Tonight, we celebrate Tarleton in the accomplishments of our Distinguished Honorees. You will meet a banking executive, a major-leaguer with a World Series ring, and a man and a woman who can be described as “Mavericks” -- really. Our Honorees have helped Tarleton build exceptional new physical facilities. They have built the academic reputation of our university. They are leaders in their fields and in their communities. Through their service to the university and by their example, they are making Tarleton an even better place for today’s and tomorrow's students.”

-- President Dottavio

Distinguished Alumnus: Ronnie Sullins ’73. Successful banker.
Outstanding Young Alumnus: Chad Fox ’92. Major league baseball player.
Distinguished Staff: Ronnie Giles, former director of Recreational Sports
Distinguished Friends: Don ’68 & Georgia Henrich provided major support for the new Tarleton Alumni Center
Distinguished Faculty: Ron Bradberry, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction. 1969-2005.
“Around the campus, many things are new -- like the fantastic Recreational Sports Center and the beautiful dining hall. And, in important ways, some things have not changed at all. Students still hunt for the silver bugle and Snake Dance through campus. They still elect a Homecoming Queen, gather for the bonfire, and, of course, bang that drum. Be assured that today’s students are talented, motivated, and preparing for the future. They are making memories. And, they are making a difference on the campus and in the community.

This is a remarkable university. And it is made more so because of your continued connection to it. When I saw the words over the door of the new Alumni House, I was inspired. It says: “The gates are always open.” I assure you that the gates will always be open to each of you. Thank you.”

-- President Dottavio
The Tarleton Family Welcomes a New Face

Dr. Dottavio introduces Dr. Rick Richardson, newly appointed Vice President for Institutional Advancement (VPIA) to members of the Tarleton Alumni Association.

On April 1, 2009, Dr. Richardson replaced Dr. Koy Floyd, who served as Tarleton’s first VPIA for sixteen years. “I have known Dr. Richardson for a number of years and have the utmost admiration and respect for him, both as an individual and as a professional colleague,” Floyd said. “Dr. Richardson has spent his career in Texas and understands both public and private university operations.”

Richardson received his associate’s degree from Del Mar College, bachelor’s and Juris doctorate degree from Baylor University, master’s from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and doctorate from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. He previous served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, and as Executive Director of Development, Planned Giving and Foundation Relations at TAMU-Corpus Christi. Richardson also taught at the university level and was an attorney for the Internal Revenue Service.
The Alumni Academic Forum was initiated in 1993 by the Tarleton Alumni Association and now is sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Tarleton Alumni Association. The program recognizes outstanding graduates of each of the University’s academic colleges and allows them the opportunity to interact with current students in a classroom setting.

Each academic college is represented by two alumni who spend their morning in the classroom and are introduced at noon at the Alumni Academic Forum luncheon. Individual plaques representing the honorees are on display in the offices of the academic deans.

Photo courtesy of the Texan Express
The Henrichs are a two-generation Tarleton family. Don graduated in 1968 with a B.S. in Business and his daughter is a 1997 grad. Don is President of Maverick Drilling.

(l to r): Alumni Relations Director Paul Koonsman, President Dottavio, alumni Don Henrich, Tarleton Alumni Association President John Pelham, and VPIA Rick Richardson

The Henrichs’ support helped establish Tarleton’s Alumni House where alumni gathered during Homecoming.

Don and Georgia Henrich with Lisette and Dominic Dottavio
Former Congressman Charlie Stenholm formally dedicates congressional materials to Tarleton

Born in Stamford, Texas, former Congressman Charlie Stenholm graduated from Tarleton Junior College. He served Texas’ conservative 32 county, 17th District (Abilene) for 26 years. A member of the House Committee on Agriculture for his entire Congressional career, Stenholm became the ranking Democrat during his last eight years, ending in 2004. As founder and co-chair of the Democratic Blue Dog coalition, Stenholm was universally recognized for his abilities to forge good working relationships with moderate Republicans and mobilize a “swing vote” of fiscally conservative House Democrats from states throughout the nation. During the 1980’s, Stenholm was a leader of the Boll Weevils, a coalition of southern Democrat members of the House who voted as a group with Republicans on budget and tax bills.