

True blue: Fogelman business college alumni help to lift the U of M brand

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- By James Dowd
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PHOTO BY [MIKE BROWN](#)

Laurie Tucker gives Andrew Bailey a hug after presenting him as the 2010 Outstanding Young Alumnus on Wednesday during the Fogelman College of Business and Economics' 18th annual Alumni Day Luncheon at the Holiday Inn at the University of Memphis.

The revitalization and reformation of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the University of Memphis continues at a brisk pace, school leaders said Wednesday, marked by innovative programs and inspiring graduates.

To support their claims, administrators highlighted several of those offerings and alums during the 18th annual Fogelman College of Business and Economics Alumni Day luncheon held at the Holiday Inn at the U of M.



PHOTO BY [MIKE BROWN](#)

George Johnson, president of BJB Administrative Services, was named 2010 Outstanding Alumnus at the Fogelman Business College's Alumni Day Luncheon.

At the ceremony, George Johnson of BJB Administrative Services and Andrew Bailey of FedEx were recognized as outstanding alumni of the University of Memphis. Austin Baker of EServ received the Entrepreneur of the Year award, and Harry Smith of Schilling Enterprises was named a Distinguished Friend of the College.

Keynote speaker Anita Vaughn, a lifetime member of the alumni association and CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women, opened with an update on health care reform and closed with a recruitment campaign.

"What we need are more dreamers and thinkers and doers who are true blue," Vaughn said. "Send 'em on."

That's just what school leaders have in mind, said Rajiv Grover, dean of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics at the U of M. Enrollment levels are up, and so are admission standards.

"We're attracting a more diverse pool of applicants than ever before and becoming more competitive in every area," Grover said. "The value of our brand is increasing, and our graduates are being recruited by some of the top companies in the world."

And the school's holistic approach to education ensures that students succeed in the classroom and in the real world, Grover added. Sessions on business etiquette, wellness programs, entrepreneurship competitions and a variety of mentoring opportunities give graduates an edge in today's challenging job market.

On the horizon, school leaders hope to expand career counseling and job placement services, and they're appealing to business leaders to help recruit more top-tier students.

The benefit is obvious, U of M president Shirley Raines said as she praised the alumni and honorees for their community spirit and positive contributions.

"So many of our graduates and supporters work tirelessly to promote this city and make it a better place to live and work and raise families," Raines said. "We are indebted to and proud of them. They are the heart of Memphis."

For more information on the Fogelman College of Business and Economics, visit online at memphis.edu/fcbe.

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Fogelman College of Business and Economics 2010 Honorees

Alumnus of the Year: George Johnson, president of BJB Administrative Services.

Young Alumnus: Andrew Bailey, marketing specialist adviser at FedEx.

Entrepreneur of the Year: J. Austin Baker III, president of EServ and co-founder of MILE.

Distinguished Friend of the College: Harry Smith, chairman and CEO of Schilling Enterprises.

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