



78TH ANNUAL AWARDS
CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 20, 2023
FAYETTEVILLE TOWN CENTER



ARKANSAS
ALUMNI

CitiScapes Magazine is a proud sponsor of the Arkansas Alumni Association and the 78th Annual Alumni Awards Celebration



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
CitiScapes
MAGAZINE



www.citiscapes.com facebook.com/CitiscapesMagazine



WELCOME

Welcome to the 78th Alumni Awards Celebration. On behalf of the University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Alumni Association, I would like to thank you for joining us in celebrating the accomplishments of the U of A family. This year's celebration honors 13 alumni, faculty and friends, and includes recipients in seven award categories.

I am grateful for the time and dedication of our national board of directors, our association team, our members and sponsors for making this event possible.

Brandy Cox Jackson M.A.'07, Life Member

Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni
and Executive Director of the Arkansas Alumni Association

WELCOME **Brandy Cox Jackson M.A.'07**
Associate Vice Chancellor & Executive Director
Arkansas Alumni Association

AWARDS **Charles and Nadine Baum
Faculty Teaching Award**
Presented by: Terry Martin B.S.E.E.'77, M.S.E.E.'83, Ph.D.'89
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Arkansas

Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards
Presented by: Charles F. Robinson Ph.D.
Chancellor
University of Arkansas

DINNER **Entertainment**
Provided by Jim Goza B.A.'12

AWARDS **Andrew J. Lucas Alumni Service Award**
Presented by: Amy May Hopper B.S.A.'15
Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors

Community Service Award
Presented by: Amy May Hopper B.S.A.'15
Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors

Honorary Alumni Award
Presented by: Amy May Hopper B.S.A.'15
Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors

Young Alumni Award
Presented by: Connie Lewis Lensing B.A.'74, J.D.'77
Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors

Citation of Distinguished Alumni
Presented by: Don Walker B.S.A.'74
President
Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors

Note: Degrees with years indicate that the individual is a graduate of the University of Arkansas.

Salad

Winter Greens Salad with Roasted Pumpkin Seeds, Farro, Goat Cheese
Dried Cranberries, and Apple Cider Dijon Vinaigrette

Dinner

6 oz. Filet of Beef with Tomato Shallot Coulis
Prosciutto-Wrapped Asparagus
Creamy Three-Cheese Polenta
Sliced Focaccia

Vegetarian and Gluten-Free

Herbed Rice Pilaf Stuffed Pepper
Roasted Asparagus

Dessert

Apple, Pecan and Pumpkin Pies

Coffee Service Upon Request

Meal prepared by Catering Unlimited

Protein provided by Tyson Foods

Dessert provided by Rymolene's Pies

*Coffee donated by Westrock Coffee Company
- The Official Coffee of the Arkansas Razorbacks*

Wine donated by Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits

SPONSORS

**THE ARKANSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE
2023 AWARDS CELEBRATION EVENT SPONSORS:**

SILVER SPONSORS



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Sam M. Walton College of Business



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

School of Law



Tyson

TM

MEDIA SPONSOR



IN-KIND SPONSOR



WINE SPONSOR



BEVERAGE SPONSOR



BEER SPONSOR



TABLE SPONSORS

Butterfield Trail Village
College of Education and Health Professions
College of Engineering
Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences
Edison Electric Institute
Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design
Fidelity Investments
Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Graduate School & International Education
UARK Federal Credit Union
University of Arkansas Honors College
University Libraries

CHARLES AND NADINE BAUM FACULTY TEACHING AWARD



Dr. Marcia Imbeau
Professor of Gifted Education
College of Education and Health Professions

- Childhood/Elementary Education Program Coordinator.
- 2022 Arkansans for Gifted Education Presidential Award recipient.
- Honors College Distinguished Faculty Award recipient.
- Faculty Gold Medal from the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards recipient.

Dr. Marcia Imbeau is an excellent educator, mentor and researcher. She first joined the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in 1991 as an assistant professor. Imbeau earned tenure and became an associate professor in 1997 and was promoted to professor in 2013.

She is an internationally acclaimed scholar of curriculum design, differentiated instruction, and gifted education. In addition to serving as the program coordinator, Imbeau directs the gifted and talented program. She is a university liaison in the MAT Childhood Education program: teaching graduate courses, supervising interns, and working with mentor teachers.

Imbeau has three major goals when teaching a class. “Have a clear purpose tied to specific learning goals regarding what you are teaching and also be aware of how what you are doing today is tied to what you taught in your last class and leads you to what you will do next,” she said. Second is to “be prepared – know your content and challenge yourself to always add new ways of doing things so you feel fresh and not dated.” The third goal she shared is to “worry less about YOU when teaching and focus more on who you are teaching – Are you watching students’ expressions by reading the room to see interest or boredom and doing something about what you see to make the experience better?”

FACULTY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Varun Grover

**Distinguished Professor of Information Systems
Sam M. Walton College of Business**

- 2022 AIS LEO Award for Lifetime Exceptional Achievement in Information Systems recipient.
- 2022-23 Outstanding All-Around Faculty Award recipient by the Walton College.
- “Best Paper” Awards recipient from AIS, DSI, Academy of Management, Anbar, and the OR Society.
- 2019-20 Outstanding Faculty Member Award recipient by the Associated Student Government and the Graduate Professional Student Congress.

Varun Grover joined the information systems faculty in 2017. He has held the George and Boyce Billingsley Endowed Chair since 2021. He previously held the David D. Glass Endowed Chair.

His research examines how information systems foster value by impacting individuals, transforming processes, and changing competitive dynamics. Grover follows a behavioral approach in his research. He utilizes a variety of methodologies in his work including field surveys, experimental designs, structured interviews, content analysis, secondary data analyses, field experiments, and modeling. Grover has an impressive publication record, with publications in leading scholarly journals. He has had over 30 acceptances in the very best journals in the past couple of years and is the second-most-cited researcher at the University of Arkansas. He has also held major editorial positions in all the top information systems journals, including senior editor for MIS Quarterly and the Journal of AIS.

Grover serves as the executive director of the information systems Ph.D. program. He is actively engaged with doctoral students, having chaired 45 Ph.D. dissertations and chaired and participated in several doctoral consortia.

“We are living in exciting times,” Grover said. “Our field deals with digital technology and its implications for business and society. With the explosion of social media, big data, analytics, cloud technologies, mobile technologies, the Internet of Things, blockchain, and recent developments in artificial intelligence, there is an abundance of interesting questions to study. Being curious about important questions and then searching for answers that contribute to knowledge, business, and society is extremely rewarding.”



FACULTY DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SERVICE



Carole Shook B.S.B.A.'89, M.B.A.'94, Ed.D.'19
Annual Member
Teaching Associate Professor of Information Systems
Sam M. Walton College of Business

- Founder of the Sigma Chi Mu Tau Honor Society.
- SEC Teaching and Learning Center Development Association Secretary.
- Faculty Senate member.
- Walton College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee member.

Carole Shook joined the University of Arkansas as a non-tenure track faculty member in 1999. She was an instructor in the Department of Accounting and then for the Department of Supply Chain Management. She joined the faculty of the Department of Information Systems in 2019 and was promoted to teaching associate professor in 2023. Shook's service contributions have had a significant impact at the university and across the state, region and nation.

Her service to the university is wide and varied, including serving as co-director of the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center, a member of the Non-tenure Track Advisory Committee, chair of the Campus Calendar Committee, board member of the Teaching Academy, and a member of the Indigenous Employees Impact Group. She is a faculty advisor to the Chinese Students and Scholars Student Chapter and the Amnesty International Student Chapter.

As a member of the Education Task Force of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy, she worked with representatives of all universities in Arkansas and developed new rules for the Arkansas CPA exam.

"We are a world-class institution in an area of amazing beauty surrounded by some of the top companies in the world," Shook said about the university. "Also, we are the home of the one and only Razorback mascot in college sports! Come and be unique with us."

FACULTY DISTINGUISHED RISING TEACHING AWARD

Dr. G. Alexander “Alex” Nunn B.S.B.A.’13

Associate Professor of Law

University of Arkansas School of Law

- Four-time Lewis E. Epley Jr. Professor of the Year Award for Excellence recipient.
- Prepared five new classes, Evidence, Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, and Jurisprudence and Federal Courts.
- Co-hosts and serves as associate producer of the podcast Excited Utterance, focusing on scholarship on evidence law and proof.

G. Alexander “Alex” Nunn is an associate professor of law. He has been a tenure-track faculty member at the U of A School of Law since 2019, after serving in 2018-19 as a visiting assistant professor of law. In that time, he produced six major law review articles that have been placed in some of the very best law journals in the country. An extraordinary achievement in his short time on faculty when the expectation is one article every two years. In 2023 he achieved tenure and the title of associate professor.

His teaching focuses on evidence law, adjudicatory procedure, and federal courts. His approach to teaching emphasizes offering deeply substantive courses while creating engaging, fun and authentic classrooms. His approach has resonated with his students and colleagues alike. He has been described as a “force in the classroom.” His students describe his passionate teaching style and how interesting he makes classes. His written evaluations by students commonly refer to him as the “best professor ever.”

The one thing his students have taught him is “to be myself in the classroom,” Nunn said. “When one thinks of a law professor, many think of an imposing, intimidating figure. But I think students respond to a more authentic, intentional approach where we all – professor and students – tackle material together collaboratively.”



ANDREW J. LUCAS ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



Elizabeth Bogy Allen B.A.'80

Life Member

Paralegal, Retired

and



Kenneth Robert Allen B.A.'80

Life Member

Chief Financial Officer, Retired

Texas Industries Inc.

- University Libraries' Deans Circle members.
- Ken and Liz Allen Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship stewards.
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute supporters.
- Towers of Old Main members.

Elizabeth “Liz” and Kenneth “Ken” Allen met while students at the University of Arkansas. Ken primarily focused on finance in his career while Liz focused on paralegal work in the oil and gas industry. They support the university and have impacted multiple areas with their service and philanthropy. The Allens explained that staying connected with your alma mater is important because “it connects you with your past and it gives you a window into the future.”

The Allens maintain their legacy of student support through an endowed scholarship fund focused on Walton College. They advocate for University Libraries making connections between the library and individuals and organizations beneficial to the library’s goals. Liz describes herself as an architecture enthusiast. She and Ken faithfully and routinely attend Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design events. They have made many significant philanthropic contributions to the school, including the establishment of the Fay Jones Distinguished Visiting Professor program. They regularly host tours of their homes for alumni and benefactors of the Fay Jones School.

“We have enjoyed being involved in several university areas since we returned to Fayetteville in 2016,” they said. “The university’s initiative to help first-generation students has been something we believe in and support and where we focus our efforts. The heavy, very effective lifting, however, is always done by university staff.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Honorable Earnest E. Brown Jr. B.S.P.A.'91, J.D.'94
Life Member, A+
Circuit Court Judge
State of Arkansas

- Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce Board member.
- Pine Bluff Branch of the NAACP Board member.
- Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners.
- Jefferson County Junior Deputy Board member.

The Honorable Earnest E. Brown Jr. is a circuit court judge in the Eleventh West Judicial District, Division 6 [Jefferson County, Arkansas]. During his legal career, he has served as a deputy prosecuting attorney, an adjunct professor of criminal justice, a state representative, and an assistant speaker pro tempore for the Arkansas House of Representatives. He has served as a judge since 2008.

“I was blessed to have chosen the legal profession,” Brown said. “I love my job as a judge and to impact the lives of children and families. I am a big believer in specialty court programs and diversion programs that help address substance abuse and youth violence.”

Brown’s passion for service and dedication to children and families is evident through his involvement and volunteerism. He helped reestablish the Pine Bluff NAACP Youth Council and NAACP College Chapter at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He has been an active leader with many organizations and committees including Leadership Pine Bluff, Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus, Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus, and the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors. Brown has received numerous awards for his leadership and volunteerism including the Arkansas District of Alpha Phi Alpha 2014 Alumni Brother of the Year, 2011 Arkansas Court Appointed Special Advocates Judge of the Year, 2007 Arkansas Counseling Association Legislator of the Year, and the 2019 Arkansas Bar Association Golden Gavel Award.

“I love working with people to make a difference,” Brown said. “My philosophy toward community service is to develop partnerships and relationships to address the issues.”



HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD



Dr. Jennie Popp
Associate Dean
Honors College

- Service Learning Initiative co-director.
- Center for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability area director.
- Sustainability Committee member.
- Arkansas College Hunger Summit co-organizer.

Jennie Popp joined the University of Arkansas family in 1998 as an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Six years later she earned tenure and the title of associate professor. She has held the title of professor since 2010. Popp helped launch the University of Arkansas Service Learning Initiative and has served as its co-director since its founding in 2014. As a member of the university's Sustainability Committee, she helped develop and launch an undergraduate sustainability minor and a graduate-level certificate.

In 2017, she became the associate dean for the Honors College after having held the interim title for one year. She oversees the Honors College fellowship and grant programs, serves as the college's liaison with the six college-based honors programs, and leads and directs new initiatives in international research and service learning.

Popp said that the University of Arkansas "experience is perhaps unexpected. It's a large campus with a small campus feel. The strong feeling of Arkansas pride is evident everywhere, yet there is an atmosphere of openness and welcoming to students and staff from around the globe. There is a deep devotion to the land grant mission of educating students from Arkansas, but also a commitment to serve the world as an RI university. It is not only a place to develop and grow as a professional but it's also a place where students can thrive. I'm very proud to be an employee of UA and also a Razorback mom to two current honors undergraduate students.* University of Arkansas is a big part of the reason this Pennsylvania transplant now calls Northwest Arkansas her home."

**Andrew Popp graduated in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Architecture.*

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Raya Octavia Clay F.S.'15

Producer, Digital Talent and Story Telling
Fox Sports

- 2020 Emmy Award recipient for *SportsCenter Presents: 2020 Heroes, History and Hope*.
- 2021 Emmy Award recipient for *SportsCenter Presents: Kobe - Legend and Legacy*.
- 2021 NAACP Woman of the Year Award recipient for journalism and communication arts.
- 2022 Fox Sports Woman of the Week honoree.

Raya Clay studied broadcast journalism at the University of Arkansas where she served as a writer with the *Arkansas Traveler*, a news anchor for UATV, and a production assistant for the Razorback Sports Network. Her passion for both media and sports led her to pursue a career in sports journalism.

Her professional career in sports broadcasting began in 2015 when she joined Fox Sports as a graphics coordinator. She spent four years with them before taking the position of creative associate producer for ESPN. During her time at ESPN, she served as a creative producer for a variety of programs including SportsCenter and “Why Not Us” on ESPN + and others. She was honored with Emmy awards for two of her SportsCenter Presents programs. In 2021, she returned to the Fox Sports family and serves as a producer of digital talent and storytelling. She oversees original digital content production with top Fox Sports talent and serves as the digital producer for “NFL on Fox”, NBA, MLB, and special project content on the Fox Sports platforms. In addition to her sports broadcasting career, Raya launched The Raya Shop, an online clothing boutique, in 2018.

“Attending the University of Arkansas provided me with a range of experiences that influenced my career in various ways,” Clay said. “I gained a deep understanding of sports, journalism, writing, and more. I developed critical thinking skills, honed my communication and collaboration skills, and gained hands-on newsroom experience.”



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



Ricardo Ekmay M.S.'08, Ph.D.'11

Life Member

**Senior Vice President, Research and Development
Arbion Inc.**

- American Feed Industry Association's Nutrition Association chair.
- Aquaculture Committee of the American Feed Association member.
- Nominating Committee and the Swine Program Committee member for the American Society of Animal Science.
- Animal Health and Nutrition Committee member for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

Ricardo Ekmay always knew that he wanted to work with animals. As he progressed through his academic career, he became enamored with animal agriculture. After completing his bachelor's degree at Cornell University, Ekmay chose to pursue graduate studies at the University of Arkansas. "The specific area of study I was interested in for my graduate work is fairly niche, i.e., avian nutrition," Ekmay said. "The University of Arkansas was one of the few places that not only had a program (poultry science) but also world-class facilities and faculty."

He has devoted his career to the development of sustainable food systems. Following a postdoctoral fellowship, Ekmay began as a research scientist with Dow AgroSciences gaining experience in product development, regulatory affairs and science policy advocacy. In 2014, he received the company's early career achievement award. He joined Arbion Inc., a start-up agricultural technology company in the alternative protein industry, in 2017, and has risen to the role of senior vice president of research and development. In 2022, The Triangle Business Journal recognized Ekmay with a 40 Under 40 Award. He is sharing his knowledge with future Arkansas alumni as an adjunct assistant professor of poultry science. "It's crucial that we open doors for those that follow," Ekmay said.

Ekmay is engaged in Latino and Hispanic advocacy programs. He is the chair of the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals Board of Directors and a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for the American Society of Animal Science. He previously served as the communications chair of the Dow AgroSciences' Latin Hispanic Network.

CITATION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Amy Tu J.D.'96

Life Member

**President, International, and Chief Administrative Officer
Tyson Foods Inc.**

- Top 20 Innovative Lawyers award recipient by *The Financial Times*.
- 2022 Champion of Diversity Award, Best Legal Departments recipient at The American Lawyer Industry Awards.
- Top 40 Under 40 honoree by *Crain's Chicago Business* magazine.
- 2004 Chinese American Business Woman of the Year recipient by the Chicago for Women and Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce.

Amy Tu leads Tyson Inc.'s international business with over 18,000 team members globally. She is responsible for the company's international growth, strategy, and global operations. Tu leads a diverse team across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Central and South America, Australia, and the United States.

She also leads the safety, health and environment; food safety and quality assurance; corporate services and aviation functions. Since joining the enterprise leadership team in 2017, Tu's role and responsibilities have continued to expand.

Tu joined Tyson from The Boeing Company where she held progressive leadership positions in law and corporate development and strategy departments. She served as chief counsel for Boeing's global law affairs, commercial airplanes and aviation services divisions, supporting multiple business and functional leaders worldwide. Tu was also instrumental in shaping the global law affairs practice as Boeing's first regional counsel based in London, U.K., with responsibilities for commercial, military and defense matters in Europe, Russia and Israel. Before joining Boeing in 2001, she led global transactions and international legal matters as an international corporate counsel at The Gap and Walmart.

Over the course of her career, Tu has developed deep expertise in establishing and supporting global operations, executing complex cross-border, international and domestic transactions, and developing and integrating teams and new ventures into existing businesses. Tu is a past board member of the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors. In 2022, she was awarded the Gayle Pettus Pontz Award by the U of A School of Law Women's Law Student Association.



CITATION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Dr. Neil B. Ingels Jr. B.S.E.E.'59

**Chairman (Retired), Cardiovascular Physiology & Biophysics
Department
Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute**

- Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering member.
- University of Arkansas adjunct professor of biological and agricultural engineering.
- American Heart Association charter fellow.
- Honorary Doctorate recipient from Linköping University in Sweden.

Dr. Neil Ingels is the retired chairman of the Cardiovascular Physiology and Biophysics Department of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute.

After graduation from the University of Arkansas, Ingels moved to Utah, and then California, where he worked designing guidance and control systems for space vehicles.

In 1962, he accepted a position at the Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation where he began working in heart research seeking ways to improve cardiac pacemakers. While continuing his research work, he completed his master's degree in electrical engineering at Santa Clara University and received his doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1967.

In the 1970s, Dr. Ingels and his team developed a technique to measure cardiac motion by implanting miniature metal markers into the heart during surgery, which could later be seen in stereo X-ray movies. Researchers could play these images back, allowing them to view and measure cardiac movement in detail. Despite advancements in technology, his technique remains the most accurate way to measure heart motion today.

Ingels has continued his heart research for more than 60 years with a particular focus on its motion and the mitral valve. He has authored more than 400 publications and presentations and four books. His work has helped the world to understand the complex workings of the heart and its valves and has influenced the way heart operations are performed.

CITATION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Brian L. Wolff B.A.'89

Life Member

Chief Strategy Officer & Executive Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs

Edison Electric Institute

- *Washingtonian's* Most Influential People.
- 2023 Leading Association Lobbyists by Association TRENDS.
- 2023 Leading Association Lobbyist by *CEO Update*.
- 2018 Presidential Leadership Scholar.

Brian L. Wolff is the Chief Strategy Officer & Executive Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). He is responsible for managing the Departments of Government Relations, Customer Solutions, Political and External Affairs, and Communications and Member Engagement for the Institute. These groups are responsible for and integrate EEI's direct lobbying, grassroots outreach, coalition building, and strategic communications functions. Wolff also is the executive vice president of the Edison Foundation.

Before joining EEI in 2009, Wolff was a strategist for the U.S. House of Representatives. He also served as a finance and taxation legislative aide. Prior to his work on Capitol Hill, he worked in business development at Cassidy & Associates and as an advisor to countless state and federal campaigns. He began his career in Washington as a producer and copy editor for the Washington Bureau of Cable News Network (CNN).

Wolff is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and a Certified Association Executive. He is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Public Affairs Institute. He serves as co-chair of the Stanford Professionals in Energy alumni group and as co-president of the National Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee. Wolff serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Institute. In 2020, he began serving as an Equity in Energy Ambassador with the Department of Energy.





ARKANSAS
ALUMNI



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Whether we are calling the Hogs,
or celebrating each other's accomplishments,
we are all a part of the
University of Arkansas Family.

Programs produced by the
ARKANSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
are made possible by **OUR MEMBERS.**

JOIN, RENEW OR UPGRADE!
join.arkansasalumni.org/24EVNT



*Congratulations
to our dear friends
Liz & Ken Allen*

*We celebrate YOU!
Lee Anne & Mike
Wiederkehr*

Hogging the Road



Hog Tags help fund
scholarships awarded by the
Arkansas Alumni Association.

HOGTAGS.COM



ARKANSAS
ALUMNI

Alumni Homecoming Scholarship Auction

OCTOBER 13-27, 2023



SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

DONATE AN ITEM • PLACE BIDS • SPREAD THE WORD

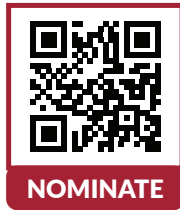




CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know outstanding alumni who deserve special recognition for their distinguished achievements or community service?

Nominate them by **Feb. 15, 2024**,
to be considered for recognition
at the fall 2024 **Alumni Awards Celebration**.



ARKANSAS ALUMNI

Arkansas Alumni Association

For more information visit www.arkansasalumni.org/awards.



ARKANSAS ALUMNI