

By decree

BAA designates supporters Alumni by Choice



STEADFAST SUPPORTERS—The family of Genaro Palacios celebrated his designation as an Alumni by Choice. Palacios did not attend Baylor, but made sure his children did.

The room was filled to capacity with devoted Baylor fans. But many had not received diplomas from the university—until now.

On Saturday, February 18, the Baylor Alumni Association (BAA) honored more than sixty recipients with a special Alumni by Choice (ABC) decree. These newest members of the Baylor family were nominated by their families and loved ones for their unrelenting devotion to Baylor.

Some recipients had attended other universities and married into the Baylor family. Some attended Baylor but never completed a degree. Others were community members who faithfully attend every Baylor sporting event.

Jeff Kilgore, CEO and executive vice president of the BAA, told the assembled crowd at the Hughes-Dillard Alumni Center, “This program reflects both the diversity and the inclusiveness of the Baylor family. You have chosen Baylor as your university.”

Rachel Palacios Rodriguez ’80 nominated her father for the award. And as her nomination letter was read, there was hardly a dry eye in the crowd.

“Although he was a person of limited financial means, Genaro always told his eldest child that some day she would attend Baylor,” Rodriguez wrote. She believed in his dream and attended Baylor, as did her brother. “Genaro made sure his family had what he could not—a great Baylor education,” Rodriguez said.

Cody Sulak ’06 nominated his wife, Jacqueline, to be among this year’s honorees. “I bleed green and gold, but at sporting events my wife is more enthusiastic and louder than I am,” he said. “She even told me that she wishes she could do college all over again and would go to Baylor.”

The alumni association began the ABC program in 1986 and has honored more than twenty-three hundred friends who didn’t graduate but are a part of the Baylor family.

If you would like to nominate someone for the 2013 ABC award, you can do so at BaylorAlumniAssociation.com.

—Julie Copenhaver