

2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

The Jackson Academy Distinguished Alumni of the Year program is now in its fifth year. The award has been bestowed upon Phillip Bowman '86, Calvin Thigpen '94, Meredith Travelstead '89, and Ashley Willson '87. Awarded by the JA Alumni Council, those considered for nomination must be an alumnus or alumna of the school for 10 or more years and have received considerable notoriety in their field and/or made considerable contributions to Jackson Academy - specifically, they must lead a life of purpose and significance through professional achievement, service to community, and/or loyalty to Jackson Academy.

This year's honoree, fielded from more than 20 nominations, is John Scarbrough from JA's Class of 92. He is a 1996 graduate of Mississippi State University. He holds a Master's in Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University and a Master's in Business Administration from Millsaps College.

Community service stands at the heart and passion of this year's honoree, having served on the Boards of Friends of Children's Hospital, Mississippi Automobile Dealers Association, Greater Belhaven Neighborhood Foundation, Mississippi Nurses Foundation, Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Jackson Planning Board, Mississippi Christian Living, Jackson Chamber of Commerce. The recipient is a Graduate of Leadership Greater Jackson and a true Jacksonian, making a difference in the lives of others and his own community.

Scarbrough is the Dealer Principal/Owner/Operator of one of the nation's top automobile dealerships representing the Honda and Subaru brands, proudly serving as the third generation for their family-operated business soon to celebrate its 80th anniversary. With more than 20 years of personal hands-on experience in the automotive industry, working in every department of the dealership, he currently serves as dealership general manager. He uses his expertise, along with that of the team managers, to continuously improve the customer experience across the entire dealership.

An Eagle Scout, Scarbrough is a devoted family man. He is a member of First Baptist Church Jackson and enjoys spending time with his family, exercising, and being outdoors. He and his wife, the former Jeanne Elizabeth Moak, have three boys; Jacob Montgomery, a junior at JA, John Moak '22, a sophomore at Samford university, and the late Thomas Hudson.