

### **1999 Distinguished Service Award Recipient**

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton County Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for and outstanding service to, Barton County Community College.

**Gerald E. and Lois L. Alban** have strong ties to the community as well as historical links to the Community College. Jerry was vice-president and cashier of Security State Bank, when its president and founder, J.A. Mermis, Jr. joined others in discussing the creation of the community college. Mr. Alban's daughter Connie was among the first class of students during the 1969-70 academic year. Lois grew up on a farm west of the College and was office manager and a corporate officer of the Automotive Parts Company for 18 years. She later worked for the law firm of Lee Turner. Active in church and civic affairs, they attended the Foundation's Big Benefit Auction in 1989, where they joined the association's Buffalo Club with the top bid for "Old Bill", the buffalo mount which is auctioned each year. The Alban's later began participating in the Foundation's Academic Enrichment Fund Campaign. In 1993, they established The Alban Family Endowment to benefit students majoring in auto mechanics or office procedures. Lois and Jerry shared the belief that one should give back to the community that nurtures and contributes to individual success. Jerry passed away on May 1, 1997, but Lois has continued to make significant annual gifts to the Foundation to promote academic opportunities for students.