Tulane University
School of Science and Engineering
Tenth Annual Alumni Awards Celebration

Thursday April 12, 2018
Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life - 1834 Club

Welcome
Michael Herman
Interim Dean, School of Science and Engineering

Presentation of Awards
Shepard F. Perrin III
Chemical Engineering ’83

2018 Outstanding Alumnus Award
Robert N. Ryan, Jr.
Geology, BS ’79, MS ’88

2018 Outstanding Young Alumna Award
Jennifer Berumen, M.D.
Biomedical Engineering, BSE ’03
Medicine, MD ’07

2018 Outstanding Service Alumnus Award
Scot N. Ackerman, M.D.
Biomedical Engineering, BSE ’78

Closing Remarks
Michael Herman
Interim Dean, School of Science and Engineering
Robert N. Ryan, Jr.
School of Science and Engineering
Outstanding Alumnus

Robert N. Ryan, Jr. is Vice President – Global Exploration for Chevron Upstream where he is responsible for Chevron’s worldwide exploration program. He joined Texaco in 1979 as a geologist in the Offshore Division in New Orleans and has held a variety of technical and management positions in exploration, production and business planning during his 39-year career. Key positions held during his career include Assistant Division Manager in the Offshore Division responsible for exploration in the Gulf of Mexico, Assistant to the Senior Vice President – Upstream, Assistant to the Chairman and CEO of Texaco, Vice President – Indonesia Business Unit, and General Manager – International Exploration.

In 1990, through the President’s Commission on Executive Exchange in The White House, Bobby was appointed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy in the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., where he assisted with utility policy issues related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. He received a U.S. Presidential Commendation for his participation. Bobby returned to Texaco in 1991.

Bobby was the Texaco lead for the Upstream Integration Team for the Chevron and Texaco merger in 2000 and 2001 where he played a key role in redesigning Chevron’s exploration effort. At the merger closing in 2001, he was appointed General Manager for Chevron’s International Exploration prior to assuming his current position in 2003. Under his 15-year leadership, Chevron took a disciplined, global view of the exploration business resulting in significant and competitive new resource additions that form the foundation for long-term growth for the company. He has been a member of Chevron’s Management Committee since 2001 and the Upstream Leadership Team since 2003.

Bobby is a member and former chairman of the Corporate Advisory Board of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). He received the Distinguished Service Award from AAPG in 2017. He is vice chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Energy & Geoscience Institute at the University of Utah, and a member of the Board of Advisors at the School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University. He is a former member of the School of Earth Sciences Advisory Board at Stanford University and the Scientific Advisory Board of CASP affiliated with the Department of Earth Sciences at Cambridge University, UK.

A native of New Orleans, Bobby and his wife, Michele, have been married for 37 years and have two married children and four grandchildren. He has BS ('79) and MS ('88) degrees in geology from Tulane University.
Dr. Jennifer Berumen grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas. In an attempt to see more of the world her college ambitions extended far and wide until she fell in love with Tulane just down the road. She received the Dean’s Honors Scholarship to attend in biomedical engineering. After reading article about growing an ear on a mouse and discussing the possibilities of stem cell research she became enamored with the possibilities of transplantation. Under the guidance of Drs. Livesay, Dee, and Nauman her undergraduate research focused on stem cells in transplantation.

After graduating in 2003, she attended medical school at Tulane where she did research in transplant surgery evaluating organ donor outcomes. Hurricane Katrina occurred during medical school, and as vice-president, and then president of the medical school she worked closely with the administration to transition the medical school to Houston and back. After Katrina the research continued evaluating the effects on transplant patients in the region.

Jennifer then went on to general surgery residency at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in 2007. There her interest in transplant surgery grew. The next step was a two-year multi-organ abdominal transplantation fellowship at Stanford University with a focus on pediatric liver and kidney transplant. This also started her active involvement with the American Society of Transplant Surgery.

In 2014 she began working as an assistant clinical professor of surgery at the UCSD School of Medicine under the department of surgery, specializing in abdominal transplantation (liver, kidney and pancreas) and hepatobiliary surgery. She is the surgical director of pediatric kidney transplantation at Rady Children's hospital in San Diego, and the designated living donor kidney surgeon for UCSD. Her research at UCSD focuses mainly on outcomes in adult and pediatric transplantation, as well as hepatobiliary surgery. She has authored several publications published in journals including the American Journal of Transplantation and Annals of Surgery.

She is an active fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of the American Transplantation Society, and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Jennifer is a founding member of Women Encouraging Living Donation (WELD) in San Diego and has appeared on billboards, radio shows, and television to promote living kidney donation. She served as co-chair of her 10-year medical school reunion last June. Tulane and New Orleans hold a special place in her heart as she plans to continue the tradition of excellence she learned there.
Scot Ackerman, MD, a Radiation Oncologist, is the Medical Director of Ackerman Cancer Center – a private, physician-owned practice with three locations in Northeast Florida.

Ackerman Cancer Center is committed to the model of providing individualized care by treating the whole person comprehensively and holistically. The center strives for excellence by providing patients convenient diagnostic testing, including MRI, PET/CT, Mammograms and Genetic Testing, under one roof. The center also employs a team of Oncology Social Workers to support the needs of patients and their families during and after treatment with in-house programming.

In addition to conventional photon beam technology, Ackerman Cancer Center is the first private, physician-owned center in the world to offer proton therapy, a precise form of radiation treatment that targets the tumor without damaging surrounding healthy tissue. As one of only 25 centers in the U.S. to offer this technology, Ackerman Cancer Center has increased access to this lifesaving treatment, previously only available at large academic institutions.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ackerman has been an integral force in Florida’s fight against cancer through his patient advocacy and community awareness. He has served as the President of the St. Vincent’s Foundation which provides assistance for medical care to migrant farm workers and other underserved populations; as President of the American Cancer Society, Florida Division, he brought the Clean Indoor Air Act to the voting public as a Florida constitutional amendment; is the founder of the First Coast Cancer Foundation, which provides financial assistance and support to cancer patients and their families; provides care to Northeast Florida’s medically underserved populations through Volunteers in Medicine and WeCare Jacksonville; and serves the medical expert for a local television news station.

He is the recipient of the OneJax Silver Medallion Humanitarian Award, the WeCare Philanthropy Award, and has twice been awarded the Duval County Medical Society’s Community Service Award.

Dr. Ackerman graduated from Tulane University in 1978 with a BS in Biomedical Engineering. After completing his medical training at Columbia University, he moved to Jacksonville and has been in private practice for 30 years. He is married to Alexandra Ackerman and they have three grown children, Isabella, GiGi (Tulane BA ’14, MBA ’16) and Max.

Although no longer living in New Orleans, Dr. Ackerman continues to have a strong presence at Tulane. He serves as a member of the Board of Advisors for the School of Science and Engineering, is a member of the Hillel Board, is a financial supporter of Tulane’s Maker Space and mentors students participating in the Novel Tech Challenge.