The Alumni Board Awards Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER
The Alumni Board Awards Dinner
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Alumni Board of Directors proudly presents the 2016 Alumni Awards Dinner. Tonight, we recognize and honor alumni in four categories: the Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award, Professional Achievement Award, Alumni Service Award, and Alumni Promise Award.

These graduates have gone on to become professional and personal achievers in their fields and have loyally dedicated their time and service to their alma mater.

We welcome all those attending and thank you for your devotion, service, leadership, and passion for the University of Tennessee.

The Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award is the single highest alumni award given and is reserved for alumni who have excelled at the national or international level. Award winners have attained extraordinary distinction and success in his/her field of endeavor. Their achievements have brought credit and acclaim to the University of Tennessee and benefited society at large.

The Alumni Professional Achievement Award recognizes alumni who have achieved a high level of success in their chosen field of endeavor. The trademark of this recipient is a record of notable career accomplishments and a history of outstanding contributions to their profession. The award is presented to acknowledge their success, which brings honor and credit to the University of Tennessee.

The Alumni Service Award recognizes exceptional service or long-term continuing service and leadership to the University of Tennessee. It is designed to publicly acknowledge those individuals or organizations that have given significant amounts of time, talent, or resources to the university over an extended period of time.

The Alumni Promise Award recognizes alumni forty years of age or younger who have demonstrated distinctive achievement in a career, civic involvement, or both. This award is presented to acknowledge alumni who are making a mark early in their career and show great promise for the future.
The 2016–2017 Alumni Board of Directors

CLAY JONES ‘71
President
Naples, FL

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JASON LITTLE ‘97
Past President
Eads, TN

JENNIFER ARMSTRONG ‘72
At Large
Manhasset, NY

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At Large
Nashville, TN

MIKE BERRY ‘77
At Large
Johnson City, TN

GARY BLAUSER ‘67
At Large
Batavia, IL

CHRIS BOLLINGER ‘93
At Large
Nashville, TN

DON BOSCH ‘85/’88
At Large
Knoxville, TN

SHIRLEY PIH BROADBURY ‘79
At Large
Atlanta, GA

JIM CLAYTON ‘75
At Large
Knoxville, TN

SUSAN CRUNK ‘80
At Large
Gallatin, TN

MEI LING DAVIS ‘06/’12
At Large
Knoxville, TN

RICK FEDERICO ‘76
At Large
Scottsdale, AZ

GORDON FERGUSON ‘82
At Large
Murfreesboro, TN

DON FRIESEN ‘90
At Large
Bentonville, AR

ED INGLE ‘83
At Large
McLean, VA

PHILIP JACOBS ‘77
At Large
Houston, TX

MIKE KEITH ‘91
At Large
Nashville, TN

JOE MCDONALD ‘75
At Large
Buffalo, NY

GARY ROSE ‘85
At Large
Gallatin, TN

MEGHAN MORGAN RUEL ‘02
At Large
Knoxville, TN

LINDA HAMPTON STARNES ‘82
At Large
Orlando, FL

GARY WADE ‘73
At Large
Knoxville, TN

CHARLIE WAGNER III ‘66/’73
At Large
Knoxville, TN

MARY BETH WEST ‘94
At Large
Alcoa, TN

CAROL AEBERSOLD ‘70
Presidential Appointee
Palm Coast, FL

WILLIAM KILLIAN ‘71/’74
Presidential Appointee
Chattanooga, TN

JIMMY G. CHEEK
Ex Officio
Knoxville, TN

CHIP BRYANT ‘93
Ex Officio
Knoxville, TN

LEE PATOUILLET ‘76
Ex Officio
Knoxville, TN

ELLIOTT DEVORE
Ex Officio—Special Interest and Diversity Council Representative
Knoxville, TN

CARSON HOLLINGSWORTH
Ex Officio—SGA (2016–2017)
Knoxville, TN

ALAN MOORE ‘06/’10
Ex Officio—Young Alumni
Knoxville, TN

BONNIE OWNLEY
Ex Officio—Faculty Senate
Knoxville, TN

HANNAH SWANNER
Ex Officio—SAA (2016–2017)
Knoxville, TN

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT CLAY JONES

Clayton Jones retired in 2013 after eleven years as chairman and CEO of Rockwell Collins Inc., an aviation electronics and communications-equipment company based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

As a student, Jones received UT’s highest undergraduate honor by being named a Torchbearer. He graduated with a degree in political science in 1971, served for eight years as a fighter pilot in the US Air Force, and then began his 34-year career with Rockwell International. In 1982, he served a fellowship in the White House Executive Exchange program, where he was assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency.

As active supporters of UT’s Center for Leadership and Service, Jones and his wife, Debbie, established the Director of Leadership Programming Endowment, which is used to expand students’ leadership opportunities across campus through programs such as the Ignite Summit and the Emerging Leaders Program. The Joneses also helped establish the Torchbearer 2000 Endowment, which supports students involved in activities and community service at the university.
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Clay Jones
President, UT Knoxville Alumni Board of Directors

INVOCATION
AJ Morgan
Senior, Student Alumni Associates

CAMPUS REMARKS
Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor

AWARD RECIPIENTS

RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI PROMISE
Presenting: Alan Moore, President, Young Alumni Council

Shannon Driver
Ashley Lynn Kerns
Denning Rodriguez
Joel B. Seligstein
Benjamin J. Weprin

RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI SERVICE
Presenting: Hannah Swanner, President, Student Alumni Associates

Edwin A. McDougle
Jim Murphy
Mintha Roach
Linda Hampton Starnes

RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
Presenting: Deborah Porter, Member, Black Alumni Council

Honorable Nannette A. Baker
Larry W. Carroll, CFP
Wade C. Guyton
Janice M. McKinley
Mitch Patel

RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS/ALUMNA

Presenting: Joseph Shanks, Senior, Accounting Major
Robert Edward Kirkland, posthumous

Presenting: Amber Wilson, Senior, Advertising Major
Sharon Price John

Presenting: Melissa Joy Baxter, Recipient of the Summers and Wyatt Trial Advocacy Scholarship
Jerry H. Summers

VOCAL PERFORMANCE
UT SINGERS
“Alma Mater”
“Rocky Top”

2016 SELECTION COMMITTEE
Jacquie Ebert, Chair
Missy Wallen, Vice Chair
Jennifer Armstrong
Mike Berry
Chris Bollinger
Holly Kizer
Adella Thompson
Jerry Nine Jr.
Lee Patouillet
Scott Rabenold

Thank you to Bandit Lites for your generosity and for making the ballroom so beautiful tonight.
SHANNON DRIVER

You truly need a scorecard to chart Shannon Driver’s twelve-year rise at Scripps Networks Interactive to her current role as senior vice president of network marketing and creative services.

Since she joined Scripps, she has been promoted six times. Currently, she oversees marketing and creative services for all six of Scripps Networks Interactive’s domestic brands: HGTV, DIY, GAC, the Food Channel, the Cooking Channel, and the Travel Channel.

After graduating in 1999 from the College of Communication and Information with a degree in broadcasting and film, Driver worked as an account supervisor for three years at Edelman, a public relations firm in New York City, where she worked with clients in healthcare, financial services, and consumer goods. She joined Scripps in 2004 and, while working full time, earned her MBA from the Haslam College of Business in 2011.

Driver has been named to 40 under 40 lists by Multichannel News and the Knoxville Business Journal, and in 2015, she received the Cablefax national cable telecommunications industry Marketer of the Year Award. She also supports the Knox Area Rescue Ministries and mentors up-and-coming talent in her industry.

ASHLEY LYNN KERNS

During Ashley Kerns’ eleven years in sports marketing, she has represented numerous pro athletes, including four first-round NFL draft picks and six NFL pro bowlers. She has negotiated over $4 million in endorsements for her clients.

Kerns graduated in 2005 from the College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in English. She worked for four years as a marketing coordinator with Fox Sports Net. She then became director of marketing and public relations at Knoxville’s Allegiant Athletic Agency before launching her own business, Kerns Marketing and Management, in 2012. Kerns oversees the personal brand, marketing strategy, and endorsement portfolios for some of the best players in the NFL. Kerns is based in Atlanta, where she received her MBA from Georgia Tech in 2015.
Alumni Promise Award

DENNING RODRIGUEZ

In the fast-paced world of New York City fashion and entertainment, Denning Rodriguez offers his clients the strategic combination of side-by-side law and consulting firms. As owner of Rodriguez LLC Attorneys at Law and Rodriguez Consulting Group, he represents emerging and established fashion, entertainment, internet, and media companies on a variety of complex business and investment transactions.

Rodriguez graduated with a degree in political science from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998. While at UT, he interned with CNN, which led to an internship at NBC Sports during the 1996 Olympics.

After graduating from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2002, Rodriguez practiced at the Atlanta law firms of King & Spalding LLP and Epstein Becker & Green PC, representing clients in a variety of automotive and pharmaceutical actions, involving nationwide multi-district litigation, personal injury lawsuits, wrongful death lawsuits, and catastrophic injury lawsuits. He also represented local and national clients in a variety of automotive, commercial service, and insurance actions, involving automotive warranty, software licensing, and reciprocal insurance exchange claims.

He launched his two firms in 2010, providing business strategy and support to leading professionals in the fashion, luxury goods, and entertainment industries. His firms also represent individuals and companies in creative fields, including creative directors, designers, and executives of European and American fashion and luxury goods companies, as well as prominent fashion/fine arts photographers, models, and agencies.

JOEL B. SELIGSTEIN

Joel Seligstein graduated summa cum laude from the College of Engineering with a degree in computer science in 2006. After graduation, the software engineer went to work for a small social media company named Facebook. There he managed the development of several major software projects as the company grew from fifteen million to more than one billion users. He is widely recognized for leading the team that developed Facebook Messenger, which allows friends to send messages to one another in the manner of texting.

In 2014, Seligstein founded A# Capital Startup Investing, through which he has supported and coached many entrepreneurs on taking their products to market. He participates in his favorite hobby as a member of the Israel National Bobsled and Skeleton Team.

At UT, a faculty office in the Min H. Kao Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Building was named in honor of Seligstein’s generosity, and Seligstein serves on UT’s Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Industry Advisory Board.
Ben Weprin, founder and CEO of AJ Capital Partners, is one of the hottest young hotel developers in the country, specializing in taking run-down architectural gems and making them shine. In Chicago, he has renovated the Soho House, Hotel Lincoln, and the Chicago Athletic Association, a Venetian Gothic landmark overlooking Millennium Park. He likes to say, “We’re not owners, we’re stewards.”

After graduating from the Haslam College of Business in 2001, Weprin worked in Chicago as a real estate broker and for developer and restauranteur Larry Levy. Amid the turmoil of the memorable last quarter of 2008, he decided to raise the capital to buy luxury resorts, figuring the downturn would make them a bargain. Founding AJ Capital Partners—the initials standing for “adventurous journeys”—he expanded from Chicago to projects like the Hotel Pontchartrain in New Orleans and the iconic Malliouhana Hotel and Spa on the Caribbean island of Anguilla.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Weprin earned his MBA from Northwestern. His newest concept, graduate hotels, builds on the appeal of returning to the alma mater (and the eternal demand for sporting events) as it opens hotels in twenty university towns from Oxford, Mississippi, and Madison, Wisconsin, to Lincoln, Nebraska, and Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is opening a new hotel, Thompson Nashville, in the coming months.

Weprin and his wife, Mary Ann (’02), met at UT and live with their three daughters in Chicago’s Lincoln Park neighborhood.
Alumni Service Award

EDWIN A. MCDOUGLE

Edwin McDougle graduated from the College of Engineering with a BS in civil engineering in 1969. As an undergraduate, he worked on a co-op program with Ross Bryan Associates when the firm was working on the design of UT’s Presidential Court residence hall complex. After flying refueling planes for the National Guard for two years, McDougle began his full-time career with Ross Bryan in 1972 and, at the same time, worked toward his master’s degree in civil engineering, which was conferred in 1975.

In 1977, he became a principal of Ross Bryan where he served as either project manager or lead executive for the structural engineering consulting and design work for many UT construction and renovation projects.

McDougle, who retired as president of Ross Bryan, has served on the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board, the College of Engineering Board of Advisors, serving a term as chair and now serves on the College of Engineering Emeritus Board. He and his wife, Carla, have been generous in their support of the College of Engineering, the freshman engage™ program, the recent naming of a lab in the Tickle Building, and, with three of Edwin’s colleagues at Ross Bryan, creating the Ross Bryan Endowed Fellowship in Structural Engineering. He is also proud that three of his daughters and two of his sons-in-law are UT graduates.

JIM MURPHY

Jim Murphy graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1977 and the College of Law in 1981. A distinguished attorney in the Nashville firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, he has been listed as one of the Best Lawyers in America for several practice areas.

Before joining the firm, Murphy practiced law for eighteen years in the legal department of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, serving as the director of law from 1993 to 1999.

Murphy, a passionate advocate for the University of Tennessee, has served on the UT Board of Trustees since 2003, making him its longest-serving member. As vice chair, he was instrumental in passing Vol Vision: The Journey to the Top 25 in 2010 and the creation of the Bredesen Center, an interdisciplinary program with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

He and his wife, Marie (‘81), have established an endowed scholarship in the Institute for Public Service and support UT in many other ways.
MINTHA ROACH

Mintha Roach, the first female president and CEO of the Knoxville Utilities Board, graduated from the Haslam College of Business in 1974 with a BS in personnel management. She fondly recalls her own “lightbulb moment” at UT: “It was a class on predictive behavior and the employee selection process. In other words, it was about helping people play to their strengths and find fulfillment in their work, and I absolutely loved it.”

Roach joined the City of Knoxville Civil Service Merit Board and served as its executive director from 1987 to 1992. She then moved to KUB and held various positions of increasing responsibility before assuming her current role in 2005. As president and CEO, she has been instrumental in transforming KUB, consolidating its business and operating functions to be more efficient.

Through the years, Roach has given tirelessly of her time and talents, serving in every capacity possible as an alumna of the university. She has been president of the UT Alumni Board of Directors and chair of the Chancellor’s Associates and the Alumni Board Awards Committee; a member of the Haslam College of Business Dean’s Advisory Council, the UT Foundation Board, the UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists, and the HCB past dean’s search committee as well as the search committee for the vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs. She is also a past recipient of the HCB Distinguished Alumni Award. Perhaps most important of all, she often and regularly visits with classes, serving as a mentor to the students at the Haslam College of Business.

LINDA HAMPTON STARNES

Linda Starnes has been actively involved in the disability community throughout her adult life as a special educator, parent, and volunteer. As a public speaker and disability advocate for the Parent Education Network of Florida, she presents at conferences and events across the country on a broad spectrum of topics, often attending with one or both of her children.

Starnes graduated with high honors from the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences in 1982 with a BS in special and elementary education.

She served for five years as a special education consultant and content master teacher in Monroe County, Tennessee; Grand Prairie, Texas; and Carrollton, Texas.

In 1987 and 1988 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Starnes assisted Dick Thornburg, the director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She assisted Thornburg from 1988 to 1991 in Washington, DC, when he became US attorney general. Between 1991 and 1993, she was a special assistant for the America 2000 initiative in the office of the secretary of the US Department of Education, then earned her graduate certification in training and development from Georgetown University in 1994.

She has held leadership positions on many local, regional, and national boards of disability nonprofits, healthcare organizations, and public education and higher education institutions, including two terms on the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. She proudly serves as a member of UT’s Task Force on Access, Inclusion, and Disability and also on the CEHHS Dean’s Board of Advisors, of which she is a former chair.
The Honorable Nannette Baker began her career as a broadcast journalist, but along the way, she made a sharp turn to the legal profession. Today she serves as a magistrate judge for the US District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis.

Baker was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to parents who were educators. Her father was on the faculty at Tuskegee Institute until the family moved to Liberia when she was five years old as part of a US Agency for International Development effort to establish teacher training schools. Her mother homeschooled her for the five years they were there. Back in the United States, Baker graduated from the College of Communication and Information in 1978 and spent about thirteen years as a television news reporter, anchor, and talk show host in Knoxville, Memphis, and St. Louis.

In the early 1990s Baker decided to shift careers. After graduating from the St. Louis University School of Law in 1994, she served as a judicial law clerk for Odell Horton, a federal judge in Memphis. She then worked as a defense lawyer with the St. Louis firm Lashly & Baer PC and later moved to Schlichter Bogard & Denton, also in St. Louis, where she represented railroad workers who had suffered on-the-job injuries.

In 1999, Baker became a circuit court judge in the City of St. Louis. Five years later, she moved to the Missouri Court of Appeals, becoming the first African American woman to serve as chief judge of the Court of Appeals in 2008. She was appointed to the federal court in 2011.

Baker is an active member and board member of many legal societies and has received numerous awards. At UT, she has served as a member of the UT Alumni Association’s Board of Governors and the College of Communication and Information’s Board of Visitors.

Larry Carroll graduated from the Haslam College of Business with his MBA in 1978 and established Carroll Financial Associates in Charlotte, North Carolina, with a simple approach to financial planning: “The best interest of the client is the only interest that matters.” His firm now manages and oversees nearly $2 billion in assets operating under that same core philosophy.

Carroll has been included twelve times in Worth magazine’s listing of the nation’s most exclusive wealth managers and has served as national chairman of the Financial Planning Association. He has been quoted in many national newspapers, magazines, and TV newscasts. He also serves the Haslam College of Business by mentoring students and speaking to classes.

He and his wife, Vivian, are actively involved in supporting many local charities, notably the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, American Red Cross, the Cultural and Heritage Foundation of York County, the Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region, as well as three universities—Austin Peay State, Winthrop, and Wingate.
WADE C. GUYTON

Wade Guyton grew up in Lake City, Tennessee, and entered UT’s College Scholars Program, which allowed him to spend his last two years of school focused on studying painting. After earning a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1995, he moved to New York and took part in Hunter College’s Master of Fine Arts program and opened up his own studio.

Guyton, whose work has been exhibited around the world, is an abstract artist who uses computers, scanners, and printers to make paintings via machine. His works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Musee d’Art Moderne et Contemporain in Geneva.

JANICE M. MCKINLEY

As chief nursing officer and senior vice president of quality, safety, and nursing operations for Covenant Health, Janice McKinley oversees nursing operations at Covenant-affiliated facilities in East and Middle Tennessee. McKinley is also chief quality and patient safety officer for the Covenant Health system. She is a frequent speaker at graduation ceremonies for nursing students and was recently selected by Covenant to lead a collaborative effort with the UT College of Nursing to develop an advanced educational program for nursing leaders.

McKinley graduated from the College of Nursing in 1975 and added an acute care nursing course at the Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center in Sevierville, Tennessee, in 1977 and infection control practitioner Training at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in 1985. She earned her master’s in health science administration from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, in 1994 and a Johnson & Johnson/Wharton Fellowship for Nurse Executives at the University of Pennsylvania in 1998.

A former chair of the College of Nursing Advisory Board, McKinley established the McMahan-McKinley Endowed Professorship of Gerontology, and she and her husband, Rudy, have included the College of Nursing in their estate plans, leaving additional funding for their endowment. Passionately believing in and understanding the need for a new College of Nursing building, McKinley also signed a gift agreement establishing the quasi-endowment allowing funds secured for a new facility to be placed in an interest-earning account until the new building can be constructed.
Mitch Patel is founder, president, and CEO of Vision Hospitality Group, a Chattanooga-based hotel and management company with a portfolio of thirty-four hotels. Of his career, Patel says, “It’s amazing how my career came full circle. I guess hospitality was always in my blood, and I just didn’t know it. I really believe I found my passion.”

His father, Ish Patel, came from India with $8.00 in his pocket to work on his PhD in food microbiology at the University of California at Davis. While Ish worked as a research scientist in a pickle factory, his wife and family ran an eleven-room hotel in Stockton, California. Eventually, when Mitch was in the fifth grade, the family moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, to run a Scottish Inn, which Ish owned and operated for twenty-four years. “I grew up in the business,” says Patel, “but it was the last thing I wanted to pursue.”

After graduating from the College of Engineering with a BS in 1991 and master’s degree in 1993, Patel became a project engineer in Atlanta. In 1996, he seized an opportunity to manage the construction of the Homewood Suites by Hilton at Hamilton Place in Chattanooga. He found that he liked the process of building hotels and the hotel business itself. Thus, he began to build Vision Hospitality Group, focusing on premium brands, high-level design, and enthusiastic customer service. “If you focus your time and energy on your people and take care of your people,” says Patel, “then everything else takes care of itself.”

Patel serves on many boards, including the Chattanooga Chamber Board Executive Committee, the St. Nicholas School, Girls Preparatory School, Arts Build, Friends of the Festival, the RiverCity Company, and the Governor’s Tennessee Business Roundtable.
Robert Kirklan graduated from the Haslam College of Business in 1960. Getting his start at his parents’ Ben Franklin five-and-dime store in Nashville, Kirkland then acquired a local retail store and launched a chain of Kirkland’s stores that eventually expanded to three hundred stores. His business portfolio expanded to include commercial real estate properties and community banking, as well as CBK Ltd., which sold gift items and home décor throughout the country and around the world, all shipped from a Union City, Tennessee, distribution center.

In the late 1990s, he and his wife, Jenny, sold their business holdings to concentrate on philanthropic efforts. They established the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation and focused their energy on improving conditions for young people in their Obion County community in northwest Tennessee. Among many worthy causes, the Kirklans funded the Promethean Foundation, which provides free daycare for at-risk children from birth to age five in Obion County. They also partnered with a local high school and the Union City Rotary Club to provide funding for eight students each year to travel to Europe and explore new cultures and languages.

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, Kirkland worked with the world’s leading architects and designers to create Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee. Opened in 2013, the interactive learning facility brings the history of the world to life, from the Paleozoic Era to modern day space travel.

“He was a man who loved learning and was always curious about how things worked,” said his son, Chris Kirkland. “Discovery Park was really an extension of that curiosity and wanting to instill in children and adults a continued craving for knowledge and understanding.”
Distinguished Alumni Award

SHARON PRICE JOHN

Sharon Price John became CEO and president of Build-A-Bear Workshop in 2013 and, using a tried and true approach to behavioral change, carried out a turnaround that earned her a spot among Fortune.com’s top CEOs and Most Powerful Women in Business.

John has more than twenty years of experience and a strong track record of success in positioning children’s brands and businesses for growth at companies including Hasbro, Mattel, and Stride Rite. She graduated from the College of Communication and Information in 1986 and started her career in advertising, working at top agencies like DDB Needham Worldwide on the Hershey account and Bates Worldwide as account supervisor for Snickers/M&M Mars.

After earning her MBA from Columbia University in 1994, she became an assistant brand manager for Mattel, where she rose to vice president of international marketing for Mattel’s Disney Business Unit. From 1999 to 2000, she served as vice president of the US Toy Division with VTech Industries. In 2000, John founded Checkerboard Toys, of which she served as CEO before joining Hasbro in 2002. At Hasbro, her senior management roles included general manager and senior vice president of Global Preschool and Hasbro’s Boys, Girls, and Sports Action divisions, and GM/SVP of marketing for Hasbro’s US Toy Marketing.

Between 2010 and 2013, she served as the president of Stride Rite Children’s Group, heading up product creation, sales, marketing, merchandise planning and distribution, and retail merchandising and operations for more than 350 Stride Rite stores.

A member of the College of Communication and Information’s Board of Visitors and a recipient of CCI’s Hileman Distinguished Alumni Award, she recently established the Sharon Price John Endowed Scholarship and served as a guest speaker for CCI’s student Ad Club.
JERRY H. SUMMERS

Since graduating from the College of Law in 1966, Jerry Summers has made a substantial impact on his colleagues, his community, the legal profession, and the College of Law. After working as a prosecutor in the Hamilton County District Attorney’s Office, he entered private practice in 1969. He became the founding member of what is now Summers, Rufolo & Rodgers, where he is the supervising member, working closely with each of the other attorneys.

An experienced trial lawyer, Summers has been included in every yearly volume of *Best Lawyers in America* in both personal injury and criminal law. He has served as president of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and the Tennessee Criminal Defense Lawyers and sits on the national boards of the American Association for Justice and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has argued twice before the Supreme Court of the United States. His book *The Turtle and the Lawyer* details the ways that many people have helped him along his journey. It reminds readers that if you see a turtle on the top of a fence post, you know it didn’t get there on its own.

Named philanthropist of the year by the Chattanooga Bar Association, Summers is active in many organizations, serving on the boards of the Area IV Special Olympics, the Orange Grove Center for the mentally and physically impaired, and the Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.

One of the leading donors in the history of the College of Law, he was one of the founders of the college's Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution and established a scholarship in the name of his firm. He has served on the UT Development Council and the College of Law Dean’s Circle. He also co-chaired the College of Law’s last campaign and is the honorary chair of the current one.
Menu

Winter Greens Salad

**ENTRÉE:**
- Duo: Filet with Sweet Shallot, Garlic and Merlot Compound Butter
- Scallops with Lemon Basil Beurre Noisette
- Whipped Maple Bacon Sweet Potatoes
- Oven Roasted Vegetable Medley
- Vegetarian Option: Vegetable Polenta Lasagna
- Warm Rolls and Butter

**DESSERT:**
- Salted Caramel Vanilla Crunch Cake
- Irish Cream Bash