

Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Awards 2008



H.S. Buddy Garcia

H.S. Buddy Garcia, Austin, TX
Chair of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

As Chair of the TCEQ, Mr. Garcia (B.A. 1990 Political Science) oversees the second largest environmental agency in the world. He previously served as Texas' Deputy Secretary of State, as Border Commerce Coordinator, and as an advisor to Gov. Perry on border affairs with Mexico. He is co-chair of the Border 2012 Bi-national Environmental Program, and in 2006 he received an award from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recognizing his efforts to build a strong relationship with Mexico.



Mark Gimenez

Mark Gimenez, Bedford, TX
Attorney and Author

Mr. Gimenez (B.A. 1976 Political Science) has had successful careers as a lawyer and as a novelist. After 10 years with a law firm, he began a solo practice and to write. His award-winning legal thrillers, all set in Texas, have made bestseller lists in the U.S. and abroad. He credits his professors at Texas State with initiating his intellectual life and expanding his vision of the world and life's possibilities.



Ronald A. Johnson

Ronald Angelo Johnson, West Lafayette, IN
Doctoral Candidate at Purdue University

Mr. Johnson (B.A. 1997 International Studies) served in the U.S. Air Force during Operation Desert Storm. After graduating from Texas State, he served as a CIA political analyst and as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State in Gabon and Luxembourg. An ordained Baptist minister, he pastors a church in Indiana and plans to teach at the college level when he finishes his Ph.D. in American religion and diplomacy.



Tim Staskus

Timothy Robert Staskus, Chandler, AZ
Senior Key Account Manager, Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Mr. Staskus (B.S. 1985 Psychology, minor in Geography) helped to lead the Texas State football team to national championships in 1980 and 1981. Since graduation, he has had a successful career in the beverage industry. He supports students and faculty in the Geography Department through a scholarship and through participation in programs. The Geography Department has recognized him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award.



Mary-Agnes Taylor

Mary-Agnes Taylor, Austin, TX
Professor Emerita of English at Texas State

Mrs. Taylor (B.A. 1940 English and Speech) designed and taught the English Department's first courses in children's and young adult literature and contributed important scholarship to the field. She served on the National Selection Committee for the Tomás Rivera Award for Mexican American children's and young adult books, and in 1997 she was named a Distinguished Alumna of Texas State. She retired from the faculty in 1991.

Read more about the 2008 honorees at
<http://www.liberalarts.txstate.edu/about/news/cla-news/DAAA2008.html>