAN DREEBEN

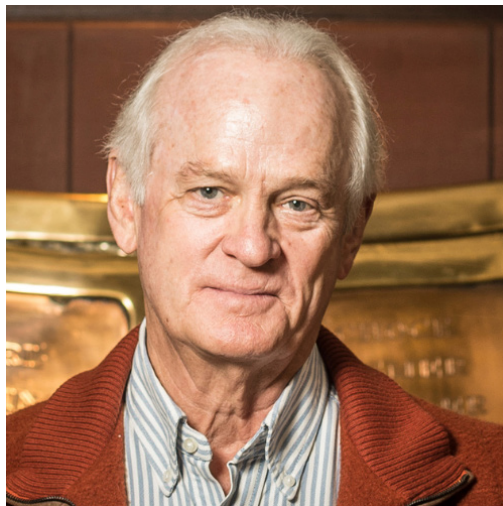
PARTNER, REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY  
SAN ANTONIO

Alan Dreeben is a partner at Republic National Distributing Company in San Antonio, Texas. Founded in 1939 by his father-in-law, Eddie Block Sr., as Block Distributing Company, today RNDC is a family-owned business that has evolved into one of the nation's leading wholesale alcoholic beverage distributors, encompassing 40 markets coast to coast with revenues of \$13 billion. Alan joined the company in 1966 and was mentored in wine sales by his father-in-law. He retired from the Board of Directors in 2022 and is now a member of the RNDC Advisory Board.

Alan is actively engaged in several business and philanthropic activities. He served in many leadership roles at Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, the industry's national membership organization advocating on federal and state regulatory issues. In 2017 the WSWA honored him with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and this year will recognize him with the Inaugural Industry Legacy Award.

With a long history of commitment to education at all levels, Mr. Dreeben served as a Foundation Director and past regent and chairman with the Texas State University System. He is a member of the University of Texas Development Board and was a member of the Executive Committee of the UT System Chancellor's Council. He served as president and trustee at the McCombs School of Business, which inducted him into the McCombs Business School Hall of Fame in 2015, and is a member and past chair of its Advisory Council. He was a trustee at The University of the Incarnate Word, which awarded him an honorary doctorate. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Texas State University. He has held several positions with the Alamo Heights ISD in San Antonio, including past president, trustee, and director of its foundation.

In addition, Alan has held leadership positions in more than 20 community and religious organizations, including Any Baby Can, Hospice of San Antonio, the Council on Alcoholism, the McNay Art Museum, the Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Foundation, United Way, and Temple Beth El. Alan is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and received his MBA at Harvard University (Executive Program).



## CHRISTOPHER “KIT” GOLDSBURY, JR.

CHAIRMAN, SILVER VENTURES  
FORMER CHAIRMAN, PACE FOODS  
SAN ANTONIO

Kit Goldsbury is the Chairman and Founder of Silver Ventures (SV), a San Antonio-based private investment company. In 1969, Kit joined Pace Foods as one of a two-person prep line. A decade later, he was named president. In 1995, as Pace's Chairman, Kit sold Pace Foods to Campbell Soup Company.

He later founded Silver Ventures. In 1998, SV purchased a fledgling tomato company, Desert Glory. Today known as NatureSweet, it is the leading producer of greenhouse-grown tomatoes in North America, employing 7,000 full-time, year-round associates.

In 2002, SV acquired the 22-acre Pearl Brewery. Kit saw its potential to revitalize the neighborhood and the San Antonio River's reach and to preserve the area's historic architecture. The once derelict, abandoned industrial site is now a bustling neighborhood home to chef-driven restaurants, independent retailers, 650 residences, 30 companies, the #1 year-round farmers market in the country, and the nationally recognized Hotel Emma, a 5-star designated hotel. Pearl is recognized as one of the most successful urban and environmental revitalization efforts in the U.S.

In 2008, Kit partnered with The Culinary Institute of America to address the underrepresentation of Mexican Americans in restaurant leadership. Together, they opened the Institute's third campus at Pearl – with programs committed to promoting Latin cuisines, culinary techniques, and diversity in the hospitality industry. Kit created the El Sueño Scholarship to increase accessibility to all students – 90 percent of whom receive financial aid. Its 1,100 graduates have changed the city's local food scene and helped to make San Antonio the second UNESCO Creativity City of Gastronomy in the United States.

Kit is a San Antonio native and a graduate of Trinity University. He is widely respected for his philanthropic contributions to major institutions and community initiatives in the San Antonio area. Kit remains the visionary and creative force behind the ever-evolving Pearl district.



## JANET GURWITCH

OPERATING PARTNER, ADVENT INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDER AND FORMER CEO, LAURA MERCIER COSMETICS  
HOUSTON

Janet Gurwitch is a highly successful corporate executive with over 25 years of experience in the beauty industry. She is currently an operating partner with Advent International, a Boston-based private equity firm, where she focuses on the beauty and wellness consumer sector. Gurwitch is the founder and former CEO of Laura Mercier Cosmetics & Skincare, a global brand of high-end niche cosmetics. Gurwitch managed and oversaw Laura Mercier's day-to-day business operations, strategy development, and retail negotiations.

Gurwitch joined forces with famed makeup artist Laura Mercier in 1996 after realizing the imminent paradigm shift in the beauty industry that was propelling niche lines to the forefront of the cosmetics business. The combination of Gurwitch's business savvy and foresight coupled with Mercier's talent provided a solid foundation for a strong, growing business based on technique and a high-quality product. She sold Laura Mercier in 2008.

Prior to founding Laura Mercier, Janet Gurwitch was the Executive Vice President of Neiman Marcus, where she established the merchandising strategy from 1992-1995.

Today, Gurwitch is an investor in and on the Board of Directors of Olaplex (OLPX) and the Houston Astros baseball team. She formerly served on the boards of consumer brands Tatcha, Drybar, First Aid Beauty, Dollar Shave Club, and Urban Decay Cosmetics as well as the public company La-Z-Boy.

Gurwitch's personal community involvement includes the President's Leadership Council for Houston Methodist Hospital; trustee for The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; chairing the Hermann Park Conservancy dinner event in 2018; and chairing the Community In Schools' (CIS) annual event in 2015. She has also served as Underwriter for the Drawing Institute for the Menil Collection, and she's an avid supporter of the Houston Symphony and Houston Grand Opera.



## DANIEL LUBETZKY

FOUNDER, KIND  
FOUNDER, CAMINO PARTNERS  
AUSTIN

Daniel Lubetzky is a social entrepreneur passionate about channeling business forces to achieve social good. The son of a Holocaust survivor, he strives to prevent what happened to his father and others from happening again.

While best known for founding and growing KIND Snacks into a multi-billion-dollar global brand, Daniel's foray into food was the unexpected outcome of his work to use business to bring neighbors in Middle Eastern conflict regions together.

He conceived of civic movements OneVoice and now Starts With Us to give voice and agency to the majority of citizens who favor common sense solution-building over hateful divisiveness. Through his business-building and investment platform Camino Partners, Daniel and his team partner with entrepreneurs to co-found, launch, and build new ventures (like Mexican food brand SOMOS) — and also take meaningful positions in entrepreneur-led ventures building value with values.

Daniel is a member of the Anti-Defamation League's Inaugural Board of Directors. He has received awards from The King Center, World Economic Forum, Skoll Foundation, Conscious Capitalism, Hispanic Heritage Foundation, and Horatio Alger Association. Daniel was named a Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship by President Obama. He is the author of The New York Times bestseller Do the KIND Thing and a recurring shark on ABC's television series Shark Tank.



## JACK MARTIN

CHAIRMAN, JPM COMPANIES  
FOUNDER, PUBLIC STRATEGIES  
DALLAS

Jack Martin is an entrepreneur, businessman, and rancher. He is perhaps best known for his behind-the-scenes advice to C-suite executives, navigating them through strategies for dealing with their most complex challenges.

Early in his career, Jack served as Executive Assistant to U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. He remained one of the Senator's most trusted advisors and friends throughout his career. In 1988, Jack founded Public Strategies, which grew into one of the most successful corporate advisory firms in the world. Under Jack's leadership, Public Strategies helped shape the business climate in Texas and beyond. In 2006, WPP Group acquired Public Strategies and merged it with Hill & Knowlton, a 90-year-old global communications company. Jack was appointed Global Chairman and CEO of the combined entity – Hill+Knowlton Strategies – where he took his business advisory services global by leading the multinational firm with over 80 offices in 44 countries.

Upon stepping down from Hill+Knowlton Strategies, Jack formed JPM Advisory, LLC as part of a family investment platform active in ranching, oil and gas, and entrepreneurial endeavors. Jack and his wife Patsy both come from fourth generation Texas families involved in agriculture. Today they own the JPM Ranch Company which includes the Mallard Creek Ranch in Montague, Texas, and the historic Open C Ranch in Forestburg, Texas. Currently, Jack serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baylor Scott & White Health, the largest not-for-profit health care system in Texas and one of the largest in the United States with 52 hospitals and over 40,000 employees.

Jack is a graduate of Texas State University. In 1985, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System, and in 1988, he was elected chairman of the Board of Regents. He was honored as a Texas State University Distinguished Alumni in 1991.

# TEXAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME LEGENDS

## 2022

John Arnold  
Ric Campo  
Whitney Wolfe Herd  
Thomas O. Hicks  
Jeffery D. Hildebrand  
Paul W. Hobby

## 2020-2021

Mark Cuban  
John Paul DeJoria  
John C. Goff  
Morton H. Meyerson  
Gerald Smith  
Randall Stephenson

## 2019

Richard W. Fisher  
George C. "Tim" Hixon  
Bill Miller Family  
Kendra Scott  
Robert F. Smith  
Graham Weston

## 2018

Albert Chao  
Dorothy Chao Jenkins  
James Chao  
T.T. Chao  
Ernest "Ernie" Cockrell  
Jim Crane  
Jim McIngvale  
David Weekley  
Richard "Dick" Weekley  
Patricia Will

## 2017

Lucy Billingsley  
David Bonderman  
Forrest E. Hogle  
Stan Richards  
Carl Sewell  
Zale/Lipshy Families

## 2016

Warren E. Buffett  
Charles E. Cheever, Jr.  
Dian Graves Stai  
Gordon V. Hartman  
Gary C. Kelly  
Charles T. Munger  
Dennert O. Ware

## 2015

Greg Armstrong  
Woody L. Hunt  
Michael C. Linn  
Harry Pefanis  
Grady Rosier  
Dan Wolterman

## 2014

Donald L. Evans  
Gerald J. Ford  
Douglas D. Hawthorne, FACHE  
Trevor Rees-Jones  
Harold C. Simmons  
Kelcy Warren

## 2013

Charlie Amato  
Tom Dobson  
Gary Dudley  
Paul Foster  
Joseph M. "Jody" Grant  
H-E-B  
Rex W. Tillerson

## 2012

Donald Adam  
Frank A. Bennack, Jr.  
Douglas L. Foshee  
John L. Nau, III  
Todd Wagner

## 2011

Barry G. Andrews  
Colleen Barrett  
Lee Roy Mitchell  
Ross Perot, Jr.  
Welcome Wilson, Sr.

## 2010

Carlos Alvarez  
Robert Duncan  
W.A. "Monty" Moncrief  
W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr.  
Harvey E. Najim

## 2009

James T. Hackett  
Philip Romano  
Jerry L. Susser  
Sam J. Susser  
Sam L. Susser  
Martha Fuller Turner

## 2008

Dick Evans  
Mike A. Myers  
Glen E. Roney  
Kern Wildenthal, MD, PhD

## 2007

Tom Benson  
Dr. James R. Leininger  
Paul J. Sarvadi  
Clayton W. Williams, Jr.

## 2006

Joe B. Foster  
Dennis E. Nixon  
Lee R. Raymond  
Corbin J. Robertson, Jr.  
Jeff Sandefer

## 2005

Walter E. Johnson  
Jerry Jones  
T. Boone Pickens  
Vin Prothro  
Tim Word

## 2004

Tilman J. Fertitta  
Matt F. Gorges  
Peter Holt  
Rosemary E. Kowalski  
Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr.

## 2003

Allen J. Becker  
Dan L. Duncan  
Reese M. Rowling  
Robert B. Rowling

## 2002

Robert J. Allison, Jr.  
Louis A. Beecherl, Jr.  
William E. "Bill" Greehey  
Lee William "Bill" McNutt, Jr.  
Robert D. Roger

## 2001

Stanford J. Alexander  
Rod Canion  
Don D. Jordan  
Charles L. "Chuck" Watson

## 2000

Henry C. Beck, Jr.  
Al Casey  
A.R. "Tony" Sanchez, Jr.  
Roger Staubach  
H.B. Zachry, Jr.  
H.B. Zachry, Sr.

## 1999

President George H.W. Bush  
Tom Friedkin  
The Caroline Rose Hunt Family  
L. Lowry Mays  
Louis M. Pearce, Jr.  
Eckhard Pfeiffer

## 1998

Mary Crowley  
Michael Dell  
Harold Hook  
S. Roger Horchow  
Red McCombs

## 1997

J.S. Abercrombie  
Lamar Hunt  
Robert C. McNair, Sr.  
Fayez Sarofim  
Edward E. Whitacre, Jr.

## 1996

Ebby Halliday Acers  
Anne Windfohr Marion  
Harry K. Smith  
William T. Solomon  
Lionel Sosa

## 1995

Joe L. Albritton  
Governor Dolph Briscoe  
Joe M. Dealey  
Robert W. Decherd  
William Stamps Farish  
W. Carloss Morris  
Stewart Morris  
James M. Moroney, Jr.

## 1994

Comer J. Cottrell  
Charles G. Cullum  
Robert B. Cullum  
John P. Harbin  
George P. Mitchell  
John V. Roach

## 1993

Aron S. Gordon  
The Kruse Family  
Robert M. Luby  
Robert R. Onstead  
Ambassador Robert S. Strauss  
Ben Taub

## 1992

The Baird Family  
Roy M. Huffington  
Ray L. Hunt  
Drayton McLane, Jr.  
W. Ray Wallace

## 1991

John F. Baugh  
Gordon A. Cain  
Governor William P. Clements, Jr.  
Thomas C. Frost  
Howard R. Hughes, Jr.  
Ben J. Rogers

## 1990

Jack S. Blanton  
Norman Brinker  
Edwin L. Cox  
Cecil H. Green  
Frank W. McBee, Jr.

## 1989

Albert B. Alkek  
Perry R. Bass  
Hugh Roy Cullen  
Ben F. Love  
McHenry Tichenor

## 1988

John S. Justin, Jr.  
Herbert D. Kelleher  
George Kozmetsky  
Frank W. Mayborn  
Henry S. Miller, Jr.

## 1987

Lloyd M. Bentsen, Sr.  
Robert H. Dedman  
Gerald D. Hines  
General Robert F. McDermott  
Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr.

## 1986

Mary Kay Ash  
Amon Carter, Sr.  
Ray Ellison  
H.L. Hunt  
Ross Perot

## 1985

Trammell Crow  
Judge James Elkins, Sr.  
Walter M. Mischer, Sr.  
Eddy C. Scurlock  
Gus S. Wortham

## 1984

Monroe Anderson  
William Clayton  
J.M. Haggard, Sr.  
Oveta Culp Hobby  
Stanley Marcus  
Clint W. Murchison, Jr.  
Sid Richardson  
John Shary  
Joe C. Thompson  
Sam Young, Sr.  
Joe Zeppa

## 1983

George R. Brown  
Herman Brown  
Jesse H. Jones  
J. Erik Jonsson  
Robert Kleberg, Jr.  
L.F. McCollum  
W.D. Noel  
Charles Tandy  
Arthur Temple

# 2023 AWARD DONORS

Carlos & Malú Alvarez  
Legend, Class of 2010

Charlie Amato, Gary Dudley &  
The SWBC Foundation  
Legends, Class of 2013

Greg Armstrong  
Legend, Class of 2015

AT&T  
(in honor of Richard W. Fisher)  
Legend, Class of 2019

AT&T  
(in honor of Randall Stephenson)  
Legend, Class of 2020/2021

Lucy & Henry Billingsley Fund at  
Texas Women's Foundation  
Legend, Class of 2017

Ting Tsung & Wei Fong Chao  
Foundation  
Legend, Class of 2018

James & Kathleen Collins &  
Vantage Bank Texas  
TBHF Board of Directors

Robert H. Dedman  
Legend, Class of 1987

Alan & Barbara Dreeben  
Legend, Class of 2023

Douglas L. Foshee  
Legend, Class of 2012

Paul & Alejandra Foster  
Legend, Class of 2013

The Galloway Foundation

William E. "Bill" Greehey  
Legend, Class of 2002

Martha & Doug Hawthorne &  
The Hawthorne Foundation  
Legend, Class of 2014

H-E-B  
Legend, Class of 2013

The Kennedy Family  
Family of Past TBHF Chairman,  
Shaun Kennedy

Coulter and Lily Rush Hoppess  
Foundation

The McFerrin Center  
for Entrepreneurship  
University Partner

Lee Roy Mitchell &  
The Mitchell Family Foundation  
Legend, Class of 2011

Mike A. Myers  
Legend, Class of 2008

Harvey E. Najim  
Legend, Class of 2010

John L. Nau, III  
Legend, Class of 2012

The Pefanis Family  
Legend, Class of 2015

Regina Rogers,  
Daughter of Ben J. Rogers  
Legend, Class of 1991

Grady Rosier &  
The McLane Company  
Legend, Class of 2015

Kelcy Warren  
Legend, Class of 2014

Brett Wiggs Family Foundation  
TBHF Scholar Award Recipient, Class of 1993

William Zartler  
TBHF Director &  
Scholar Award Recipient, Class of 1988

# 2023 FUTURE TEXAS LEGEND AWARD RECIPIENTS

We are proud to be able to recognize excellence in a wide variety of entrepreneurs and business leaders that represent different experiences, industries, and skill levels. Currently, we award Texas-based applicants in five categories: Veteran entrepreneurs, Scholar (undergraduate or graduate) entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs advocating for those with disabilities, MBA students pursuing corporate executive leadership roles, and high school student entrepreneurs.



**JAMES H. CLARKE**  
**CO-FOUNDER & CSO, LONGHORN LIFE SCIENCES (AUSTIN)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**T.T. & W.F. Chao Chairman's Award**

James is the co-founder and CSO of Longhorn Life Sciences, a biotech startup focused on needs-based innovation. Currently, the company is prototyping a post-surgical bandage aimed at remotely sensing infection-prone wound sites—a technology that has received over \$147,000 in non-dilutive funding. James is also currently a PhD candidate in Physics at UT Austin where he studies the role of feedback and control theory in life. His goal is to apply fundamental design principles in demand-based problem solving that will result in bio-inspired materials and solutions in a changing healthcare and business environment. He previously worked with Thermo Fisher Scientific, developing novel failure analysis applications to support the semiconductor industry and he holds two patents from his work in this field. A native of Boerne, Texas, James has an undergraduate degree in physics from Trinity University, and a Masters in Engineering Physics/Applied Physics from the University of Oregon.



**ASHLEE L. GREEN**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, SERVE & JAM, LLC; PRODUCT MANAGER, THE BOEING COMPANY (DALLAS)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**  
**AT&T Future Legend First in Family Award (in honor of Richard Fisher)**

Ashlee Green is an entrepreneur, IT professional, and passionate advocate for the underprivileged. She serves as a Product Manager for The Boeing Company and Founder & CEO of Serve & Jam, a social benefit company that provides charitable team building and engagement services that generate essential goods for communities in need. Ashlee is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and attended Howard University where she received a BBA in Supply Chain Management. She also holds a Project Management certificate from UT Austin and an MS in Information Technology & Management from UT Dallas. In 2019, Ashlee was awarded the Technology Rising Star Award for Women of Color in STEM for developing an unprecedented digital platform to track cross-organizational performance management for major enterprises. In her free time, Ashlee enjoys serving her community, trying new things, and spending time with her family and friends.



**RYAN SAAVEDRA**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, ALT-BIONICS (SAN ANTONIO)**

**Shaun D. Kennedy Award of Excellence in Empathy & Innovation**

Ryan Saavedra is a 28-year-old entrepreneur who founded Alt-Bionics, a startup aimed at offering affordable bionic prosthetics to amputees. The concept for the company originated as a school project during Saavedra's time at UTSA, where he and three classmates built an AI-enhanced robotic prosthetic hand for less than \$700, garnering attention from the media and investors alike. One week after its completion, he met Ryan Davis, an Army Ranger who lost his right arm in an IED explosion. After successfully testing the bionic hand, Ryan Davis and his family asked what was next. Seeing the real impact his project had made on Davis, Ryan immediately knew that he wanted to bring this technology to the world. Immediately after graduating college, Ryan founded Alt-Bionics as a sole proprietorship, and over the last three years, he has built a company centered around his vision for accessible and advanced bionic prosthetic devices.



**PEGAH JANPAK**  
**FEDERAL FIELD MARKETING MGR, DELL; FORMER FOUNDER, KJ REPAIR & MORE (ROUND ROCK)**  
**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

**AT&T Future Executive Leader of Distinction Award (in honor of Randall Stephenson)**

Pegah Janpak was born in Iran, and her family had to flee when she was six due to their Baha'i faith. They spent 12 years in Turkey before being admitted to the United States as refugees. Pegah founded a successful appliance repair company and managed it for over five years in Round Rock, Texas, which she calls home. Meanwhile, she worked as an interpreter at a United States Army Base in Texas and received a Certificate of Appreciation for her service. Upon graduating from The University of Texas at Austin with a BBA in marketing, Pegah joined Dell Technologies where she works as a federal field marketing manager. In 2022, she was selected as a Top Talent, which is a very competitive honor awarded by nomination only. In spring 2023, Pegah graduated from Baylor University as an honor student with an MBA focused on cyber security.



**LUKE SIMIANER**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, CLUSIV.IO (AUSTIN)**

**The Brett Wiggs Innovative Leadership Award**

Luke Simianer is the CEO and founder of Clusiv.io, the world's first e-learning platform built for the blind community. Clusiv provides training and educational resources to aid blind and low-vision individuals in acquiring the skills needed to enter the modern workforce. A veteran, nurse, and self-taught engineer, Luke's passion for accessibility was ignited when he helped his blind stepfather navigate a software app, ultimately mitigating a costly lawsuit for his employer. Since its founding in 2020, Clusiv has won numerous pitch competitions, raised over \$4 million in venture capital, and helped more than 200 blind and low-vision learners. Luke served in the United States Army from 2010 to 2013 and is a Purple Heart recipient. In his free time, Luke works with Bunker Labs and Warrior Rising to mentor other veteran entrepreneurs. His proudest accomplishment lies in building a high-impact team devoted to driving positive change and ensuring that disabilities don't block people from pursuing the American dream.



**CRAIG CUMMINGS**  
**GENERAL PARTNER, MOONSHOTS CAPITAL (AUSTIN)**  
**UNITED STATES VETERAN**

**The Greg Armstrong Future Texas Legend Veteran Award**

Craig actively invests in technology startups, many of which are founded by military veteran entrepreneurs, through his venture capital firm, Moonshots Capital. Prior to going into VC full-time, Craig was the former COO and Co-Founder of RideScout, a mobile app that showed users how to get from point A to point B by providing real-time ground transportation information. RideScout was acquired by Mercedes-Benz in September 2014. Before he became an entrepreneur, Craig was in the United States Army for 17 years. For most of that time, he was an Intelligence Officer serving in support of the National Security Agency (NSA). Craig deployed to Afghanistan with the Joint Special Operations Command where he earned the Bronze Star. Craig received a BS in Political Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was their first Truman Scholar, and he received a PhD in Political Science (minor: Econometrics) from Columbia University in 2005.



**SHANE FAUCHEUX**  
**PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER, RIO CONTROLS & HYDRAULICS, INC. (HOUSTON)**  
**UNITED STATES VETERAN**

**The Douglas L. Foshee Future Texas Legend Veteran Award**

With over three decades in the industry, Shane, an Electrical Engineer with an MBA, has consistently championed innovation in controls, hydraulics, automation, and CNC Machining. As the President and Co-founder of Rio Controls & Hydraulics, Inc., he's expanded the firm's presence to five key locations, introducing groundbreaking technology solutions that propel the industry forward. Before RCH, Shane managed a significant portfolio at Emerson Valve Automation, as a Sales Engineer. Prior to that, at Engine Monitor, Inc., he donned multiple hats from Operations Manager to Sales Engineer. His journey began with the United States Marine Corps, where as a Signal Intelligence Analyst, he played a pivotal role in the development and testing of the first field portable collection-and-reporting communications system. A trailblazer in his field, Shane's blend of technical acumen and visionary leadership continues to drive the industry forward, solving today's challenges with tomorrow's technology.



**MICHAEL PLEASANT**  
**CEO, OPEN SECURITY, INC. (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**UNITED STATES VETERAN**

**Nau Future Texas Legend Marine Corps Veteran Award**

Michael Pleasant is the CEO of Open Security, Inc., a cybersecurity firm with a mission to "Make Cybersecurity Accessible." He believes in demystifying cybersecurity through clear and practical solutions for clients. His technical expertise and leadership were honed during his service in the United States Marine Corps, where he led intelligence operations during two tours of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Michael developed state-of-the-art tactical training that modernized intelligence doctrine. After leaving uniformed service, he participated in the research and development of new military applications for cybersecurity practices and technologies in the private sector. Michael serves on the board of Corporate Esports Association, whose tournament teams compete to donate prize money to local charities. He volunteers his time teaching entrepreneurship to transitioning servicemembers through his local San Antonio SBA office. Michael received his BS in Information Technology from American Military University and holds leadership certifications as an Alumnus of Harvard Business School.



**JEREMY LOWELL**  
**FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE KYO GROUP (AUSTIN)**  
**UNITED STATES VETERAN**

**Future Texas Legend Army Veteran Award (in honor of James Galloway)**

Jeremy Lowell embarked on his career as a Combat Medic in the United States Army, where he honed invaluable leadership and operational skills. Following his military service, he applied his expertise to technical projects at Google, emerging as a key player in driving nationwide innovation. Recognizing a need for specialized staffing services, Jeremy expanded his reach to support global teams, adeptly serving both private and public sector clients with staffing, marketing, and development needs. In 2019, he founded The KYO Group. Today, under Jeremy's leadership, The KYO Group is not only renowned for providing expert talent solutions, but it also operates one of the largest DOD Skillbridge programs in the country. The company is deeply committed to giving back, with a focus on partnering and developing additional opportunities for transitioning military personnel, helping as many veterans as possible adjust smoothly into civilian life, every single day.



**ZACHARY E. CARRELL**  
**CO-FOUNDER & CEO, SIDE COACH SPORTS; CO-FOUNDER, GREENHORN FISHING (WACO)**  
**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

**The Paul Foster Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Zach Carrell is the CEO and Co-Founder of Side Coach Sports. He is pursuing his MBA at Baylor University and will graduate this December. Zach attained his BA in Economics while playing Division 1 baseball at the University of Oklahoma. Simultaneously, Zach's entrepreneurial drive has led to two startup ventures. With his brother, he co-founded Greenhorn Fishing, a fishing equipment company that manufactures and sells bass fishing lures and apparel. Greenhorn Fishing has succeeded in securing brand partnerships with innovative pricing strategies and social media marketing campaigns. Zach is also the CEO and Co-Founder of Side Coach Sports, a web-based platform connecting current and former college athletes with youth in their community for private coaching and mentorship. Zach will begin working in Dallas as an Assistant Vice President in Global Operations at Bank of America in February 2024.



### **GAVIN DUKE**

**FOUNDER, DUKE DETAILING (DALLAS)**

**DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Gavin Duke, a senior at Dallas Baptist University, founded Duke Detailing in 2022. Duke Detailing provides professional, affordable, and convenient car care for everyone in the DFW area. He manages the company website and develops social media strategies and content across Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok, and LinkedIn. When not working on his business, Gavin is very active on DBU's campus. He has held numerous leadership positions in his fraternity, including Marketing Chair. Some of his responsibilities include designing shirts for fraternity events, as well as managing the chapter's social media accounts. Gavin also works part-time on campus in the financial aid office, allowing him to hone his finance and customer service skills. Gavin is pursuing a BBA and is set to graduate next spring.



### **ZACHARY KOS**

**TABLETOP GAME DEVELOPER; FOUNDER, INSTAGEN MINISTRY (DALLAS)**

**DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Zachary Kos is currently a junior at Dallas Baptist University. However, his entrepreneurial journey began before college as Zak developed numerous business ideas. From an early age, he aspired to be an entrepreneur seeking to revolutionize and empower. To date, he has released four games Rankers, Reelin' Table Fishing, Correlation Not Causation, and Race in Space: Labyrinth Edition while working on various other projects. During high school, Zak competed in Stoa, a Christian homeschool speech and debate league, where he placed fourth in the nation his senior year. He seeks to use his communication skills to empower the next generation of youth and young adults. Recently, his endeavors have included contributing to DBU's Honors Program as a panelist speaker and developing InstaGen Ministry, an expansive resource for church youth groups. Undoubtedly, Zak wishes to see the next generation flourish through a commitment to excellence by entrepreneurs.



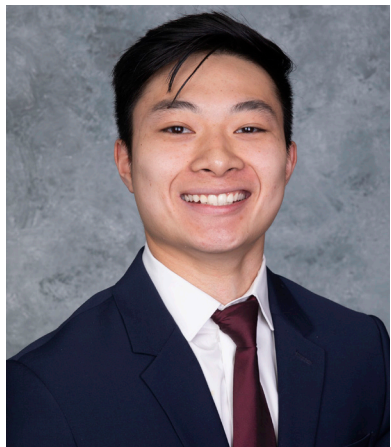
### **RITESH B. RANA**

**DRY CLEAN SUPER CENTER, FRANCHISE OWNER (ARLINGTON)**

**DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Ritesh was born and raised in Nepal. He moved to the United States at 18 years old to pursue higher education. After receiving his associate degree, Ritesh enlisted in the United States Army as a combat medic and did a tour in Iraq. After his active duty, Ritesh joined the US Army Reserves working as an Information Technology and Supply Chain Specialist. During this time, Ritesh also decided to start his own business. Ritesh is a Dry Clean Super Center franchise owner. He has four locations in the DFW metroplex, overseeing daily business operations. Currently, he is working on his startup which can change the dynamics of the Dry-Cleaning industry from a regular operation to one having the ability to serve customers 24 hours a day. In 2022, Ritesh decided to return to school. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in information technology and management (MSITM) at Dallas Baptist University.



### **CODY TRAN**

**FOUNDER, CJC VENTURES LLC (BEAUMONT)**

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

**The Ben J. Rogers Award**

Cody Tran, the founder of CJC Ventures LLC and a senior at Lamar University, comes from a family with a long history of entrepreneurship that traces back to their time in Vietnam. Continuing this entrepreneurial spirit in the United States, Cody's own journey started in high school, and included ventures in automotive detailing, social media marketing, a crypto startup, and now a moving and storage company. In addition to his startups, he also actively supports his family's businesses during his free time. Building on this diverse work background and his life experiences, Cody is determined to uphold his family's legacy of business leadership and innovation. He recently completed a product management internship at Charles Schwab and held previous roles at startups, where he gained valuable insights into product management principles and witnessed the efficiency of lean startup operations. He plans on using these experiences to propel his own ventures forward.



### **BLAKE AUSTIN BUNGER**

**CO-FOUNDER, COEFFICIENT ENERGY (HOUSTON)**

**RICE UNIVERSITY**

**T.T. & W.F. Chao Award**

Blake is an accomplished finance professional with a proven track record of success in business development. He earned his Finance degree from Texas A&M University in 2014 and an MBA from Rice University in 2023. Throughout his career, Blake has played a pivotal role in driving revenue growth for the organizations he has worked with, specializing in helping investment companies raise and invest debt and equity. Most recently, as Director of Capital Markets at CrowdStreet, Blake was responsible for originating limited partner investment opportunities for commercial real estate projects nationwide. Blake's inspiring leadership, strong business acumen, and ability to develop and nurture key relationships have earned him a reputation as a trusted and influential professional in the industry. He is committed to delivering exceptional results for his clients and is passionate about making a positive impact in the built world. His next chapter involves the commercialization of his CoEfficient Energy vision.



### **KAEMAN PERKINS**

**CO-OWNER & DESIGNER, FARM AND CITY INTERIORS (WALLER)**

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**The SWBC Foundation Award**

Kaeman Perkins is the co-owner of Farm and City Interiors, a design firm that specializes in new construction, residential remodels, and home furnishings. Kaeman oversees business development, budgeting, procurement, and design for large-scale projects. Kaeman discovered her passion for design after earning a BBA from Sam Houston State University. She originally joined the Farm and City Interiors team as an assistant. Applying her business knowledge and acumen, Kaeman helped restructure the company to make it more profitable, and within a year, they had nearly doubled their sales. In 2022, she was asked to take on a leadership and ownership role within the company. Currently, Kaeman is pursuing an MS in Project Management at Sam Houston State University and will graduate in spring 2024. She plans to use the knowledge gained from the program to help guide her team of designers and manage projects more efficiently.



### **APRIL L. KOOIMAN**

**OPERATING PARTNER, IMPACTFUL CAPITAL (PROSPER)**

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**The Lucy Billingsley Future Texas Business Legend Award**

April Kooiman is a serial entrepreneur and an accomplished senior-level executive with over 29 years' experience and is currently a December 2023 MBA candidate for SMU's Cox School of Business. Ms. Kooiman is currently an Operating Partner with Impactful Capital, a venture capital firm focused on digital health companies. Prior to her current roles, she was the founder and CEO of Praxis Healthcare Solutions, a leading service solution that allowed healthcare organizations to overcome the ever-changing reimbursement challenges that exist within the revenue cycle. The company was acquired in July 2020 by Cloudmed, a R1 Company. After the acquisition, April served on their executive team and as an SME until November 2022. Prior to founding Praxis Healthcare Solutions, Ms. Kooiman co-founded Trilogi, Inc., another national healthcare receivables management company, where she served as President prior to its acquisition by Recondo Technologies in 2012.



### **IDOWU ITIOLA**

**FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO, LYDIA INFRASTRUCTURES LLC,**

**LYDIA PAINTING, LLC (FARMERS BRANCH)**

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**The Robert H. Dedman Award**

Idowu Itiola is the Founder, President, and CEO of Lydia Painting, LLC, a Dallas-Fort Worth-based commercial and industrial painting company. Idowu oversees the company's vision, strategic direction, finance, business strategies, corporate policy, culture, and decisions regarding the organization's capital expenditures. The company earned \$3.2 million in revenue in 2022, working with major commercial clients in the DFW area. Idowu is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Southern Methodist University's Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering. He also holds a Master's in Geotechnical Engineering, a Master's in Tunneling & Tunnel Boring Machines, and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Idowu joined the United States Army in 2016 as an Engineer Specialist. His PhD research is supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and focuses on the numerical modeling of rigid bodies under dynamic loadings.



**AMANDA URIBE**  
**CORPORATE ANALYST AT JP MORGAN CHASE, CO-FOUNDER OF TWINSITTERS,**  
**FORMER CO-FOUNDER OF SWIFTSIZE LLC (DALLAS)**  
**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY**

**The William E. "Bill" Greehey Award**

Amanda Uribe is a born and raised Texan with a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She is a first-generation college student and a third-generation Texas entrepreneur. In high school, she founded Swiftsize, LLC, and in college, she co-founded a pet-sitting business called Twinsitters. Throughout her college career, she has served in seven different leadership positions, as an Emerging Leaders Mentor, Resident Assistant, Greehey Mentor, St. Mary's Orchestra Member and Concertmaster, Student Orientation Leader, and Co-Committee Chair for the Research Scholar Program. She is a published author and has mentored over thirty students. She has interned at H-E-B, Velocity TX, SA Youth, and J.P Morgan Chase where she currently works as a Corporate Analyst in Asset and Wealth Management. She is passionate about servant leadership and is looking forward to her next business venture.



**MIKE ASHLEY**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, HPTECHAI LLC (COLLEGE STATION)**  
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**The McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship Future Texas Business Legend Award**  
**(in honor of James Galloway '29)**

Mike is the founder and CEO of HPTechAi, a company that aims to revolutionize the trucking industry and solve the driver shortage by developing provably-safe self-driving technologies. HPTechAi has been selected for a Small Business Innovation Research award by the United States Marine Corps to improve their self-driving convoys. Mike is also a mechanical engineering PhD student at Texas A&M University with core work on hard platooning for self-driving semi-trucks and military ground vehicles. In addition to co-authoring two academic papers, he has directed projects to implement theory and build prototypes for testing on trucks and military vehicles. He's been in the Connected Autonomous Safe Technologies (CAST) lab for 6 years, starting as an undergraduate. He has one year of instructing an undergraduate controls lab as a TA, two years in reliability engineering with Komatsu Mining Corp., one year in test engineering with Trane, and several years as a heavy equipment mechanic and truck driver.



**KATIE CALDERON**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, CLUB GIRL GOLF (HOUSTON)**  
**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**The William Zartler Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Katie Calderon is the founder of Club Girl Golf, a manufacturer of women's specialty golf clubs and equipment. Katie has developed patent-pending technology to create a golf putter perfectly tailored to each individual. The custom fit maximizes performance and comfort, empowering women to reach their full potential on the course. Katie's digital marketing savvy and social media skills have gained her a substantial following on TikTok and Instagram. Her engaging and informative golf videos have earned her a loyal fan base, while her creative club designs showcase her skills as an innovator in the sport. In addition to her entrepreneurial pursuits, Katie is an accomplished athlete. She is a professional long driver, having competed in numerous events and earning recognition for her long shots. Her dedication to golf is evident in all aspects of her life, from her studies to her business ventures to her athletic pursuits. Katie is pursuing her Bachelor of Engineering from Texas A&M University and will graduate next spring.



**BRENT BOUSQUET**  
**CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER, IGH HEALTH, FIRE & SAFETY (FORT WORTH)**  
**TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Brent's professional journey began at age 18 as a firefighter and advanced EMT for the City of Arlington. He served eight years at one of the nation's busiest firehouses, responding to over 7,000 calls annually, while working closely with the Department of Defense, Dallas Cowboys, and Texas Rangers as a hazmat responder, with a focus on radiological and nuclear threats. His dedication to protecting the community led to the development of IGH Health, Fire & Safety, a fire protection and life safety firm based in the DFW area, in late 2019. Operated by first responders, nurses, and veterans, IGH offers an extensive array of services and products tailored to equip organizations of all scales in readiness for any emergency they might encounter. Brent is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship and innovation at TCU's Neeley School of Business to further his education and to promote future developments within IGH.



**CRUZ UNTZ**  
**OWNER, UNTZ LLC (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**The Alan & Barbara Dreeben Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Cruz Untz is the Owner of Untz LLC, a commercial and residential holiday lighting and installation company servicing San Antonio and surrounding areas. Heading into another holiday season, Cruz has ambitious goals to expand into new geographic territories and grow his customer base. Cruz also manages a side business reselling goods on Amazon Marketplace. In addition to managing his entrepreneurial ventures, Cruz has received many academic accolades and recognition. A first-generation college student at Texas State University, pursuing a BA with a major in accounting, he is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, is the recipient of several merit-based scholarships, and has consistently been on the Dean's List for his outstanding academic performance. After graduating in spring 2024, Cruz plans to obtain a master's in accountancy and acquire his CPA license. He also plans to continue to grow and own Untz LLC, ultimately leaving the operations to his partner, while he furthers his accounting aspirations.



**RYAN HARTMAN**  
**REALTOR, ELITE REAL ESTATE GROUP; FORMER OWNER, "THE HARTMAN TEAM" AT KELLER**  
**WILLIAMS (MONTGOMERY)**  
**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - FREE MARKET INSTITUTE**

**The McLane Company Reading Program Award**

Ryan Hartman is a realtor with Elite Real Estate Group and former owner of "The Hartman Team" at Keller Williams. Ryan's real estate journey began at 17 when he was sponsored by Keller Williams to earn his license. After completing the coursework, Ryan began working for Keller Williams, where he closed over a million in sales during his first year. Following that success, he created "The Hartman Team." Ryan closed his second year with a record \$7 million in sales and was recognized as a top 30 seller in his market. The following year, Ryan decided to join First Class Real Estate as part of The Elite Real Estate Group. In addition to selling homes, he is now remodeling homes and investing in real estate. Ryan is pursuing a BBA in finance at Texas Tech University.



**HARIKRISHAN S. SACHDEV**  
**CO-FOUNDER & CEO, HIPR INNOVATION, INC. (AUSTIN)**  
**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - RAWLS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

**The Pefanis Family Award**

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Health & Society Honors in 2017, Krishan ventured into the health innovation and commercialization space. He served as the Legislative Aide on Healthcare Issues to Representative Richard Raymond (TX-42) and worked as lead associate at Dell Medical School's Texas Health Catalyst. Marrying his passion for health and innovation, Krishan co-founded HiPR Innovation, Inc. (a medical device startup focused on pressure ulcer prevention) in 2019. As HiPR's CEO, he has participated in numerous programs including Techstars Healthcare Los Angeles 2023, MassChallenge, and the Austin Technology Incubator's SEAL program. Currently, HiPR is undergoing its final round of product manufacturing and testing. Krishan is a rising third-year medical student at Texas Tech University Health Science Center and plans on continuing to leverage innovation in order to develop health solutions.



**AJ CLARK**  
**MHA CANDIDATE AND FOUNDER, HEALTHYCHOICES (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**TRINITY UNIVERSITY**

**The Doug & Martha Hawthorne Family Fund Award**

AJ Clark is the founder of HealthyChoicies, an app that targets low-income communities and provides financial rewards for working out, eating healthy, and other sustainable choices that might lead to a healthier community and lower healthcare costs. Currently, AJ is an MHA candidate in Trinity's Healthcare Administration master's program. In addition to school and working on the HealthyChoices app, AJ holds a part-time internship at a local hospital, works two part time jobs, and is captain of the Trinity basketball team. Throughout his academic career, AJ has worked on many entrepreneurial projects, ranging from making a business plan for a gym to innovatively addressing nursing support issues by automating and easing hygiene processes. Born and raised in San Antonio, AJ holds a BS in business analytics and technology with minors in communication and sports management from Trinity University.



**GABRIEL OGDEN**  
**FOUNDER, AIRE DRONE SYSTEMS LLC (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**TRINITY UNIVERSITY**

**The Carlos & Malú Alvarez Award**

Gabe Ogden is an entrepreneur and engineer who recently graduated with a BES, along with a minor in mathematics, from Trinity University. As the co-founder and engineer at Skelton Musical LLC, he spearheaded the development of a proprietary music accessory product and secured funding from the Trinity University Stumberg Competition. Additionally, Gabe serves as the co-founder and COO of Aire Drone Systems LLC, a startup focused on revolutionizing dangerous cell tower maintenance through drone technology. Throughout his academic journey, Gabe actively engaged with the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Trinity University. With his engineering degree and mathematical background, he feels well-equipped to face the challenges of entrepreneurship and innovation. Gabe approaches these opportunities with a deep-seated passion for learning and innovation and a commitment to excellence. He hopes to contribute meaningfully to the realm of technology and beyond.



**DREW WOOTEN**  
**CO-FOUNDER, PARENT PROTECH (DALLAS)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS**

**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Drew Wooten is the co-founder of Parent ProTech, a pioneering venture designed to empower parents in the rapidly evolving digital era. With a BME from Oklahoma State University and an MBA from the University of Dallas, Drew's foundation is both technical and business-oriented. His eclectic and entrepreneurial background spans ventures as varied as selling pumpkins, working as an automation developer, being a Wedding DJ, delving into SEO advertising, and offering 3D design consulting. The core of Drew's mission with Parent ProTech is to ensure children are safe in the digital realm, while equipping parents with the necessary knowledge to guide them. This profound mission was birthed from Drew's personal experiences and strong family values that instilled in him the principles of hard work and self-reliance. Since its launch, Parent ProTech has reached many families, becoming a trusted digital resource for parents.



**DIEGO DE LEON**  
**CO-FOUNDER, NAVIGO (HOUSTON)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

**T.T. & W.F. Chao Award**

Diego, a native of Houston, Texas, is passionate about architecture. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Houston in 2023 and is currently pursuing his license. As a co-founder of Navigo, Diego is dedicated to developing an outdoor recreational travel culture in Houston. His journey has been shaped by his experience at Albany Studio, where he began as an entry-level designer/drafter and grew into a valuable asset for the firm. Inspired by his entrepreneurial experience, Diego aims to apply the discipline and creativity of architecture to resurrect successful businesses. With the vision to take on multiple roles in future projects, he is committed to making a positive impact on the world through his endeavors. Diego's unwavering determination, coupled with his creative vision, has positioned him to help reshape Houston's outdoor recreational landscape.



**MARCOS RODRIGUEZ**  
**OWNER & FOUNDER, NEVER FALTER CROSS FIT (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD**

**The H-E-B Award**

Marcos has over 13 years of experience in the fitness industry and is the proud owner of Never Falter CrossFit. A first-generation American and college student, he is pursuing his MBA at the University of the Incarnate Word, with an anticipated graduation in Spring 2024. Marcos boasts multiple continuing education certifications, including Olympic lifting, gymnastics, powerlifting, and strongman, among others. His vision for the business entails expanding into youth fitness programs and collaborating with companies to enhance employee wellness. Marcos's passion for helping others through fitness was ignited during his United States Air Force career. Throughout his military journey, he attended numerous military courses and served in instructor roles, including non-lethal weapons, active shooter response, and combatives instruction, while also preparing for competitions. Presently, he serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader of a 59-person unit, exemplifying his dedication to both his military responsibilities and his fitness community.



**ASMARA HAGOS**  
**FOUNDER, HAGOS MARKETING (DALLAS)**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**

**Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Asmara has a background of working in sales and marketing at Silicon Valley tech startups. She leveraged those skills to create her own company, Hagos Marketing. Hagos has helped businesses improve their sales pipeline and become more profitable through improved marketing and advertising strategies. She also offers a mentorship program through her startup, helping hard-working college students acquire industry work experience, while simultaneously learning valuable lessons about how to be successful. A passionate leader and entrepreneur, Asmara is working on several new endeavors, including developing an AI-powered marketing technology for her sector. In 2023, Asmara obtained an MBA from the University of North Texas. While at UNT, she brought her business leadership skills to her academic community and served as President and Vice President of Administration of the Graduate Student Council.



**OMAR ABDULLA**  
**REAL ESTATE AGENT; OWNER, MODERN TRADER LLC (FORT WORTH)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**The Kelcy Warren Graduate Fellowship for Engineering**

Omar is an entrepreneur, real estate agent, and current senior studying mechanical engineering. At a young age, Omar became interested and began learning about real estate and stock investments. After graduating from high school, he earned his real estate license and closed slightly under a million dollars in gross sales during his first year. By combining his real estate experience and engineering skills, Omar plans to build a company that addresses housing challenges in Texas. The primary focus of Omar's studies is how 3D printing can increase the pace and affordability of real estate construction. He and his team of five architectural/mechanical engineers are currently working with ICON, an Austin-based 3D printed construction company. There he plans to lead the design of a prototype that can be built for under \$99,000, which will be released Spring 2024. He strives to relieve housing constraints throughout critically affected areas in Texas.



**JUSTIN CHILDERS**  
**FOUNDER, J&W LANDSCAPING LLC (ROCKWALL)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Justin Childers is a native Texan, raised in Rockwall, Texas. After attending Howard College to play baseball, he pivoted his academic studies to The University of Texas at Arlington where he earned a BS in Construction Management in 2023. During Covid, he joined the turf maintenance team for a local golf course where he learned all about commercial landscaping. Justin used his experience and entrepreneurial spirit to start his own business, J&W Landscaping LLC, in 2021. He quickly established a market presence and customer base through social media, targeted marketing campaigns, and a company website. Justin leveraged relationships through local business and networking groups to partner with realtors, mortgage lenders, and builders on a variety of projects to further extend his client base. Within two years he built a successful business specializing in landscape, hardscape, and irrigation systems, all while still a full-time student.



**KEVIN LONG**  
**CO-FOUNDER & CEO, OUTMORE LIVING (AUSTIN)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**The Mike A. Myers Award**

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Kevin Long attended Miami University, and graduated in 2015 with a major in marketing and a minor in history. Kevin then moved to Minneapolis, where he worked for Target Corporation from 2015-2021. He is most proud of his roles managing Target's outdoor furniture business and as a lead strategy consultant overseeing all strategic partnerships and negotiations in Target's Electronics & Entertainment pyramid. In 2021, Kevin and his wife moved to Austin, which they now call home, to pursue his MBA at The University of Texas and to launch his business, Outmore Living. He was recently named one of the 100 Best & Brightest MBAs: Class of 2023 and his company has received several awards, highlighted by winning the Texas Venture Labs Investment Competition last December. Outmore Living recently closed a \$1.1M seed investment round. You can now shop the presale on outmoreliving.com.



**TAMARA MARSHALL**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, MANTA SYSTEMS (DALLAS)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**  
**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

Tamara Marshall is the Founder & CEO of Manta Systems. Manta is Tamara's third business. She previously owned a wholesale coral business and a saltwater retail store called Ocala Reef. With over two decades of experience, Tamara's passion for the well-being of aquatic creatures led her to create a groundbreaking device that will revolutionize the lives of aquatic home hobbyists. Manta is the world's first automated frozen food feeder and is scheduled for release in late 2024. This invention is set to redefine the standards of aquarium maintenance. Currently pursuing a double master's degree – an MBA and an MSIE – from UT Dallas, she serves as an Aquatics Curator for a private aquarium in Dallas. Her ability to blend education, sales, marketing, and unparalleled customer service makes her a leader and a mentor to colleagues and team members.



**AMIR MURIB**  
**PARTNER, DYNAMIC SLR (DALLAS)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**  
**The Mitchell Family Foundation Award**

The beginning of Amir's entrepreneurial journey was marked by the founding of Prime Shutter, a window treatment sales agency that he and his partner bootstrapped to rapidly increase market share. This achievement paved the way for Amir to expand the organization's reach into the renewable energy industry and inspired the creation of his next business venture, Capture Solar, a company that sells photovoltaic devices in the residential market. As a co-founder, Amir has emphasized team development and strategic planning, effectively growing a sales team to over 30 representatives and a sales pipeline to over 40 accounts per month. His team's dedication and exceptional growth led to a successful merger with and acquisition by Dynamic SLR at the end of 2022. Amir is currently pursuing a BBA at the Naveen Jindal School of Management at UT Dallas and will graduate next year. He continues to serve as a Partner at Dynamic SLR.



**TIMOTHY REAZOR**  
**FOUNDER & OWNER, FIFTH & CHERRY (ROCKWALL)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**  
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Tim and his wife Tanya own and operate Fifth & Cherry, a custom kitchen and cutting board manufacturer. While launching Fifth & Cherry, Tim held the role of chief investment strategist at Revere Asset Management. Prior to his time at Revere, he served as the Director of Investor Education at Investor's Business Daily. Tim's professional journey includes leaving the United States Marine Corps with the rank of Major Select. He is an accomplished helicopter pilot, having completed three deployments, during which he earned five Air Medals in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. His experience includes serving as an operational risk management officer and aviation safety officer. Tim earned his BS in international marketing and communication from Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. He furthered his academic pursuits at The University of Texas at Dallas, earning an Executive MBA from the Naveen Jindal School of Management in 2018 and an MS in innovation and entrepreneurship in 2019.



**JAVIER BECERRIL**  
**FOUNDER, SENSAPATH (MCALLEN)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY**

**James And Kathleen Collins & Vantage Bank Texas Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Javier completed his BS in mechanical engineering and is currently pursuing an MS in computer science. Throughout his undergraduate studies, Javier held positions as a research assistant and a manufacturing engineer intern. These roles deepened his grasp of tech research and development and nurtured both his technical and managerial skills. These skills contributed to his senior design project and current venture Sensapath, an assistive technology that allows visually impaired individuals to recognize their surroundings through audio and haptic feedback. He led the interdisciplinary team through multiple innovation events and immersive entrepreneurial training programs. Every day he is pushing for the development of the project and company through national programs and university sources. Javier's life-long dream has been to pursue an entrepreneurial role in which he can create impactful technology for the betterment of society, and his blend of education, skills, and experience are setting the stage for the realization of this dream.



**ANNA SOPHIA ALMARAZ**  
**FOUNDER AND MARKETING DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SOPHIE MARKETING LLC (SAN ANTONIO)**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**  
**The Harvey Najim Future Texas Business Legend Award**

Anna Almaraz is a first-generation Hispanic student at The University of Texas at San Antonio. With a BBA in marketing, she's currently working towards an MBA in entrepreneurship and leadership. At 15, Anna founded Social Sophie Marketing LLC. Anna has collaborated with more than 25 clients to develop marketing strategies and guide conversations on evolving marketing trends. She's generated upwards of \$650,000 in gross sales through numerous social media campaigns. Well-known for influencer marketing efforts, she leverages human relationships and provides services in strategy development, community management, social content creation, and social listening. Anna has acquired a broad spectrum of clients and earns their trust through thought leadership. Anna is an aspiring philanthropist and seeks ways to make meaningful contributions to her community. Her passion is mentorship and advocacy for rising entrepreneurs. She aims to use her business success and experience to inspire young entrepreneurs to expand their business ideas and become inclusive leaders.



**REUBEN PAUL**  
**FOUNDER, NOTIFEYE; FOUNDER, CYBERSHAOLIN (AUSTIN)**  
**WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL**

**The TBHF Alumni Association Outstanding High School Entrepreneur Award**  
**(in honor of Coulter and Lily Rush Hoppess)**

Reuben Paul is a senior at Westlake High School in Austin. In 2022, he founded Notifeye, a company that uses a dashcam with software he coded to detect distracted driving. Notifeye won first place in the National INCubatoredu and school pitch competitions, securing more than \$30,000 in funding. He is also a code developer for an SAT tutoring company that is engineering a way for students to take practice tests online in anticipation of the new digital SAT. Reuben serves as his Senior Class President, volunteers for his church as a drummer, is a 3rd Degree Black Belt, and is a USA Gymnast. He founded his charity organization, CyberShaolin, at the age of 9. It has taught more than 3500 kids globally about online safety. Reuben is a public speaker, having delivered more than 30 keynote addresses on cybersecurity/technology topics in more than 11 countries and raising thousands of charitable dollars. After graduation, Reuben is interested in pursuing a business major with a focus on entrepreneurship.

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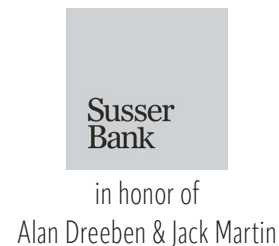
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