THE LATEST ‘GOINGS-ONS’ FROM HANKAMER ALUMNI

Charlie Smith, BBA ’74, executive director of the Mount Pleasant Economic Development Organization, has been named chairman of the board of directors of McGinley (Stefford), a full-service law firm providing innovative, legal counsel to business clients nationwide, including the Houston Astros. Upon retirement from EY, his former head of global professional services for McGinley Stefford’s Dallas, Texas office in 2011.

Larry Taylor, BBA ’82, a Texas state senator, has been appointed as chairman of a nine-member Senate selection committee to address school violence and school security in Texas.

Steve Young, BBA ’84, MBA ’85, has been promoted to chief lending officer at West Texas National Bank in Midland, Texas. Young served in a variety of executive and board-level management roles in Houston and London before moving to Midland seven years ago with West Texas National Bank as senior vice president and chief credit officer.

Karen Martin, BBA ’87, was honored with the 20-year service award at Austin Bank in Longview, Texas. Martin is senior vice president and compliance officer at the bank.

Drayton McLane Jr., BBA ’58, was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco, Texas, and was honored as the H-E-B Texas Sports Award honoree at the Houston Astros, was honored “in recognition of his unparalleled contributions in furthering the mission of the University of Houston.”

Keenan Martin, BBA ’87, has been named chairman of the board of directors of Crichton, an offshore drilling contractor. Before joining Crichton, Martin was a lawyer, a corporate manager, and a policy advisor. He is currently a member of the Ghana Law Reform Commission.

Rick Richardson, BBA ’78, has been named chief financial officer for Tarleton State University and senior vice president for the division of finance and administration. As part of Tarleton’s leadership team, Richardson oversees the budgetary and fiscal affairs of the university, including planning, monitoring and managing overall financial plans, policies, programs and operations.

Roland Garcia, BBA ’81, was appointed as vice chairman of the Harris County Hospital District Foundation. He was also honorary chair of the Hoover Clinic’s Annual Golf Classic.

Steven Naper, BBA ’91, Mتس ’93, has relocated from Ernst & Young (EY) to Hamilton, Bermuda. He oversees the formation of a valuation and business modeling practice that will serve the markets of Bermuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. Previously, Naper was an EY tax manager in Salt Lake City for 20 years—holding leadership positions in New York, Seattle, San Francisco and Philadelphia. He has also held leadership positions in each of the major valuation practices for the company employing him: the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), American Society of Appraisers (ASA) and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Upon retirement from EY his ambition is to launch a valuation practice at Baylor.

Jerry Moore, BBA ’61, former head football coach of Appalachian State University, spoke in its 6th Annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Alumni Stagg Bowl Championship Breakfast in December Months coached Appalachian State from 1989 to 2012, winning three consecutive Athletes Alonzo Stagg Bowl Championship football coach of Appalachian State University, estate industries.

Aron Bushy, BBA ’88, joined HallMark Impact and Sketch Comedy Troup in 2017 for the charity benefit, a stand-up comedy event in early 2019, having found a fresh start at Westside Improv Studio in Wharton. Bushy recently purchased a Farmers Insurance and then franchised and opened James Bushy Farmers Insurance Agency in Oak Brook, Ill.

Don R. Willett, BBA ’88, Texas Supreme Court Justice, was appointed by the U.S. Senate, confirmed and sworn in as the Chief Justice by an historic hearing held by the Baylor Board of Regents. He has also held leadership positions in sales and marketing with companies such as Verizon and AT&T.

2019s

Michelle (Anderson) Roden, BBA ’90, has been promoted to director of tax and enterprise risk at Interstate Batteries, Inc. She has led the tax function for many years and has the opportunity to create the enterprise risk function. Interstate Batteries is a privately held company located in Dallas, Texas.

Clarke Pich, BBA ’92, has been awarded the Legacy Award Dinner at Globe Life Park in Arlington in November. McLane, former owner of the Houston Astros, was honored “in recognition of his unparalleled contributions in furthering the mission of the University of Houston.”

John Humphrey, MTS ’99, has been promoted to the role of president and chief executive officer (CEO) of July Business Services. As CEO, he is responsible for setting the firm’s vision and providing top leadership of the organization.

Ewing, BBA ’95, is now chief operations officer for JPMorgan Financial Group Inc. in Denver, Colorado. Preceding his role at JPMorgan he served as the Colorado Office of Economic Development.

Kevin Duffin, BBA ’96, is joining AmaWaterways as group chief financial officer. Duffin has long admired the company’s approach to going beyond the norms of river cruising and their delivery of high-level guest satisfaction.

Jennifer Fox, MBA ’96, was named as group chief executive officer of a member of the board of directors for MidCon and Cophorn Hotei PLC.

Rachel Fox, BBA ’98, MTS ’99, has been appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to address school violence and school security in Texas.

Kevin Prator, BBA ’98, was recently appointed account manager of the North America central region for British Airways. Based in Austin, Texas, his responsibilities include developing strengthening key client relationships for British Airways throughout markets including Central Texas, Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, as well as ensuring the success of the daily direct flight between Austin International Airport and Heathrow Airport.

Mark Yablon, BBA ’90, received his BBA in May 2008 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Brown School of Law. The law firm Frasier, Nuspl & Crumley in Collin County, Texas, has hired Yablon to practice in commercial litigation, family law, estate planning and personal injury. Current partners Nick Nuspl and George Crumley are both Baylor graduates. Yablon spent the past decade in business development, law and graduate school and law school.

In addition, Yablon’s daughter Caroline is a sophomore journalism major at Baylor and his daughter Reagan was accepted into this year.”

Charles L. Cansler III, MBA ’99, has been designated the University of South Carolina as the first president of the University of South Carolina. He was appointed chief executive officer of a member of the board of directors for MidCon and Cophorn Hotei PLC.

2020s

Wendy Ang, BBA ’20, was named the first chief financial officer (CFO) of the University of South Carolina. She is the first woman to serve in this role.

Jane Yablon, BBA ’20, has been appointed as the first chief financial officer of the University of South Carolina. She is the first woman to serve in this role.

Charles L. Cansler III, MBA ’99, has been named The Citadel’s vice president for finance and administration and co-founder of Charleston Charter School District. Cansler is the first president of the University of South Carolina. He was appointed chief executive officer of a member of the board of directors for MidCon and Cophorn Hotei PLC.

2020s

Ben H. Bookwalter, BBA ’72, the CEO of the Austin Board of Directors of Eagle Energy Inc. McWhorter, a certified public accountant and county judge in Houston County, brings more than 40 years of experience in the oil and gas, banking, public accounting and real estate industries.

F. Wayne McWhorter, MBA ’73, has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of Eagle Energy Inc. McWhorter, a certified public accountant and county judge in Houston County, brings more than 40 years of experience in the oil and gas, banking, public accounting and real estate industries.
2000s

JOHN VAN MAREN, BBA ’00, is reporting Fifth Third Bank as a senior vice president of sales and commercial relationship manager in the bank’s Grand Rapids, Michigan office, after a three-year hiatus as an entrepreneur and business owner.

RENTA MILLER, BBA ’00, dean of Berkeley College at Yale University and a former director of studies at Princeton, has been named associate dean for access, diversity and inclusion at Princeton University’s Graduate School.

LISA DENISON, MBA ’01, has been named vice president of marketing for Paradigm Spine, LLC, a leader in providing motion restoration services. Previously, Denison was the vice president of marketing for Paradigm Spine, LLC, a leader in providing motion restoration services.

2010s

RYAN DWIGGINS, MBA ’10, has been named vice president of development at CHC Development, a real estate developer based in Fort Worth, Texas. In addition, Dwiggins is a founding member of and has been appointed to the executive committee of the Tarrant Transit Alliance, an advocacy group aiming to secure funding for mass transit in Tarrant County, Texas.

MICHAEL LEAVINE, BBA ’12, was named the company’s senior vice president of Leavine Frey Group (LFG) and its No. 95 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series team. Leavine is the grandson of team owner Bob Leavine and has served as director of operations at the organization for the past year. In his expanded role, Leavine will help to maximize the team’s resources in its alliance partnership with Richard Childress Racing (RCR).

2020s

JARED SHERMAN, MBA ’06, has been appointed executive director of Guardian Flight, Inc., overseeing the medical care and service availability throughout Guardian Flight Alaska’s operation to provide the best medical transportation with seasoned care. Sherman also will have leadership responsibilities overseeing Guardian Flight’s six bases and the largest air medical fleet in Alaska.

PHILIP SMITH, BBA ’06, will open a new Chick-fil-A restaurant franchise location in Hudson Oaks, Texas, as part of the company’s Dallas-Fort Worth area expansion. Smith is the second franchisee to become a Chick-fil-A Operator since 2002 when, at age 14, he was introduced to the company by his sister, who encouraged him to join her working there.

JEFF RICHARDS, BBA ’07, alongside fellow Baylor graduate Zach Starke, founded Mosala, a quality, reasonably-priced organic almond milk company.

KENNY WOLFE, BBA ’03, recently wrote a book about the growing importance of passive income to people of all ages. The book, available on Amazon, is called Investing in the Dream. Wolfe built Wolfe Investments, a private equity real estate firm, that focuses on multifamily, commercial, lending and development. To date, he has been involved in more than $100 million worth of real estate transactions in five states. The company recently entered the student housing space with a few assets around Baylor University.