

TEXAS EXCEL- LENCE IN TEACH- ING

The Winners of the 2005 Texas Exes Teaching Awards, in Their Own Words

JUST ABOUT EVERY ALUMNUS REMEMBERS a professor at UT who made a difference in their lives. The Texas Exes came up with a way to honor those teachers through the Texas Exes Teaching Awards. Recipients are selected by students, organized through various college councils, and coordinated through the Texas Exes and the Senate of College Councils. The \$1,000 awards are provided annually for a professor in each school and college. A \$500 award is also presented to a Teaching Assistant or Assistant Instructor in each school and college. The Texas Exes honored the recipients at a dinner in February. *Photos by Susan Gaetz*

Kenneth Apfel

Public Affairs

Social Policy, Public Administration, Leadership, 4/4

Philosophy: I spent more than two decades working in Washington, D.C., in a variety of senior government positions. I try to bring my practitioner background in to the classroom and to be a role model for students on how to lead change in the public arena. I try to help students understand that they really can make a very big difference in people's lives by working in public service.

My most significant teaching moments: actually take place outside of the classroom, when I'm meeting one-on-one with my students to discuss their plans. Nothing is more rewarding than helping a student realize how to take the first steps in building a public service career.

Heroes and Influences: Harry Truman once said that, "We can never tell what is in store for us." When I became a student at the LBJ School to learn about social policy, I wouldn't have dreamed that one day I would be the custodian of what I believe to be the most important social program in America's history. [Apfel was Clinton's commissioner of Social Security]. And as we debate — again — our collective responsibilities to one another, I'm reminded again of Harry Truman. He taught me that you have to be willing to take a stand and fight for your beliefs. I intend to keep doing just that in the months and years ahead.

