



Each year the Student Government Association honors selected individuals, committees, commissions, and branches that have truly influenced and improved student life. We are excited to announce the winners of these awards and invite you all in helping us celebrate their achievements over the past year.

SGA End of the Year Award Recipients 2019-2020

Dr. J. Malon Southerland Award: Mikey Jaillet

"Mikey has served as a constant advocate, supporter, and resource to both me and the entire SGA community throughout this past year. His ability to connect and engage across branches is truly unique and proved to be instrumental in helping create a more unified SGA that we hope will continue for years to come. In a year like 2020, SGA and the student body were lucky to have Mikey Jaillet serving them."

-Eric Mendoza '21, Speaker of the Student Senate

"Mikey was steadfast in his leadership this year as Student Body President. He was thoroughly committed to he, and his cabinet, looking for opportunities to push substantive change, responded for our student body during uncharted waters, and remained deeply passionate about investing in the student experience. All the while, Mikey was a dedicated leader to his team and community of peer leaders. This year, he led his team through parking enhancements, new communication strategies for SGA outreach and transparency, supported our traditions "who were required to adapt and evolve, and built bridges within our administration as we transitioned to a virtual campus. Mikey Jaillet diligently supported our SGA and served its rightful origin—our student body."

-Greg Fink '08, SGA Advisor

Dr. J. Malon Southerland '65 graduated from Texas A&M with a B.B.A. in Management. After active duty in the U.S. Army he returned to A&M in 1968 as a counselor in the Commandant's office. After completion of his M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. (1980), both in Education Administration, he was Assistant to the President of Texas A&M followed by Associate Vice President for Student Services. In 1986, he became Interim Commandant of Cadets. Southerland was named Vice President of Student Affairs from 1993-2003. He is a Vice President Emeritus and has served on numerous boards including Chairman of the Board of the Greater Texas Foundation and the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation. Every year Dr. Southerland awards the outgoing Student Body President with a crystal eagle and \$1000 to celebrate their leadership and contributions to both the Texas A&M University and SGA.

SGA Core Values Award: Paige Rigsby

"Paige Rigsby joined SGA as a freshman member of the Election Commission. She moved up to the position of Election Commissioner one year later. In her junior and senior years, Paige served in top staff positions on both SBP Sharp's and SBP Jaillet's executive cabinets. Paige has selflessly served this organization for 4 years through her commitment to excellence, respect for all others, inspiring leadership in difficult times, immense loyalty to the organization and the university, and unshakable integrity in times of both success and struggle. Paige's impact on SGA is immeasurable, and without a doubt, she is the very best candidate for this honor."

-Amy Loyd, SGA Advisor

The SGA Core Values Award is awarded by the Campus Engagement & Traditions Team to the student leader that has made a significant impact on SGA over the course of their time at A&M. The recipient consistently displays the 6 core values of the university through their dedication and leadership within multiple organizations/positions under the SGA umbrella.

The Jolie Mailhous Award: Natalie Parks

"Over the course of her time as the Vice President of Communications, Natalie reshaped and inspired many around her to see the best in themselves. She took her position with poise, and completely reimagined the footprint SGA leaves on the student body. Through her work, the student body opinion of SGA and what we do has transformed into a positive viewpoint to hopefully last for years to come." - Hannah Sparks, Student Senate

The Jolie Mailhous Award is in honor of Jolie Mailhous who went above and beyond in her outstanding service to others and passed away as the result of a tragic plane crash on Thanksgiving while returning from the UT game in Austin. She was a senior at Texas A&M University who, unbeknownst to her, had been awarded the Buck Weirus Spirit Award at the time of her death. Jolie was the Vice President for Academic Affairs and also actively involved in the Executive Committee. The Jolie Mailhous Award is presented to a female student leader in SGA with similar character and leadership who has helped shape the future of SGA. The recipient is a leader to her peers and an example to all at Texas A&M, dedicated to making a difference for others in her community.

The Bobby Tucker Advisor of the Year Award: Greg Fink

"Not only does Greg selflessly give of his time, I have seen him quite literally give the jacket off of his back and gloves off his hands to his students at cold and rainy Silver Taps and Remembrance Ceremonies. Something that has been incredibly meaningful to many members of my executive team is the way that Greg saw us as people and students before he saw us as organization leaders. Greg always took the time to ask about school and life before he asked about the organization. He placed an emphasis on our well-being because only when that is prioritized are students able to do an effective job leading their organization." - Kristen Sarna, Traditions Council

Bobby Tucker's love for Texas A&M is shown through his long history of service to this university. While serving as Student Body President from 1978-1979, he laid the groundwork for organizations such as COSGA and Fish Aides. Mr. Tucker continued to serve SGA and Texas A&M as an advisor to the Student Government Association and as Assistant Director in the Department of Student Activities. His top priority was the students. The Bobby Tucker Advisor of the Year Award is presented to the advisor who best carries on Mr. Tucker's legacy, displaying characteristics of innovation, a desire for constant improvement and impact, and a focus of striving for what is best for the students of SGA.

SGA Chief Student Leader of the Year: Priyadarshini Bandyopadhyay

"As this year's Committee Chair of SGA's Alternative Spring Break (ASB), Priya has pushed boundaries and grown the organization immensely. This year, Priya planned and implemented the existence of an international trip. Coordination with Texas A&M's Education Abroad program made the organization's very first international trip possible. Not only does Priya embody the Aggie Core Values but emphasizes the Core Value of Selfless Service to ASB's officer team and members." - Lily Pham, Alternative Spring Break

The SGA Chief Student Leader of the Year is presented to a student whose passion and excitement is dedicated to the improvement and success of their committee, commission, or branch of SGA. The chair's spirit of leadership exemplifies the one for which all student-leaders strive.

SGA Organization of the Year: The 12th Can

"Currently, The 12th Can is open during the COVID-19 crisis, distributing pre-made bags of 30 pounds worth of food to students, staff, and faculty who are still on campus. Many of our clients have been affected personally and financially by this pandemic, and we are grateful that we are able to meet their ways to the best of our ability. In just one month, we plan to distribute 15,000lbs of food to over 600 families, and increase of 30% in need to our normal months. It has been amazing to see our members come together from on campus, off campus, and across the state to come back to serve our clients during this time!"

- Michael Collum, 12th Can Executive Director

The SGA Organization of the Year epitomizes SGA's commitment to excellence and service. During the past year, this committee, commission or branch has made a significant impact on SGA and has challenged the student body as a whole.

Nat Leatherwood Member of the Year Award (SGA Member of the Year):

Kaley Markos

"Muster experienced a uniquely nuanced year. It was supposed to be a normal, easy going year for once. Naturally, a pandemic had a different idea for Muster. She [Kaley Markos] took each moment in stride. She navigated the ever-evolving crisis management mode where she juggled the expectations of her team, Association of Former Students Director Team, Texas A&M University President's Cabinet, and even the White House and CDC (which naturally changed each day). Each entity looked to her in leadership. Each entity needed her to represent herself, her team, and the tradition. And she worked with all these people to ultimately decide the wildest, yet oddly practical, direction—let's make Muster virtual. Oh, and let's make Muster bigger this year....why not? Kaley can forge through any challenge with confidence and professionalism. Her talent of communication allows her to expertly represent others through the use of storytelling, asking the right questions, and excellent customer service. Kaley has been a quality student leader to work with and, without a doubt, qualifies as the Nat Leatherwood Member of the Year." -Greg Fink '08, SGA Advisor

The Nat Leatherwood Award is given to an SGA member who has made an extraordinary contribution to our organization in the past year. Their dedicated work ethic has done great service to SGA and to their committee.

SGA Program of the Year: S.E.A.L (Seniors Experiencing Aggie Life)

"When looking at our program at a glance it seems our main focus is the prospective students but without the hard work and passion given by our committee members the program would not exist. The Student Government Association has given our committee members a platform to share with prospective students from all across the world their Aggie journey. Prospective students who come to S.E.A.L. come from all over and from many different backgrounds. Once at the conference they have the opportunity to spend the entire weekend with current Aggie students. Seeing committee members being able to share their stories, experiences, and obstacles with prospective students is amazing. They really bond with the students and motivate them during a hard time as they make a decision on where to spend the next four years of their life."-Alashia Russell, Aggie Recruitment Committee

The SGA Program of the Year Award is presented to an SGA program characterized by innovation and commitment to quality. During the past year, this program will have undergone significant growth and served students of Texas A&M with unfaltering excellence.