

Legacy Awards Backgrounder

The Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City's Board of Directors has established "legacy awards" – the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year and the Award for Agricultural Leadership and Excellence – to be presented annually to individuals in the business community who embody the entrepreneurial spirit and drive the economic growth of the Heartland's agribusiness industry related to the advancement and sustainability of farming and ranching, feed grain and food processing, transportation, energy and bio fuel, commodity marketing, education and research, animal health and welfare, food safety and bio science.

"From its earliest beginnings in 1821 as a trading post along the Missouri River and as a cattle center in the late 1880s, Kansas City grew from the abundance and innovation of agriculture," says Bob Petersen, chairman of the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City. "Although the face of the city has changed dramatically, agribusiness and its related industries continue to shape the present and future direction of the region. The Council wanted to honor agricultural contributions and showcase some of those individuals who built the legacy and continue to shape the region's future."

The Award for Agricultural Leadership and Excellence is named in honor of the late Jay B. Dillingham. The Agricultural Business Council believes that Mr. Dillingham epitomized the spirit, accomplishment, and acumen that it wishes to recognize in current agricultural leaders. His biography, which he penned, should be an inspiration for all.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

The Outstanding Volunteer of the Year is provided to an individual whose leadership has inspired the Council and its membership to promote, educate and build important relationships with business and community leaders and outside publics. Founder of the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City in 2003, Gina Bowman is the 2009 inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer's award.

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"Volunteer: a
person who
performs or offers
to perform a service
out of his or her
own free will
● ● ●

Gina Bowman. A native of Savannah, MO where she grew up on a farm, Bowman is vice president of government relations for CVR Energy, Inc., a mid-continent energy company. As founder and visionary for the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City, Bowman served as the volunteer chair for two years providing untold hours of service to an organization in which she continues to inspire, guidance and



leadership. Her contributions to Kansas City are wide-ranging. She serves on several Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Committees responsible for state and federal policymaking and is chair of the Chamber of Commerce's Environmental Committee; advisor and member of the Energy Policy Task Force and chair of the Missouri Animal Health Corridor Initiative Legislative Committee. She also serves on the Kansas, Missouri and Federal Affairs Committees. A graduate of William Jewell College, Bowman served nearly 24 years with Farmland Industries, Inc., where she developed and directed the government relations division. She is an award-winning public affairs practitioner receiving national first place honors for the best government relations "grassroots communications" program by the Public Affairs Council. Her work and her leadership have been recognized by the Public Relations Society, the National Agri-Marketing Association, the National Association of State Cooperative Councils, the Kansas Cooperative Council, Farmland Industries, Kansas and Missouri Governors and the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

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Jay B. Dillingham Award for Agricultural Leadership and Excellence

Three individuals will serve as first-time recipients of the J.B. Dillingham Award for Agricultural Leadership and Excellence.

R. Crosby Kemper, Jr. As chairman emeritus of UMB Financial Corporation, R. Crosby Kemper, Jr., is one of Kansas City's leading civic figures for over 50 years. The story of UMB Financial Corporation is a success story in the best tradition of American free enterprise. From a storefront bank with first-day deposits of \$1,100 in 1913, it has grown to a multi-bank holding company with assets of more than \$8.9 billion and banks located throughout Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Arizona.



Elected president of UMB in 1959, R. Crosby Kemper, Jr., was the man at the helm of UMB Financial Corporation for more than 30 years. During his tenure as president, chief executive officer and chairman of the Board, Kemper led the bank through times of major expansion and significant change.

Today, all affiliate banks continue to practice the kind of community involvement that has traditionally resulted in UMB Financial Corporation's growth, not only as a financial institution, but also as a responsible community citizen. This corporate attitude toward community involvement was born out of Crosby Kemper's personal commitment to his community. From the arts to the American Royal to youth programs, Kemper serves as a volunteer on a number boards of directors in the Kansas City area, as well as nationally.

One program, however, is very special to Kemper. In 1996, he and his son, Sandy Kemper, founded the Agriculture Future of America (AFA), an organization whose mission is to identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women seeking careers in the agriculture and food industry.

Each year, students participate in the internship component and receive scholarships. More than 5,500 students have benefited from the AFA Leaders Conference.

Joerg Ohle. As president and general manager of Bayer Corporation's Animal Health Division in North America, Joerg Ohle is responsible for



management and strategic direction of the North American animal health business. He is also a member of the worldwide group's Animal Health management committee. Bayer's Animal Health business group is a leader in the manufacturing and marketing of parasite control products and prescription pharmaceuticals for dogs, cats, horses, cattle, swine and poultry.

Beyond his career success in animal health, Ohle has become part of the Kansas City business legacy for a new era. As a visionary in economic development, he has joined the City, Chamber and a group of inspired business leaders to chair and lead the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor – an initiative that puts the region on the world map as a hub for animal health, research, education and bio science.



Jay B. Dillingham (1910-2007) graduated in 1926 from Platte City High School; in 1932 he received his LLB law degree from the Kansas City School of Law and in 1935 his LLM, also from Kansas City School of Law which today is part of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. During the Depression Years, professors and students worked during the day and went to school at night.

Following a decade with the New York Central Railroad System, Dillingham joined the Kansas City Stockyards Company in 1937, was named president in 1947 and retired in 1975. He continued to office in the Livestock Exchange Building until his 96th birthday – 69 years of driving to work usually six days a week. He started the Golden Ox Restaurant in 1949 and it would have operations at one time in Denver, Washington, DC, and Nashville. As the landlord of the American Royal, he was involved in that association for over 65 years, serving as president in 1960-1961.

The 1951 flood changed Kansas City and the Stockyards (which closed on Halloween in 1991). Following the massive cleanup, the American Royal, as a symbol of Kansas City, opened on October 1951 to a full house. Senator Harry Darby, as chairman of the American Royal, brought President Dwight Eisenhower to Kansas City in 1953 to dedicate the new Hereford Building and attend the evening's horse shows. With the Stockyards having operations in Missouri and Kansas, Dillingham served as president of the Chamber of Commerce for both cities, the only person ever to do so. For 30 years, he and Senator Darby oversaw many projects involving business and agriculture.

Governor John Dalton appointed Dillingham to the Missouri Water Resources Board in 1971. He had represented Kansas City for years testifying before the Congress on needs for flood protection. His first hand experience of the 1951 Flood led to the authorization of the Smithville Lake, H.S. Truman Reservoir and many other projects built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1976, Lt. General Jack Morris of the Corps awarded Dillingham the Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service. Dillingham also served as president of the Missouri/Arkansas Flood Control. Association (Mo-Ark)

Personally, while growing up in Platte City, his father bought and farmed Missouri River bottom land. During the Depression, Dillingham along with his two brothers helped keep food on the table and this became the catalyst of a family farm corporation, JoDill, Inc. Jay's son, John, currently operates the corporation.

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Ohle's career with Bayer spans 31 years during which time he has gained a wealth of international business experience. Ohle began his career in Germany in 1977 with Bayer's pharmaceuticals business group. From 1982 to 1984, he worked in El Salvador with the pharmaceuticals marketing organization. In 1984 he transferred to East Africa building up a regional office for Pharmaceuticals and Self Medication; and in 1987 moved to Germany to become Marketing Manager, Pharmaceuticals for Middle East/Africa. In 1989, Ohle relocated to Santiago de Chile to become Business Group Head for Bayer's Pharmaceutical and Self Medication Group. From 1992 to 1996, he held several marketing positions within the Consumer Care business group in Germany. In 1996, he relocated to Singapore and has since held various positions in Bayer's Asia Pacific region. Most recently, Ohle held the position of Head of Bayer HealthCare, Asia Pacific and was responsible for all aspects of Bayer's health care businesses, including Animal Health.

Morton Sosland. A native of Kansas City, Morton Sosland served in the Army during World War II, serving initially in the horse cavalry. He joined the family-owned Sosland Publishing Co. on graduating from Harvard, class of 1946. The company publishes business-to-business magazines primarily focused on the worldwide grain and food processing industries. He has been editor-in-chief of the weekly *Milling & Baking News* for 40 years and has an editorial role in the other publications. He also was president and chairman of the publishing company, a role that he has passed to his son, Charles. His grandson, Meyer Joseph Sosland, is managing editor of *World Grain* magazine. He represents the fifth generation of the family to be involved in the publishing business.



In writing editorials and making speeches to business audiences, he has sought to emphasize the essential role of agriculture and agribusiness in America's role in the world. An advocate of liberal trade policies, he presses for governmental and corporate actions meant to build the strength of an independent agriculture.

From farm to fork, Sosland has served on numerous corporate boards including H&R Block, Commerce Bancshares, Brown Shoe, SuCrest Corp., ERC, Hallmark Cards, Kansas City Southern, ERC Corporation, Stilwell Financial, Continental Grain Co. and TWA and TW Services.

His influence goes beyond his passion for agribusiness, commerce and journalism. In civic responsibilities, Sosland has served as president of the Jewish Federation of Kansas City, chairman of Midwest Research Institute, co-chair of Kansas City Economic Development, and as president of the Pembroke-Country Day School Board. He was among the founders of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. In recent years, he has been co-chair of several fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where his wife, Estelle, is just retiring as chair of the board of trustees. He is currently or most recently served as a director of the Sosland Foundation, H&R Block Foundation, Lyric Opera Foundation, Hall Family Foundation and the Loose Foundation.

During Dillingham's early teens, his father developed Tuberculosis and was bedridden for a year. To help make ends meet, he assisted his mother in a milk route throughout Platte City.

Following his marriage to Frances Thompson in 1935 at her home, the Maple Grove Farm near Nashua, Missouri, the couple moved in with her father, Allen M. Thompson. Mr. Thompson was the first president of the American Royal in 1905. He and his father in the late 1800s and early 1900s had the largest Galloway cattle herd in America and one of the first three breeds to create the American Royal.

Even though work was 15 miles south at the Stockyards, for almost 35 years there was farm work at home. Feeder cattle, mowing and haying, digging ponds, John's FFA pig farrowing or 4-H lambs and Registered Angus plus horses, goats, geese, and chickens were ongoing.

For the non-irrigated Missouri River bottom row crop land, the JoDill Corporation was fortunate in the 1950s to have built on their lands and adjacent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levees and Districts to protect from serious periodic flooding – among the first in Missouri.

His experiences with floods and the understanding first hand of how it affects agricultural, personal, and corporate assets, resulted in protecting future generations from the same problems. It also resulted in his conviction and push for the Smithville Reservoir following the devastating local Little Platte River Flood of 1965.

Dillingham's interest in roads, whether Interstate or farm-to-market, came from pre-concrete road travel. Stories of pushing cars through mud in high school going to play basketball makes one appreciate modern transportation. He even broke an arm once cranking a Model T Ford car.

Appointed in 1978 by Governor Joe Teasdale (Democrat from Kansas City) as chairman of the Missouri Department of Transportation, Dillingham offered to step down when Republican Kit Bond came into the Governor's office. But, Governor Bond asked him to stay on the Highway Commission as Chairman – he served a total of six years.

He was credited with being the father of I-435 ringing Kansas City – Missouri and Kansas. In addition, Missouri Highway 152 (Doniphan Highway), portions of Missouri Highway 36 across northern Missouri, and new Choteau and Heart of America bridges across the Missouri River in Kansas City are a few of his accomplishments. The Missouri Highway Commission, following his term in office, surprised and honored him by naming I-670 in Kansas City on the Missouri side, the Jay B. Dillingham Freeway. The Kansas legislature followed suit in 1990 on the Kansas side.