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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Elliott, McClendon, Toppenberg, Warner to be inducted into The Foundation's Wall of Fame   The Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools will induct its largest-ever class of honorees into the Wall of Fame Oct. 20, 2011, at the Skirvin Hilton. The Wall of Fame celebrates the long, rich history of the Oklahoma City Public Schools and includes some of the city's most influential district alumni and community leaders. This year's honorees, Rand Elliott, Aubrey McClendon, Erik Logan Toppenberg and Larkin Warner represent the best of Oklahoma with outstanding accomplishments in business, education and community involvement. |      |  | | --- | | **Rand Elliott**  Harding High School  When Rand Elliott told his mother he wanted to take a drawing class in his first year at Harding High School, she hesitated. Wouldn't it be too hard? No, he assured her. He could do it.  Elliott graduated Harding in 1968 and went on to gain international acclaim as an architect. His early years, though, were modest. His parents - wheat farmers turned small business owners - instilled the importance of hard work as he rode the tractor with his father or readied hangers at the family dry-cleaning business.   At Harding, there was Bruce Nutt, the drafting teacher who saw Elliott's raw talent and guided him. And then there was Clarice Wiser, a "persnickety" English teacher whose own love of words helped Elliott learn to express himself. "Those two things influenced my livelihood and my life," he said.  Later, as an architectural student at Oklahoma State University, Elliott met Bill Shillig, a professor who became his lifelong mentor.  Harding is a significant part of Elliott's history. The reverse is also true. Elliott was part of Harding's last graduating class before the school district converted it to a middle school and long before it became home to two charter schools.   Elliott, whose wife Jeanette is creative director at Ackerman McQueen, started Elliott + Associates Architects in 1976. Since then, the firm has won 259 awards for its architecture, interiors, lighting, and graphic design. It is the only architectural firm in Oklahoma history to win a National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects, and to date they have received the award on 10 occasions.   Rand Elliott's mother needn't have worried. That class wasn't so hard after all. | | |  | | |  | | --- | | **Supporting Excellence**  ***Proceeds from The Wall of Fame*** *support The Foundation programs that remove barriers to learning and create community ownership in the success of every child. The Wall of Fame celebration is made possible with the support of Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Devon Energy, Whitten-Newman Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation/Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation, BancFirst, Mrs. Henry Freede, IBC Bank, Don & Patti Leeman and OG&E.*    For a complete list of sponsors, visit [www.okckids.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=aam8cqcab&et=1107172099767&s=0&e=001RkyxntHykQGhGyXN0xKzQ8h3uvm1hWokxTTvvfAvuaxeUXdIcznKUY7viTBtydrCxQWczEIrSaSbp40Gg9dqxZQ4vsz2VmlndccYvodI_aqb6eDewrBefg==). **Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available**  *To become a 2011 Wall of Fame sponsor, contact Lisa Reed, The Foundation's Deputy Director, at (405) 879-2007 or*  [*lisa@okckids.com*](mailto:lisa@okckids.com)  **Individual Tickets  Still Available**  ***The 2011 Wall of Fame Champagne Reception and Reunion*** *will be Wednesday, October 19.  Individual tickets for the reception are $60 each.  Valet Parking / Business Attire*    *Tickets to the 2011 Wall of Fame Dinner & Induction Ceremony are $150 each (includes ticket to Champagne Reception).  Valet Parking / Black Tie*    *Tickets may be purchased by contacting Lea Ann Chandler, Program Director, at (405) 879-2007 or* [*leaann@okckids.com*](mailto:leaann@okckids.com) *by* ***October 3, 2011****.* | |

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And he couldn't forget his "young and lovely" sixth-grade teacher, Miss Riggs, who was the subject of many schoolboy crushes.  McClendon's Belle Isle experience was paired with important lessons from his parents, particularly his mother, Carole. She was a kindergarten teacher and taught her son a love of reading, while his father, Joe, showed him about hard work and helped coach many baseball games.  Under McClendon's leadership, Chesapeake was named one of the country's best places to work by Fortune Magazine. Earlier this year, Forbes named him to the "CEO 20-20 Club," a group of eight American chief executives who have a minimum of 20 years of service as CEO and produced at least 20% annual returns to shareholders during their tenure. McClendon and his wife Katie have been married since 1981. They have three adult children. |  |  | | --- | | **Erik Logan Toppenberg**  Sequoyah Elementary, Taft Middle School,  Northwest Classen High School  When Erik Logan Toppenberg walks into his office at one of the world's most successful production companies, he's greeted with a picture of himself as a teenager. He wasn't dressed up in a tux, stepping out for his senior prom. He skipped that. The photo is Toppenberg dressed as Chuck the Duck, wooing passersby to listen to the local radio station that offered him his first job.  Those days spent either in the classroom at Northwest Classen High School or dressed in a dreadfully hot costume are far behind him. He has hopscotched around the country chasing his passion in radio and broadcasting. San Francisco. Seattle. Tampa. Washington D.C. New York City. And, of course, Chicago.  His focus these days is transforming Harpo Studios, where he shares the presidency, from the successful producer of Oprah's television show to a content generator for Oprah Winfrey's new cable network venture. It's a tall task but Toppenberg isn't new to big challenges. He became a radio program director at 19 and has since turned struggling radio stations into successful operations. He also served as vice president of CBS Radio, president of Citadel Broadcasting and executive vice president for programming and broadcast operations at XM Satellite Radio in Washington D.C.  A picture of himself as Chuck the Duck isn't all that brings him back to reality. He also sees photos of his wife Erin, and their two young children, Jacksyn and Hudsyn, cheering on his Sooners.  "Just like when I first started, every day I come in and honor the opportunity I have been given and carry the intention to do the best job I possibly can," he said. "And at night, I go home and enjoy my family." |  |  | | --- | | **Larkin Warner**  MAPS for Kids  Television cameras weren't trained on Larkin Warner. Nor did reporters hang on his every word. Those jobs were left to the political leaders. But when the citizens of Oklahoma City passed MAPS for Kids in 2001 no one should've felt the joy of a job well done more than Warner. He stood behind the well-recognized faces who sold the nearly $700 million school revitalization project to the public but his presence loomed large. From the beginning, Warner was a critical part of the team that brought the physical and academic crisis facing city schools to the forefront and worked to find solutions.  Warner was already retired when he began working to improve the school district. But his love of education began long before. His father worked in higher education in Ohio, and Warner followed that path, eventually landing at Oklahoma State University as an economics professor. He did two stints at OSU over four decades, interrupted only by a five-year period working at The Kerr Foundation where he focused on improving economic development.   During his later years at OSU, Warner took his public service to a new level. He worked under Gov. George Nigh and Gov. Henry Bellmon researching government and constitutional reform.  He also has studied public parks and recreation activities and the original MAPS public works projects. Warner is a member of the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame and on the Honorary Council of the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals. In 2009, Full Circle Press published a book Warner authored that detailed the history of MAPS for Kids. Warner has two adult children employed in education. He and his wife Jean attend Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. | |