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# South Arkansas Women's Network

Horizon Award  
Career Achievement  
and  
Lifetime Achievement  
Awards

5 p.m.  
Thursday  
May 23, 2013  
Southern Arkansas University  
Reynolds Center  
Grand Hall  
Magnolia, Arkansas

## Horizon Award and Career and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Reception ..... 5 p.m.

Awards Presentation ..... 5:30 p.m.

Welcome ..... Dana Thornton

Opening Prayer..... Bro. Larry Roach

Legislative Citations ..... Senator Bruce Maloch

### Introduction of Career Achievement Award Recipients

Dr. Marla Strecker .....

Joycelyn Watkins..... Norma Hayes

### Introduction of Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Dr. Paula Boaz ..... Kathy Dickson

### Introduction of Horizon Award Recipient

Jessica Haynes..... Dr. Lisa Toms

Closing Remarks..... Dana Thornton

## Previous Recipients

### Career Achievement

Marjie Blair (1997)  
 Joyce Crane (1997)  
 Julie Key (1998)  
 Debbie Arnold (1999)  
 Annette Pate (2000)  
 Jana Blackwell Snider (2000)  
 Mary Nell Jameson (2001)  
 Jane Hill (2001)  
 Rosemary Smith (2002)  
 Celia L. McQuiston (2002)  
 Leanne Fallin (2005)  
 Sara Carrington (2006)  
 Dr. Terrye A. Stinson (2006)  
 Cayla Pinner (2007)  
 Ethel King (2008)  
 Charlaine Harris Schulz (2008)  
 Dr. Lisa Cearley Toms (2008)  
 Shirlye Scott Hopkins (2009)  
 Kimberly Keith (2009)  
 Sherry Bell (2010)  
 Shan Pletcher (2010)  
 Tongia Gaston (2011)  
 Cammie Hambrice (2011)  
 Renee Dycus (2012)  
 Amanda Warren Newton (2012)

### Lifetime Achievement

Lois Gean (1997)  
 Florene Bradley (1997)  
 Carolyn Clegg (1999)  
 Margaret West (1999)  
 Margaret Downing (1999)  
 Linda E. Rushton Selman (2000)  
 Norma Hunt Hayes (2000)  
 Ronnie Birdsong (2000)  
 Ann Downs (2002)  
 Anna Burnett Graham (2002)  
 Mickey Pittman (2005)  
 Virginia Glass (2005)  
 Marjie Blair (2005)  
 Christine Peachy (2005)  
 Nancy Watson Warren Wilkie (2005)  
 Velma George (2006)  
 Pat Ward (2006)  
 Mary Twitty (2006)  
 Dr. Kathleen Mallory (2007)  
 Dr. Ann K. Thomas (2007)  
 Jennifer Hubbard (2008)  
 Gisele Gernigon Souter (2008)  
 Sandra Lewis (2009)  
 Marie Brown (2010)  
 Janice Polk (2010)  
 Dr. Gayle White (2010)  
 Gertrude Towns Henderson (2011)  
 Jeanie Bismark (2012)  
 Sue Kretzinger (2012)

### Horizon Award

Haley Burrow (2009)  
 Julia Nipper (2010)  
 Chelsea Spurlock (2011)  
 Victoria Maloch (2012)



**Dr. Paula Boaz**

Paula Jean Haile Boaz, Ed.D., M.S., CCC/SLP, was born in Searcy, Ark., and attended Searcy and Newport, Arkansas, Public Schools. She attended William Woods College in Fulton, Mo., then the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Boaz received her B.A. degree from Southern State College in 1974, her master's degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 1978, and in 2011 at age 70, earned her doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Her early professional years as a speech language pathologist were spent working in public schools. In 1980, she opened a private practice, Speech Pathology Services. In 1992, she became an interdisciplinary manager for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and audiology services for a national rehabilitation company. Over the next nine years, Boaz held several management positions. In 2001, Boaz and Jo Lynn Carter-Bouland, seized an opportunity to buy the Arkansas division of the company they were currently managing, Boaz and Associates, Inc., has grown into one of the largest privately owned therapy companies in Arkansas, providing contract physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy in nursing facilities, public schools, pediatric centers, and out-patient clinics across Arkansas.

Boaz is a 35-year member of the Ark. Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She is an active member of First Presbyterian Church where she is an elder and currently serves as clerk of the Session. She serves on the Magnolia Regional Medical Center's Foundation Board, member of Chapter CW PEO, is a past president of the Magnolia Junior Charity League, founding member and past president of the Magnolia Chapter of Circle of Friends (Arkansas Children's Hospital), past president of the Circle of Friends State Board, and past member of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Board.

Boaz is married to Dr. R. Scott Boaz. They are parents of Rodney E. Boaz (Joni) of McKinney, Texas; Dr. Lesley Boaz-Sharon (Asher) of Milwaukee, Wis.; and Charles Andrew (Andy) Boaz of Magnolia. Dr. Boaz attributes much of her success in her professional career to the unwavering support and encouragement from her husband. A strong advocate of education for women, she believes that obtaining marketable degrees allows them to seize opportunities for professional advancement. Her advice, "Work a little harder and smarter, be assertive, make friends by networking. Maturity, life experiences, integrity and a strong work ethic are appreciated by the workplace. Be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to be successful."



**Jessica Haynes**

There is a lot to be said for the small town girl from Arkansas who is willing and able to take on the "sharks." As the biography of Jessica Haynes unfolds, you will find her goals go far beyond the horizon. Throughout her life she was inspired by her family, especially her grandfather. She states that she never would have had the motivation to go out on her own if her grandfather had not done it first. Yet, to create a new company you have to have vision, courage, and determination. It appears Haynes has all of these qualities. You might say her company, JesKa Shoe, started with "a broken heel," but not one that cannot be fixed!

In Haynes' case, she didn't wait for Prince Charming to deliver a shoe that made a difference in her life. She actually went out among the "sharks" to show that "one pair of shoes can change your life." She is a young entrepreneur who has a vision for a shoe with interchangeable heels. After inventing and designing the JesKa Shoe, Haynes was determined enough to secure a place on ABC television show, Shark Tank, and won the hearts of the sharks and millions of viewers. Haynes portrayed real Southern charm when she stated, "A small portion of a big thing is a lot better than a big portion of a small thing."

Haynes grew up in Emerson, Ark. and attended SAU, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Masters in Business Administration. In her graduate year of 2011, she competed, with her shoe design, in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup and won the Most Innovative division for graduate students.

Haynes is currently a marketing coordinator for The Healthy Woman program at Northern Louisiana Medical Center in Ruston, La., where she manages the communications, program, and monthly events for over 1000 members. She is also the owner of JesKa Shoe.

Haynes has a goal. She has shown she is willing to "sleep on the streets of L.A." to reach that goal. It is no surprise that she was able to strike a deal with Daymond John, a fashion mogul and brand expert who started the FUBU brand in his New York City home and eventually built it into a company with over \$200 million in annual sales. We wish the same for Jessica Haynes as she reaches for the stars.



**Dr. Marla Strecker**

Dr. Marla Strecker was born in Mountain Home and is a native of Arkansas. She received her B.A., M.L.A. from Henderson State University and her Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas.

Strecker taught English and was a recruiter/admissions counselor at ASU in Mountain Home before moving to Magnolia five years ago with her husband, James, and two daughters, Olivia and Miriam.

She was hired in 2010 as director of the new Developmental Studies Department at Southern Arkansas University and was in charge of overseeing the Transitional Studies for those students needing remedial work at SAU. She planned and coordinated the redesign to the college reading program

that resulted in a giant leap in the number of students who were successful in completing the program and advancing to higher level classes.

She has served successfully as a liaison to the Arkansas General Assembly on behalf of the effort to request continued funding for remediation programs. She holds membership in the National Association of Developmental Education and the Arkansas Association for Developmental Education.

Strecker is a two-time master presenter for the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin. She is a state and national expert on college readiness, curriculum writer for a national college readiness initiative sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Southern Regional Education Board; evaluator for the U.S. Department of Education; Office of Postsecondary Education, Next Generation Learning Challenges; national evaluator for technology initiatives to improve learning based in Common Core Standards; and has coordinated other departments to improve the student placement and advising process.

In 2012, Strecker was hired as Executive Director at Columbia Christian School and worked the past year on preparing CCS for accreditation.

Her energetic personality can be seen by her involvement in the community acting as a Grant Proposal Reviewer and serving on various university committees. She has made presentations related to remediation at major educational events such as National SREB-Gates Transitional Course Project, Arkansas College Personnel Association, ArkACRAO, SAU Board of Trustees, Literary Summit at SAU, and Arkansas Department of Higher Education subcommittee meetings.



**Joycelyn Watkins**

Joycelyn Watkins was born in Dallas, Texas, but raised in Magnolia by her great-grandparents, Junius and Dulcie Jameson. She is a 1975 graduate of Magnolia High School, received her Associate's Degree in Nursing in May 1980, and a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in May 2011 from Southern Arkansas University. She has been married to Tyree for over 32 years and they have one daughter, Shannin Rae.

Thirty-three years ago, Watkins started her journey at Magnolia Regional Medical Center (formerly Magnolia Hospital) working in the laundry section with people who took great pride in their work.

Later, she sterilized instruments in central sterile and worked as a ward clerk in the emergency department. As a staff nurse, Watkins worked all over the hospital, learning many valuable skills and working side-by-side with nurses who were invested in teaching her. She worked as the Intensive Care Unit Manager for 24 years and taught the Coronary Care and Arrhythmia courses for 16 years. Watkins has been board certified by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses as a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) for over 29 years. She is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the Arkansas Organization of Nurse Executives. Watkins is also an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) instructor, a member of the Board of Directors for The Greenhouse Cottages of Wentworth Place, on the Magnolia Blossom Festival Committee, and a board member of the United Magnolia Alumni Association. Since April 2006 Joycelyn has served as Chief Nursing Officer at Magnolia Regional Medical Center.

She and her family are very community minded. She conducts presentations and workshops on health care issues in various arenas. Watkins and her family give back to the community by participating in fundraisers for scholarships, singing for charitable and community events, serving on various boards, and participating in hands-on volunteer work.

Watkins believes that nurses are part of an invisible architecture that is built on a foundation of service, integrity, and compassion. Her nursing philosophy is driven by her commitment to service excellence and her belief that nursing is an extension of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.