PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

U.S. Secretary of Defense and former Texas A&M University President Dr. Robert Gates was awarded the 2010 American Patriot Award by The National Defense University Foundation. He will be recognized at a gala in November for his outstanding contributions to the intelligence, national security and defense communities.

Ray Childress ’85 and Gene Stallings ’57 were named to The National Football Foundation & College Football Hall of Fame. Childress played defensive line for the Aggies from 1981 to 1984 and ended his Aggie career with 360 career tackles, the most of any defensive lineman in school history. He earned first-team All-America honors in 1983 and 1984. The 1984 Aggie team captain is credited with changing the attitude and culture with Aggie football. Stallings was the head coach at Texas A&M from 1965 to 1971. He led the Aggies to a Southwest Conference title in 1967. He also coached at Alabama, where he led the Crimson Tide to a national title in 1992. As a player, Stallings lettered for the Aggies in 1954, 1955, and 1956. The Hall of Fame class will be inducted at foundation’s annual awards dinner on Dec. 7 in New York City.

Frank Walters ’88 was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Hall of Fame. He is the director of sports medicine and wellness programs for Broward Health in Fort. Lauderdale, Fla. He oversees an outreach program that includes 28 athletic trainers at 23 Broward County high schools and directs a hospital-based cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, diabetes education and wellness center with approximately 1,500 members and 17 employees. His long-time work to develop the athletic health care service in the school system was a primary reason he was selected for the honor.

Houston oilman George P. Mitchell ’40 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Gas Technology Institute. The founder of Mitchell Energy & Development Corp., Mitchell received the prestigious honor for pioneering hydraulic fracturing and drilling technologies that created a shale gas revolution.

Dr. Wendy L. Keeny-Kennicutt ’82, senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, was named a 2010 Piper Professor. The Piper Professor Award, established in 1958, annually recognizes 15 outstanding college professors across Texas. Keeney-Kennicutt joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1984 by earning her doctorate in chemical oceanography from Texas A&M.

Richard Jones ’90 served as the lead flight director for NASA’s Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-131, which launched April 5. Jones told the KBTX news show Brazos Valley This Morning that his professional desires were cultivated in Aggieland. “Texas A&M ... it molded me. It shaped me. It helped me think the way I do right now,” he said. “It’s given me all the tools that I use here at work.” Jones earned his bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering.

Tiffanie Turner ’06 received the K9 of the Year award from the National Association for Search and Rescue for the work she and her cadaver recovery dog, Fanta, did in 2009. Fanta was a key factor in two drowning incidents, helping to identify the location of the individuals for recovery. Fanta and Turner have also participated in hurricane recovery efforts, homicide victim location and many other drowning recoveries.

Larry Barfield ’70 was awarded the 2010 State of Texas Engineer of the Year by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

He’s pictured with Texas Governor Rick Perry ’72.

Dave Lilley ’95 and Rodney P. Martin II ’00 of Trinity Hughes Construction were presented the Small Business Person of the Year Award during the annual Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Small Business Awards Banquet. Trinity Hughes Construction experienced 100 percent growth from 2005 to 2009.

Steve LaMantia ’81 was named the 2010 Laredo Business Person of the Year. LaMantia is vice president of L&F Distributors, a business owned along with his family. LaMantia serves on several boards and financially contributes to many nonprofit organizations in South Texas. In 1991, he formed a partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and in 11 years, raised more than $5 million and awarded more than 2,600 scholarships to students in South Texas. In 2003, he joined with family, friends and business leaders to help establish a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships to students from South Texas.

The documentary film Aggies: The True Story of Texas A&M was recognized with four Telly Awards. The documentary received top honors in the categories of “History/Biography,” “Entertainment” and “Motivational,” and was named a finalist in the category of “Use of Music." The Telly Awards recognize the best video and film productions, work created for the web and local and regional cable television commercials. The documentary film is presented by The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University and produced by Bryan production company NorthStar Interactive Media, created by Josh Smith ’97.