



HIGH HONORS—Recipients of the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award were (left to right) James Daniel '62, Jennifer Hilton Sampson '92, and Dr. Nick Strimple '69.

AWARDS

Crowd pleasers

BAA presents annual awards before a large crowd

A crowd of more than five hundred gathered on January 25 to honor Baylor alumni and others for the annual Hall of Fame banquet hosted by the Baylor Alumni Association (BAA).

The number of attendees has grown each year since the inaugural event in 2011—the first time the presentations of most of the BAA's awards were combined into one gala event. BAA assistant director of programs and awards Jan Welch Dodd '73 said the funds raised through the event have also increased each year. Net proceeds from ticket sales and underwriting gifts benefit the BAA's Legacy Scholarship Program.

As always, the evening was filled with inspirational stories from the award recipients, who are chosen by committees of BAA board members.

Longtime barbers Ervin Davis and Norman Gilchrest, who ran the Baylor Barber Shop in the Bill Daniel Student Center, both said they were overwhelmed to receive the W. R. White Meritorious Service Award, which honors devotion to the university.

Gilchrest said that when BAA executive vice president and CEO Jeff Kilgore called to tell him about the award, "Well, there was silence on the line for a while,

because I was in shock. I said, 'Whoever nominated me, they weren't drinking coffee that morning.'"

Gilchrest said his forty-five years in the barber shop gained him true friends, who will help in times of need. "I don't think there are many people who worked somewhere else who could say that," he said.

Joel Allison '70, president and CEO of Baylor Health Care System, received the George W. Truett Distinguished Church Service Award in honor of a career that combines ministry and health care. The award was especially meaningful, he told the crowd, because of Truett's role in founding the Dallas-based hospital system. "He believed in the ministry of healing," Allison said about Truett.

The BAA presented nine different awards during the Hall of Fame event, which included a formal dinner, entertainment, and awards presentations.

Three alumni received the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. James (Jim) R. Daniel '62, a banking executive and health-care leader in Oklahoma City, is vice chair of BancFirst Corporation. Jennifer Hilton Sampson '92 is president and CEO of United Way

of Metropolitan Dallas. Dr. Nick Strimple '69—a composer, conductor, author, and scholar—is associate professor of choral and sacred music at the University of Southern California and director of music at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

Lori Thompson Coulter '97 and Kellie Key Fischer '95 received the Herbert H. Reynolds Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Coulter is founder of Lori Coulter Made-to-Order Swimwear, and Fischer is executive vice president and CFO of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club.

Dr. Brian McCall '81, chancellor of the Texas State University System, was the recipient of the Price Daniel Distinguished Public Service Award.

The recipient of the Abner V. McCall Religious Liberty Award was J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

The McCall Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. John Wood '53, president of the International Medical Education Foundation and of John Wood Ministries.

In addition to the two former Baylor barbers, Bettie M. Battle also received the W. R. White Meritorious Service Award. Battle served Baylor for more than forty years as manager of Baylor's athletic dining hall.

The 2013 First Families of Baylor Award honored the Nelson-Dudley-Boulet family, which boasts six generations of graduates.

Also, the Baylor Black Alumni Club presented its annual Distinguished Baylor Black Alumni Award to Robert Griffin III '10, who was unable to attend.

David Creasey '81, MBA '82, and Meredith Pinson-Creasey '84 served as 2013 event chairs, and David '82 and Kimberly Gabriel Dominy '84 were the underwriting chairs. —Meg Cullar