

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee Garrett Boone Phone 214-368-0824 Fax N/A  
Address 5949 Sherry Lane #1010 Dallas, TX 75225  
City/State/Zip Dallas, TX 75225 Rice Class Year(s) '66  
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions Rice University - History - '66; UT Austin - History - '69  
Occupation/Professional Field Retired; former founder & Chairman, The Container Store  
Current Title/Position Chairman Emeritus, The Container Store

The Distinguished Alumni Award is designed to recognize Rice alumni who have advanced the interest and standards of excellence of Rice University through distinctive professional or volunteer careers. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) advancement of the value of one's profession; exceptional expertise and dedication
- b) significant professional innovations or research findings
- c) significant voluntary contributions of energy, time, creativity, and skills for the advancement of the community welfare, the arts, education, social or government service

Please attach a curriculum vita or other biographical information for the above nominee, describing his or her professional achievements, honors and awards, publications/inventions/innovations, and professional/civic activities, boards or affiliations. In addition to the curriculum vita, please provide a short letter of recommendation describing the merits of the nominee. Consider the following question in support of the above criteria: **What qualities or achievements make this person a truly outstanding leader in his or her profession, and a role model for current Rice students?**

**Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.**

Nominated by John & Rusty Jagers Phone 214-361-0012 Fax 214-361-2046  
Address 6223 DeLoach Ave  
City/State/Zip Dallas, TX 75225

Please list two other people (i.e., colleague, classmate) whom you have asked to write a letter of support to further validate your nomination.

Name Tammell Crow Relationship Co-founder, Tex. Business for Clean Air  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone N/A  
Name Gordon Echtenkamp Relationship CEO - YMCA of Metro Dallas  
Address 600 N. Alameda Dallas, TX 75201 Phone 972-560-3827

Please return nomination material to:

or fax to: 713-348-5210

Office of Alumni Affairs - MS 520  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston TX 77251-1892

**Rusty and John Jagers**  
**6223 Deloache Ave.**  
**Dallas, TX 75225**

**Office of Alumni Affairs - MS 520**  
**Rice University**  
**P. O. Box 1892**  
**Houston, TX 77251-1892**

**Re: Nomination for Distinguished Alumni Award**

**To Whom it May Concern;**

We, Rusty Campbell Jagers '73 and John Jagers '73, are honored to nominate Garrett Boone '66 for the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award. Garrett is by any measure the type of alumnus any school would be proud to claim, as a person, as a businessman and as a philanthropist. We have been privileged to get to know Garrett very well over the last 20 years. First and foremost, we view he and his wife Cecilia as role models for how to "be", first as parents at the school where our kids spent their K-12 years, and more recently as community leaders, dedicated to using the fruits of their considerable success to make the world a better place. And through it all, both are as humble and down to earth as one could ask. Rice would be hard pressed to find a more accomplished and distinguished alumnus, and a finer person, to honor.

Garrett's accomplishments in the business world are well known. He is co-founder and now Chairman Emeritus of The Container Store, growing the company from a single store to a very successful national chain of stores that have helped millions of people organize their lives. But besides defining its category, The Container Store has been an uncommonly excellent corporate citizen, regularly gracing the cover of Fortune Magazine as the best company in America to work for. And this in an industry where employees are routinely treated as commodities, poorly paid and with few benefits or job security. The positive culture at The Container Store is legendary, and is strong testimony to the person and leader that is Garrett Boone.

Garrett's incredible success in the business world alone should be enough to merit strong consideration as a distinguished alumnus of Rice University. However, that is only part of his story. In our view what really makes Garrett a truly extraordinary person are his values and his conviction to applying his leadership and financial resources when he sees a need. Garrett is a strong believer in the power of education to create opportunity, and a committed environmentalist. These beliefs are reflected in the many organizations to which he has given his wealth, wisdom and work over the last several years.

Several years ago, when the local North Texas power utility, TXU, proposed to dramatically expand its coal burning power generating capacity, Garrett became

**Rusty and John Jagers**  
**6223 Deloache Ave.**  
**Dallas, TX 75225**

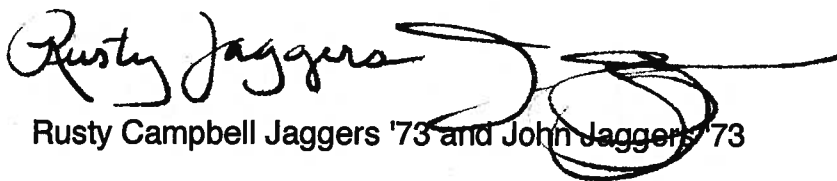
convinced that it would not only be an environmental disaster, but that it wasn't necessary. Rather than sit and watch it happen, he teamed with two other prominent Dallas businessmen, Trammell Crow and David Litman, to form the Texas Business for Clean Air Foundation. This Foundation was successful in creating a public outcry over the proposed expansion, and catalyzed negotiations between government and the company that resulted in an expansion plan that solved TXU's generation needs with a dramatically lower environmental impact.

The Texas Business for Clean Air Foundation is just one example. He has been a leader in many other philanthropic organizations, including the Dallas Metropolitan YMCA, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Dallas Women's Foundation. Through his family foundation, he and Cecelia have been important supporters of many other organizations, from local, such as Reading Partners, KIPP TRUTH Academy, the Family Gateway, the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, to national, such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Teach for America, Education Pioneers, Stand for Children. The list goes on and on.

All this is reflective of perhaps the most important thing to know about Garrett, but the hardest to know without knowing him directly. The fact is that, despite a level of material success that blinds others, he is an incredibly good person with wonderful values. He cares for others not as fortunate as himself. He is aware that there are many things that we all share that are too easily damaged in our selfish pursuits of our own interests. He understands that money talks, and that without his help and the help of others like him, there are many deserving voices that would be never be heard. And he puts his positive and community oriented beliefs into action. It is a powerful and compelling combination.

It should be clear by now. We are delighted and honored to submit Garrett for this honor. We are obviously big fans, and believe people like Garrett should be honored as role models for the many future successful Rice alumni that will have the good fortune of deciding whether and how to be good citizens. We hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Jagers". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" that extends to the right and loops back under the name.

Rusty Campbell Jagers '73 and John Jagers '73

# GARRETT BOONE

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## CONTACT

Boone Family Office  
5949 Sherry Lane, Ste. 1010  
Dallas, TX 75225  
Office Phone: 214-368-0824  
Cell: 214-676-3226  
[garrett@innisfreeinvestments.com](mailto:garrett@innisfreeinvestments.com)  
Assistant: Barb Parrish

## PERSONAL

Home  
3111 Welborn Street, Apt. 1404  
Dallas, TX 75219  
Home Phone: 214-691-8966  
Married: Cecilia Guthrie Boone  
Three Adult Children: Aimee, Katherine and Guthrie

## EDUCATION

- Highland Park High School-Dallas
- Bachelor's degree in European History from Rice University, 1966
- Master's degree in History from the University of Texas at Austin, 1969

## PROFESSIONAL

- Co-Founder of The Container Store 1978
- Retailing Hall of Fame 2006 (along with Kip and Sharon Tindell)
- Chairman Emeritus of The Container Store 2007 to present
- Along with Kip Tindell, appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* 2007
- FORTUNE Magazine's - The Container Store - "Best Company to Work For" 13 years in a row.

In 2006, Garrett Boone co-founded Texas Business for Clean Air in an effort to derail a fast track initiative to construct 11 coal-burning energy plants in North Texas using out-dated air quality controls. Their efforts in promoting "clean air is good for business in Texas" have been heralded nationally and recently were the subject of a Robert Redford documentary *Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars*. Texas Business for Clean Air was 2010 recipient of the CATEE Outstanding Nonprofit Organization of the Year.

Runner-up for "Texan of the Year" awarded by The Dallas Morning News 2007

## CIVIC ACTIVITIES

National Board of Directors - YMCA of the USA

- Chairman - Government Relations Advisory Committee
- Member - National Board Development Committee

Board of Directors - YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas

Board of Directors - The Woodall Rogers Park Foundation

Board of Directors - Trinity Trust Foundation

Board of Directors - The Boone Family Foundation

- Advance equity for women and girls
- Improve quality of life for children
- Promote environmental stewardship

North Texas Commission Clean Air Task Force

Garrett is highly involved in the Development of The Trinity Forest, Trinity Paddling Trails and Bird Count Initiative

Advisory Board of The Dallas Women's Foundation

Advisory Board Teach for America

Member Dallas ISD Star Commission

## **Garrett Boone Biographical Information**

### **From Rice Jones Graduate School of Business Website**

#### **About Garrett Boone**

Garrett Boone never considered a career in retailing. Instead, he grew up aspiring to become an architect, later opting for a bachelor's degree in European history from Rice University (1966) and a master's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin (1969). But he was bit by the retailing bug soon after returning home from college, and that bug would later develop into a business venture that would spark a new retail category.

In 1969, a year after embarking on a doctorate degree at UT, Boone moved back to his hometown of Dallas. However, finding a job related to history proved difficult. Reverting to his skills as a commercial painter, he secured a job as manager of Montgomery Ward's paint department.

Boone left Montgomery Ward in 1972 to become Dallas store manager at Storehouse, a chain of lifestyle furniture stores. Two years later, Boone became a regional manager for the furniture chain.

By 1976, Boone, an avid woodworker as well, was determined to start his own business. Leaving his job, Boone and two friends, Dallas architect John Mullen, and Kip Tindell (CEO), a colleague from Montgomery Ward and Storehouse, discussed the idea of opening a handmade furniture store. After two years of creating furniture prototypes, preparing cost analyses and investigating companion products, they scrapped this home furnishings idea for an original retail concept: a store devoted entirely to storage and organization products for the home. The idea came to Boone following a visit to a home improvement show in Dallas in January, 1978, which unveiled "this incredible modular shelving system" called Lundia.

With an initial cash investment of \$35,000 provided by Garrett, his father, and John Mullen, who were founding directors, officers, and shareholders of the company, they plunged headfirst into stocking a 1,600-square foot store with boxes, shelves, baskets, containers, crates, trash bins, and a variety of unconventional and mostly commercial grade storage and organization products. Before the store was opened, the initial name "Basics" was changed to a more suitable and exciting name for their unique venture – The Container Store. The store opened on July 1, 1978.

One of the biggest challenges for The Container Store was to find products to sell. They often had to persuade manufacturers to supply them with retail merchandise. Initially, almost all of the products Boone wanted to sell were developed for commercial use only and were not available to consumers.

With the unique and innovative products selected, The Container Store's first location at Preston Road and Forest Lane in North Dallas was unveiled. Mason's tool bags as overnight bags, egg baskets as carryalls, and wire leaf burners as toy barrels, were just a few of the original products that debuted. The store outgrew its space within a year, and by 1980 had expanded twice.

Eventually, the company's first store would have to move across the street to find room for an ever-increasing inventory.

More than 28 years later, The Container Store has 36 stores across the country. Stores currently average 25,000 square feet. And, with 2006 sales projected at \$500 million, the originators of the storage and organization category of retailing remain the leaders in an industry that continues to thrive. Retail analysts cite the company's devotion to the original concept as the formula for its success, noting that other retailers haven't focused on an inventory mix solely devoted to storage and organization products like The Container Store.

Boone's love for retailing remains true today. That bug that bit him in 1969 is still apparent. He frequently visits the company's stores to work the sales floor and to interact with customers and employees. His commitment to maintaining the company's unique culture has played a vital role in The Container Store being selected by FORTUNE magazine as the "Best Company to Work For" seven years in a row. In early 2006, along with Kip and Sharon Tindell (Chief Merchandising Officer), Garrett was inducted into the Retailing Hall of Fame.

At age 62, Boone and his wife Cecilia have three children. He sits on the board of the Dallas Metropolitan YMCA, the Dallas Museum of Art, the advisory board for JP Morgan Chase, and the advisory council for The Dallas Women's Foundation. He still loves woodworking, enjoys fly-fishing, music and any activities with his family.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

September 18, 2012

Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520  
Rice University  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Re: Recommendation of Garrett Boone  
Distinguished Alumni Award

Garrett Boone has achieved outstanding success in his business life and his public life. The list of accomplishments is well-documented and these recognitions are earned and richly deserved. But I am proud to offer this recommendation based on his commitment and service to the YMCA which parallels those outstanding achievements.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas is one of the top social service organizations in north Texas. With an annual operating budget of \$55M, 125,000 members, 8000 volunteers and 2000 employees, this organization has earned a stellar reputation because of the consistently high quality programs provided for the kids and families in our community. During our 127 years of service, this high level of community engagement occurs only because of a legacy of outstanding people who provide the staff and volunteer leadership to perpetuate our work. Garrett Boone represents the best of the best.

Garrett served on a YMCA branch board of management for several years as repayment (his words) for the impact of the YMCA on his life as a child and a teen. After several years of advisory service, he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. He has provided leadership in numerous committee capacities including our Annual Support campaign, our marketing campaign and is a trusted member of our Executive Committee. In 2009 we celebrated the success of a \$30M Capital Campaign of which he served as Co-chair. Because of his tremendous love for the Y, his demonstrated visionary leadership and his outstanding business reputation, he was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of the USA where he also served in several critical leadership capacities.

The greatest value Garrett brings to our organization is his ability to see beyond the issue being discussed. He seldom gets caught in the minutiae of a problem, but rather has the ability to envision the long-term impact of decisions made. His integrity and personal values are beyond reproach. This steadfast commitment to his core beliefs serve as a model for board leadership to his colleagues. This community, the Y locally and nationally are better because of his outstanding commitment of service.

Respectfully,



Gordon Echtenkamp  
President/CEO

YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas | President's Office | 601 N Akard Street | Dallas, Texas 75201  
P 214 880 9622 | F 972 560 3832 | [www.ymcadallas.org](http://www.ymcadallas.org)



YMCA Mission: To put Christian values into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

## Rose Sundin

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**Subject:** FW: Letter of Recommendation for Garrett Boone

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**From:** Trammell S. Crow  
**Sent:** Friday, September 28, 2012 5:24 PM  
**To:** 'vvb@rice.edu'  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation for Garrett Boone

I write in support of the nomination of Garrett Boone for the Rice University Distinguished Alumni Award. I first worked with Garrett to form the nonprofit entity "Texas Business for Clean Air" in 2006. He was instrumental in the formation of this statewide business group. He worked tirelessly to speak to and meet with over a hundred business leaders across our state, enlisting their personal and corporate endorsement for this pro-business voice working for clean air standards, and the buy-in for same. He clearly communicated to the multi-faceted business community that clean air was good for business in Texas. As a result of the business coalition built, eight of eleven planned coal-fired energy plants were not built.

Garrett and his family are dedicated to improving the quality of life for Texans in more ways than I can enumerate here. There is not a single societal concern that I can think of that Garrett has been unable to improve through innovative, personal dedication.

Sincerely,

Trammell S. Crow

Dallas, Texas



[www.earthdaydallas.org](http://www.earthdaydallas.org)