

PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fred McClure '76, who was honored as Texas A&M's 115th Distinguished Alumnus in 1991, has been appointed managing partner of the Washington, D.C., office of national law firm Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP. This new role will take advantage of McClure's deep ties to politics and public policy, as he has served as assistant for legislative affairs to President George H.W. Bush, special assistant for legislative affairs to President Ronald Reagan and as associate deputy U.S. attorney general.

Dr. Charlie N. Barron '90, '92 received a 2006 Department of the Navy Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award in a ceremony at the Pentagon. Presented by Dr. Delores Etter, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, the award was established to honor the Navy's scientists and engineers for superior technical achievements during the calendar year and to promote continued scientific and engineering excellence. Barron was recognized for his leadership in developing and transitioning into Navy operations the first full global ocean prediction system, the Global Navy Coastal Ocean Model. The model provides daily forecasts of ocean currents for search and rescue and sound speed in support of anti-submarine warfare. Barron started

working for the Naval Research Laboratory at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, in 1995 after completing a Ph.D. in oceanography from Texas A&M University.

Gary Patterson '84 received the 2006 Outstanding Petroleum Engineer Award from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) in Dallas on Feb. 24. Patterson served as chairman of the Dallas section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (2004–2005), along with various other committee positions. He earned his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M and is a registered professional engineer in Texas. Patterson is a senior operations engineer for Denbury Resources in Plano.

In Memoriam

Specialist Daniel E. Gomez '08

Army Spc. Daniel Enrique Gomez, 21, formerly of Natalia, Texas, was killed in action in Iraq on July 18, 2007. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Spc. Gomez received many medals and commendations in his military career, including the Legion Of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Medic Badge and Expert Badge With Rifle.

Daniel attended Natalia schools from first grade through sixth grade. In 1998, at the age of 13, the

family moved to Warner Robins, Georgia, where he played football and was very involved in the Air Force Junior Officer Training Corps. He served as JROTC Corps commander for two years and graduated in 2003. It was then that Edwards attended Texas A&M and joined Squadron 12 in the Corps of Cadets.

David Winslow '08, Gomez's roommate during the spring 2004 semester, said, "He was doing well, but he just wanted to be enlisted. He was pretty intent on serving his country. I know he loved it once he joined."

Winslow said Gomez would be remembered as a roommate who was fun to be around. "He was a pretty funny guy. We have a lot of good stories,



a lot of fun times as freshmen in the Corps," Winslow said.

When Gomez left Texas A&M, he went back to Warner Robins, Georgia, attended Georgia Military College and joined the Army on June 1, 2005.

He is survived by his parents, Juan and Juanita Gomez; brother Louis; sister Marian; maternal grandmother

Maura Medina; and paternal grandmother Enriqueta Gomez. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

Gomez's life was celebrated with two services, one in Natalia, and one in San Antonio, where he was buried.

Specialist William "Billy" Lawrence Edwards '06

Army Spc. Billy Edwards '06 was killed in action Aug. 11, 2007, when his unit encountered hostile fire in Baghdad, Iraq. Spc. Edwards received wounds from sniper fire in the attack, which also took the lives of four other soldiers in his unit.

Edwards graduated from Stratford High School in Spring Branch in 2002 and enrolled at Texas A&M University in August of the same year, joining Company C-2 in the Corps of Cadets. He left College Station in January 2004 and attended Texas A&M University at Galveston prior to joining the United States Army in January 2006.

Upon completion of basic training, Edwards was assigned to Bravo Company, 1-30th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga. He deployed with his unit to Iraq in May 2007.

In a memorial service held in Baghdad, Edwards was remembered as an outstanding soldier, a great platoon mate and excellent driver for his crew. His family and friends remember him as a great sport with a great sense of humor and a beautiful smile.

Edwards was active in the Boy Scouts, earning his Eagle Scout status at 15, and always displayed a keen interest in the military. His family said they weren't surprised when Edwards approached them with a plan to leave school and enlist. His mother, Marykay Edwards, said he was insistent on joining the infantry even though he had a Navy scholarship. "He never looked back," she said. "He was very happy where he was, very happy with his choice of career. It didn't shake him at all to go to Iraq. He



had a job to do, and that's that."

Edwards was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge. His previous awards and decorations included the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Expert Weapons Badge.

He is survived by his parents, Bill and Marykay Edwards; his brother, Dr. Jeff Edwards '77; his sister, Paula Edwards; and grandmother Iris Houghton.

The life of Spc. Billy Edwards '06 was celebrated Aug. 20, 2007, in services at Strickland Funeral Home in Caldwell. He was laid to rest in the cemetery adjoining Evangelical Church of Christ in Lyons.