

AUSTIN COLLEGE

Magazine January 2017

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See <http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu>
Some extended content available.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Dedicating ourselves to liberal arts education means that we must create a climate of openness not only to ideas but to persons.”



This fall, we had a milestone event on campus: our first-ever TedxAustinCollege conference. As many of you know, the TED organization has pioneered a way to bring big ideas to a broad audience. We are glad to partner with them, to see that the big ideas percolating on our campus are shared with the world.

TEDxAustinCollege was a collaboration between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends—each of whom believe in the life-changing power of creativity and critical reflection. As a college that changes lives, Austin College has a clear goal to develop students who are ready and able to add value to our ever-changing world.

Nominate speakers for next year and see the 2016 presentations by Austin College faculty at www.austincollege.edu/tedx.

I want to share with you part of a speech I gave on campus in November. I made these remarks in response to questions about what the presidential election means for our campus and our extended Kangaroo family. The words also seem to me to be a perfect introduction to the articles you will read in this issue.

Austin College is not a political institution. We are not Democrat or Republican; we are not pro-choice or pro-life; we don't take a stand on free trade, or congressional term limits, or trickle-down economics. In fact, we openly invite into our community members with differing views and perspectives on each of these issues. We debate them. We teach and learn the tools for thinking critically about them. We foster reasoned debate and collegial disagreement.

Austin College is not a religious institution. While we draw great strength from our relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA), we are not sectarian. We do not preach or teach a particular

religious world view, and we do not insist on adherence to any specific religious doctrine or practice. Again, we openly invite into our community members with differing religious commitments or with none at all. Within our walls we make room for Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, atheists, agnostics, and more.

We are open wide. But we are not infinitely open.

We are an institution built on values. And here we do take stands. Here we do stand firm on community standards. Here we do say what we believe. Our values grow from our mission. Dedicating ourselves to liberal arts education means that we must create a climate of openness not only to ideas but to persons. We must make certain that everyone who participates in the life of the College feels at its center. Respect for each other and care for the inherent dignity of all persons are not negotiable at Austin College.

No matter the political shifts of the nation, we will continue to value our diverse community. We will continue to welcome those who want to participate in the spirit of respectful inquiry, no matter their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, economic circumstance, or country of birth. All are welcome. Not because we believe this is politically correct or religiously mandated, but because we cannot fulfill our mission without that inherent promise.

I wish each of you much joy and peace in this season of light as we begin a new year.

Warmly,

Majoiné Hase

We are SERVICE

Willing spirits, a quick smile, another hour spent lending a hand. Austin College students are committed to volunteer engagement, and now they're celebrating a milestone in service.

For 25 years, the Service Station has been the hub for 'Roos to engage in thousands of hours helping nonprofit agencies, tutoring schoolchildren, organizing Great Day of Service and Alternative Spring Break, and more.

Students are enriched, communities strengthened, lives touched.

Support of the Austin College Service Station provides the foundation for a lifetime of service, at home and around the world. Join the celebration by making a 25th anniversary commemorative gift at www.austincollege.edu/giving.

Deric Richardson-Riddle '18
Eules, Texas
Business Administration major

Great Day of Service 2016

*Volunteering with Zeta Chi Beta
at Grayson County Habitat for
Humanity's warehouse*



SNAPSHOT



Looking Up

Hopkins Center was treated to an upgrade during spring and summer 2016, with installation of a new heating and air system plus aesthetic improvements of paint, carpeting, ceiling tiles, and furnishings. An artistic lighting display now graces the circular stairway at the main entrance. The building's exterior was cleaned, repaired, and sealed as well.

PHOTO BY ERIN E. LAINE '19

SERVING THE COMMUNITY: 25 YEARS



What can a group of 20 committed young people accomplish? Plenty. The Austin College Service Station has coordinated hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours for students since its founding in 1991. In its 25th year, student commitment remains strong.

The program is led by a 20-member student board, and **Nancy Morgan**, coordinator of volunteer services since 2008, guides the group. The mission is to match willing student volunteers with service needs in nearby communities. Short- and long-term projects pass through the Service Station regularly, and the board maintains a



thorough list of community contacts to make sure the opportunities never run dry for individuals and the many campus organizations that have service goals each year.

"There aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe the significance of giving back and what it means to me," said **Henali Patel** '17, who is co-chair of

the Service Station Board with **Ganesh Maniam** '17. "The Service Station Board encourages everyone to discover the joys of giving back and see firsthand how it impacts your personal and academic life for the better."

The Service Station coordinates several annual programs that involve large numbers of students, including First We Serve, a project completed by incoming freshmen each fall; Great Day of Service and a food drive every fall; JanServe during January; GreenServe, environmentally focused service each spring in conjunction with the campus Thinking Green effort; and Alternative Spring

Break service trips that often have included relief and rebuilding following natural disasters.

To mark the 25th anniversary, the Service Station was featured at the November 2016 Collin County AlumNight in Plano, Texas. Friends and alumni gathered to reminisce and review scrapbooks from years past.

Reasons for celebration were plentiful. The Service Station had just completed the 19th Great Day of Service on November 5, during which 426 volunteers mobilized to provide more than 1,275 hours of service to 46 agencies in the surrounding communities. The event's slogan, "Gotta Serve 'Em All," rang true as students were well-received by nonprofit groups with much work to be accomplished.



Other regular programs include tutoring of area school students and coordinating 'RooBound, a monthly Saturday morning enrichment program for area children. International outreach comes through the annual Tostan awareness dinner and art auction, now in its 10th year, which benefits a community empowerment organization in Dakar, Senegal.

The Service Station is part of Religious Life programming and is overseen by Austin College chaplain **John Williams** '84. Initially funded through the Priddy Foundation of Wichita Falls, Texas, the organization has received additional financial support from the Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation, the Captain H.T. Hastings Charitable Trust, Bob and **Laura Dies Campbell** '73, and many other alumni, churches, and friends of the College. ■



The 2016-2017 Service Station Board includes, left to right, front row: Liberte Manirakiza, coordinator Nancy Morgan, Ana Maria Rea, Hannah Myslik, Kevin Mai, Aneesa Vaidya; second row: Parsa Azam, Henali "Henna" Patel, Nina Ding, Zuleyma Ruiz, Krishna Patel, Femy Varghese; and back row: Elise McCarthy, Vidur Marwaha, Nesh Maniam, Pranav Sheth, Brandon Ding, and Hannah Eason.



Service Station Board members pose with Tostan founder Molly Melching, on campus to meet with students and speak at the group's annual Tostan dinner and art auction in spring 2015. Pictured are, left to right, front row: Jade Ross, Kayla Farrar, Alex Ocanas; second row: Vidur Marwaha, Nancy Morgan, Riley Heruska, Molly Melching, Huma Butta, Jamie Willoughby, Savannah Low; and third row: Leslie Wynn, Tyler Hicks, Suzanne Bowles of Tostan, and Andrew McMillan.



Jeannie Graber, Nikki (Bitzer) Christensen, Carol Millerick (not pictured), Melanie Brown Oelfke '84, and Nancy Morgan have served as coordinator of volunteer services throughout the 25 years of service. Nancy Morgan continues in that role today.



As part of orientation, freshmen join Service Station Board members for "First We Serve," and in 2016, prepared 30,036 meals to be distributed through Kids Against Hunger.



These students, along with President Marjorie Hass and Dr. John Williams '84, chaplain, read to students at Washington Elementary School for JanServe 2013 and were delighted to find some of their childhood favorites among the book collection. In other photos, service ranges from raking leaves for senior citizens to disaster relief to work at a food bank and soup kitchen.

HIGHLIGHTS
OF
2016 TEDx
AUSTIN
COLLEGE



**"WE WANT TO SPREAD IDEAS NOT ONLY
WITHIN THE AUSTIN COLLEGE COMMUNITY
BUT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD."**

— Pranav Sheth '18

Page 6—The sights and faces of the inaugural TEDxAustinCollege. Page 7—Left: Pranav Sheth and Ganesh Maniam; Right: Drs. Mark Hébert, David Baker, Lisa Brown, George Diggs



ALONG GRAND AVENUE

IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

The success of the inaugural TEDxAustinCollege, “Adding Value to a Changing World,” in September 2016 set the tone for a busy and energetic fall term. Campus members of Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity proposed the program that would allow students to engage with individuals beyond the local community. College leadership embraced the idea, and TEDxAustinCollege was underway with involvement from the entire Austin College community. TEDx events, licensed by TED, are independently organized and feature local voices.

The student planning team was chaired by **Pranav Sheth** '18 of Plano, Texas, and **Ganesh Maniam** '17 of Houston, Texas. “Austin College sends students to see and serve the

world through study abroad, Global Outreach Fellowships, and other programs,” Sheth said. “Those students extend their knowledge and

ideas beyond the classroom and spread it wherever they go. This time, we want to spread ideas not only within the Austin College community but to the entire world.”

The team decided that for the initial year, speakers should be Austin College faculty. Speakers, selected from

nominations, and their topics were **Dr. Mark Hébert**, associate professor of philosophy, “Happiness vs. Meaning: Must I

Choose?”; **Dr. David Baker**, professor of physics, “The Most Extreme Life Form in Our Solar System”; **Dr. Lisa Brown**, professor of psychology, “Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt? And Who Shouldn’t”; and **Dr. George Diggs**, professor of biology, “Real Food Diets for Lions, Zebras, Humans, and Beyond.”

Austin College President **Marjorie Hass** was pleased that student leadership conceived this event and with the program’s success. “This event brought together remarkable people and innovative concepts that sparked many conversations around ‘ideas worth spreading,’” she said.

Attendees also could participate in various activities in the Discovery Depot in Johnson Gallery before and after the Main Stage speaker presentations.

Videos of each speaker are available on the TEDx website and at www.austincollege.edu/TEDx. A number of alumni, friends, and business sponsors made the 2016 event possible. Those founding partners and business partners also are listed on the website. More support will be needed for 2017. Email TEDx@austincollege.edu for more information on how to get involved.



Honoring A Legacy

Austin College Announces \$7 Million Gift

Lemuel Scarbrough Jr. made his first Annual Fund gift to Austin College upon graduation in 1958. The Austin businessman was a faithful donor to the College over the next 50-plus years and remained connected to faculty and staff at his alma mater.

Throughout his life, he made substantial gifts to permanently endow scholarships and created the Lemuel Scarbrough Summer Research Endowment in honor of Dr. **Paul Beardsley** and Dr. **Clyde Hall**, who had influenced him during his Austin College years. That gift has allowed many Austin College students to complete summer research projects in the humanities and social sciences.

Mr. Scarbrough died in September 2016 and was celebrated at the October meeting of the Austin College Board of Trustees. At that gathering, President **Marjorie Hass** announced one of the largest gifts in the College's history—a \$7 million bequest—from Scarbrough's estate. "We honor tonight the life and legacy of a dedicated



Lemuel Scarbrough Jr.

Austin College alumnus," Dr. Hass told those gathered. "Mr. Scarbrough's foresight and love for the College have allowed us to receive timely support for innovation and momentum in our goals," she said.

This transformative gift allows Austin College to move forward with a priority of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The College is using \$1 million of Scarbrough's gift to create and endow the Lemuel Scarbrough Center for Writing. The remainder of his gift has been placed in a board-designated, new-initiatives fund for future use.

The Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of written communication as a cornerstone of the liberal arts education and includes plans to enhance students' writing skills through curricular and co-curricular programming. To that end, a faculty committee had been working on the curricular needs and planning for creation of a writing resource center once funding became available. Dr. **Greg Kinzer**, associate professor of English and chair of the English Department, is chair of the Writing Center Task Force. He is pleased to see the realization of the next step forward. "The Lemuel Scarbrough Center for Writing will serve as an exciting new community hub for writing at Austin College, fostering a culture of writing on campus," Kinzer said. "Through the center, we will encourage all students to develop an intentional practice of writing that will help them grow as writers and thinkers to better engage with the world around them." A national search is underway for a director for the center.

Board of Trustees Chair **David Corrigan '81** of Dallas, like Scarbrough, was a member of Phi Sigma Alpha fraternity, and joked that \$7 million gifts are the sort of things all Phi Sigs do. More seriously, he echoed the thanks expressed by Dr. Hass and commented on the importance of planned giving. "Mr. Scarbrough's life serves as an inspiration for each of us as we see the impact we can make on behalf of the College throughout our lives—as well as the tremendous potential of our future legacy gifts," he said.

To discuss an estate plan to benefit future generations, please contact **Suzanne Crouch**, CFRE, associate vice president for Institutional Advancement and executive director of estate planning, at 903.813.2059 or at scrouch@austincollege.edu. All who make legacy gifts are members of the John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society. Your legacy matters at Austin College!



Dr. Kenneth Street Law Symposium at Austin College

THE LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Friday | February 17, 2017

Sessions 11 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Reception 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Keynote Address: Charla Aldous '82

Other Speakers:

Lewis Sifford • Dick Grigg • Gabriella McDonald • John Raley

Details at www.austincollege.edu/lawsymposium

Announcements



Allison McBee Dawson

Alumna Named Vice President

Allison McBee Dawson '03 was named vice president for Institutional Advancement at Austin College in March 2016, following an extensive national search. She provides leadership and direction for the advancement team, which includes alumni programming, donor services, communications, and all fundraising activities in concert with President **Marjorie Hass** and the College's Board of Trustees.

Originally joining the Austin College staff in February 2014 as associate vice president in Institutional Advancement and executive director of leadership gifts, Allison served as interim vice president during the search. Prior to joining the Austin College staff, she handled fundraising activities at the Episcopal School of Dallas and Southern Methodist University. She holds a bachelor's degree from Austin College in business administration and a master's degree in American studies from SMU.

"The Institutional Advancement team has exceeded all expectations under Allison's guidance. I have tremendous confidence in her capacity to build a strong framework for fundraising and engaging our constituents," said **David Corrigan '81**, chair of the Board of Trustees.

Grants and Updates

A **\$300,000, three-year Department of Justice grant** awarded in fall 2016 provides full-time personnel and programming to improve prevention and awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking at Austin College.

An **Executive-in-Residence professorship funded by a grant from the M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation** was awarded in December 2015 to enhance the College's offerings in marketing, sales, and retailing education. Modeled after similar programs at larger universities, the program is uniquely applied to the liberal arts environment to serve Austin College students.

Austin College's Career-Empowering STEM Scholars (ACCESS) program is growing, thanks to a **\$650,000 National Science Foundation** grant that will provide scholarships and increase employment success for students pursuing careers in STEM fields.

David Easterly '65 issued a scholarship challenge in June 2016 that resulted in nearly \$900,000 raised for scholarships in just two weeks. His \$500,000 gift, plus response from 355 donors, brought in immediate-use and endowment dollars that will benefit students now and for years into the future.

New to the Austin College Board of Trustees in 2016

Three individuals joined the Austin College Board of Trustees in 2016:

Greg Almond '88
Whitewright, Texas
Furniture Marketing Group

Sally Robinson Nation '64
Dallas, Texas
Nation Foundation

Joe T. Sanders II '00
Austin, Texas
Sanders, Bajwa LLP

Class of 2017 Commencement Weekend Events May 13-14, 2017

May 13: Baccalaureate, 7 p.m.
Sid Richardson Center, Mason Complex

May 14: Commencement, 8:30 a.m.
Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court

See additional events and details:
www.austincollege.edu/commencement





Jack Pierce



Don Rodgers

Campus Saddened by Two Faculty Deaths

Shock rocked the Austin College community—twice—during Fall Term 2016, with the sudden deaths of Dr. **Jack Pierce**, McGaw Chair in Health Sciences and professor of biology, on September 26 and of Dr. **Don Rodgers**, associate professor of political science, on November 13. Both appear to have died from heart attacks.

Pierce had been a member of the Austin College faculty for nearly 50 years and touched the lives of countless students in and out of the classroom. In addition to advising hundreds of students interested in health science careers, Pierce was a long-time sponsor for the Kappa Gamma Chi sorority and the Pre-Health Society (formerly Pre-Medical Society). Dr. Pierce held the Mary W. and Foster G. McGaw Chair in Health Sciences and was the College's long-time NCAA faculty representative. He also was one of Austin College athletes' greatest fans, in the stands for almost all home sporting competitions.

The campus had barely settled when word spread of the death of Don Rodgers. A member of the Austin College faculty since 2003, he taught political science and served as director of the program in Nonprofit Organizations and Public Service. In that role, he served as director of the summer grant writing internship program, Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA). He had accompanied students on Model United Nations trips and January Term courses in Taiwan and served as faculty advisor for the Amnesty International student organization.

The professional loss to the College in these deaths is immense, and faculty in their departments immediately stepped in to fill the administrative and teaching voids created. The personal loss to colleagues, friends, students, and alumni is without measure. Life in the days of social media means that word spread rapidly among friends far and wide, and the heartfelt responses came quickly.

On campus, students, staff, and faculty gathered to share one another's grief. "Don's bench" on Windsor Mall became a memorial and site for flowers and remembrances. Facebook tributes from alumni and students spoke again and again of the care of the two faculty members and the inspiration they had been to their students. "If not for Jack, I wouldn't be where I am today." "Don believed in me when I didn't believe in myself." ... The same messages repeated again and again, from current students and alumni long gone from the College, now on paths that these dedicated educators helped their students discover.

Memorial gifts may be made at www.austincollege.edu/giving.

Lessons from the Prairie

Children from more than 20 school districts have learned firsthand about the environment in field trips to Austin College's Sneed Prairie. In October 2016, the program marked a huge milestone: a visit by the group including the 10,000th child to participate since the field trip program began in summer 2002.



"I hope by the time I grow up the whole prairie will be restored back to its old healthy ways again."

The mostly fourth- and fifth-grade students and teachers visit the College's 100-acre Clinton and Edith Sneed Environmental Research Area, donated to the College in 1984 by the Sneeds. Children, guided by Austin College students, trek across the prairie as they engage in experiments and activities that teach the significance of the endangered Texas blackland prairie ecosystem. Teachers receive preparation materials and follow-up activities designed by Austin College alumni in alignment with Texas curriculum requirements.

A number of grants have supported the field trips since 2004, with funding currently from the Priddy Community Foundation.

This month, Austin College students are enrolled in a hands-on Prairie Restoration course, taught by Dr. **Peter Schulze**, director of the College's Center for Environmental Studies and professor of biology and environmental science. Students apply a combination of restoration techniques to a variety of experimental plots.

HISTORY UNEARTHED



The ancient city of Sicyon lays buried deep under the topsoil on a low plateau near the sea of Corinth. Centuries ago, the city was a major player for the arts and sciences. Today, a quiet village nearby hosts dozens of college students who come from all over the world to excavate its treasures for the archeological season.

Dr. **Martin Wells**, Austin College assistant professor of classics, traveled with **Jon Moore** '19 and **Ashley Hernandez** '17 in July 2016 to work at the excavation site where he is field director. "The two most important things I hope they come away with are an appreciation for other cultures and an appreciation for the past," Wells said. "We aren't alone on this planet, and meeting people and making friends from other countries lets us keep that in mind. Studying the past also helps us keep perspective—the great civilizations we study and dig up in the field thought they would last forever. But, like them, we'll all end up covered in dust someday."

The students and supervisors spent six weeks in the Greek sun moving topsoil by wheelbarrows and ultimately feathering away the dust from artifacts with delicate brushes. "One of my favorite finds was a coin I found in the Monolith room



of the Roman industrial complex where we were excavating," Hernandez said. "They were able to identify Julia Domna, Emperor Septimius Severus' wife, on it. The context of the coin made it all the more interesting because I found it between two surfaces. This means that we could use the coin to get a *terminus post quem* (date after which) for the surface above it. So we know the area was resurfaced after Julia Domna's time."

Wells has taken two groups of Austin College students on the trip, and said the opportunity attracts students who have a deep curiosity about the past and about the world. He said they are adventurous, self-reliant, and outgoing; have no problem with hard, physical work; and are great teammates.

"History tells us who we are and where we came from," Moore said. "Sure, 'it's how we learn from our mistakes,' but there are so many other reasons to study history. It's real, more dramatic and interesting; it's rich and full of compelling characters, and it really happened," he said.

Moore and Hernandez presented a campus seminar in fall 2016 about their experiences. "History has always been my favorite subject, particularly ancient Greek and Roman history," Moore said. "Those are my favorite movies, books, and even video games. So, to have the opportunity to go and see it, to get my hands dirty, and uncover stuff—I couldn't pass it up."

Spring 2016 Highlights

Honors Convocation 2016

Homer P. Rainey Awards

Ginger Chauncey, associate registrar, and **John West**, director of Abell Library, received the 2016 Homer P. Rainey Awards in recognition of outstanding achievement and service to the College. A member of the Office of the Registrar staff since 1975, Ginger works with students from enrollment through graduation and has extensive knowledge of the College's current and historical curriculum. West, who began work at the College in 1984, has been instrumental in bringing technological innovation to Austin College in the era of digital library services, while sustaining a commitment to the best of the age of print. Homer P. Rainey, a much-honored 1919 graduate of Austin College, had a distinguished lifetime career in higher education.



Ginger Chauncey



John West

Baker Named Piper Professor

David Baker, Austin College professor of physics, was one of 10 Minnie Stevens Piper Professors announced in spring 2016 in recognition of superior teaching among Texas college and university educators. "My goal is to create awesome learning experiences for all students," he said. "As a first-generation college student myself, I understand that each



David Baker

individual brings a different set of experiences—we all learn in different ways and get our intellectual sparks at different moments. Since curiosity drives so much of our learning, the process must be filled with awe." Baker joined the Austin College faculty in 2000 and serves as chair of the Department of Physics and director of the College's Adams Observatory, which houses one of the largest research-grade telescopes in North Texas.

individual brings a different set of experiences—we all learn in different ways and get our intellectual sparks at different moments. Since curiosity drives so much of our learning, the



Mark Smith

Smith Named to Craig Professorship

Mark Smith, professor of art, was installed as the Craig Professor in the Arts at Honors Convocation 2016. A member of the Austin College faculty since 1986, he is a painter with over four decades of experience working as a professional artist. He teaches courses in drawing, painting, and design.

Teaching Excellence

Dr. **Light Cummins**, professor of history and the Guy M. Bryan Chair of American History, received the 2016 Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Award. "I attempt to communicate an honest zeal and an explicit excitement for my subject in every moment of my teaching," he said. "I constantly attempt to appreciate every student both as a person and as an intellect, realizing that each undergraduate has a reservoir of talent and ability that I should help them to develop." Cummins has been a member of the history faculty at Austin College since 1978. Widely recognized as an expert in Texas history, he served as State Historian of Texas from May 2009 through July 2012.

Dr. **Lance Barton**, associate professor of biology, was announced as the College's nominee for the 2017 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor. "Austin College has many great teachers who all place great importance on educating the outstanding students we have here," Barton said. "I have been blessed to have some truly amazing students who make each day in the classroom an exciting new adventure. I tend to measure my own success by the success of my former students, so to be identified by this award is very surprising, and I am very honored by the recognition." A member of the Austin College faculty since 2003, Barton's courses include cell biology, cellular physiology, immunology, cancer biology, human infectious diseases, and research and design of experiments.



Light Cummins



Lance Barton

Commencement 2016 Honorees

The May 2016 Commencement address was provided by the Honorable **Michael S. Rawlings**, mayor of Dallas. Rawlings received an honorary doctorate during the ceremony as did the Reverend **Felipe Martínez**, who presented the Baccalaureate sermon the previous evening. Martínez, a 1988 alumnus of the College is pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana. Also receiving honorary doctorates were 1972 alumna **Carmen Tafolla** of San Antonio, Texas, a prolific and well-known author, speaker, and performance artist who serves as Poet Laureate of the State of Texas; **Clarice Tinsley** of Dallas, Texas, the longest-serving news anchor in the Dallas/Fort Worth market; and **Anna Laura Page** of Sherman, Texas, accomplished musician and composer who served the College as first lady throughout the presidency of Oscar C. Page from July 1994 to June 2009.



Michael S. Rawlings



Felipe Martínez



Carmen Tafolla



Clarice Tinsley



Anna Laura Page



Joshua Chanin, originally of London, England, later of Coppell, Texas, was selected by his classmates as the senior speaker.



Carlynn Fagnant



Sarah Dillabough

Each year, the faculty selects two outstanding seniors to receive the Kidd and Robinson Scholar Medals based upon the entire academic record as reflected on the transcript, course distribution, cumulative grade point average, and credits earned. President **Marjorie Hass** presented the 2016 awards to **Carlynn Elizabeth Fagnant** of The Woodlands, Texas, and **Sarah Elena Dillabough** of El Paso, Texas. Carlynn earned Honors in Mathematics while completing majors in economics and mathematics. Sarah completed majors in environmental studies and political science and a minor in French. Both summa cum laude graduates were 2016 inductees to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society.

Faculty Retirements



Jerry B. Johnson



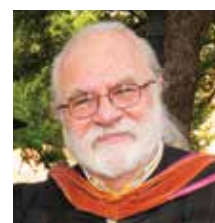
DeDe Hosek



Ida Hudgins



Barbara Sylvester



Timothy Tracz



John West

Several Austin College faculty retired at the close of the spring 2016 term. Read more about them in this section of the online magazine at <http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu/>

Events are reported regularly at austincollege.edu/news and in the monthly e-newsletter. Subscribe at www.austincollege.edu/newsletter



FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

GO GO GO!
GO GO GO!
GO GO GO!

The **Austin College volleyball team** had a solid 2016 campaign, finishing 24-15 overall and ending the year with a fourth-place finish in SCAC regular-season standings as well as the SCAC tournament. Several athletes reached milestones, with both **Madison Lee '17** and **Presleigh Watson '17** reaching the 1,000-kill plateau for their careers. Fewer than 10 Austin College players have reached that mark. **Katie Ingle '19** finished the season with more than 1,000 assists and reached 2,000 for her career. **Madi McVay '18** hit the 1,000-dig mark for her career.



Madison Lee



Presleigh Watson



Katie Ingle



Madi McVay



Branden Hunt



Michael Rinehart



Cesar Ruiz

The **Austin College football team** wrapped up its final season as a member of the SCAC with a 3-7 overall record, and will head into the Southern Athletic Association as an affiliate member in 2017. A season highlight was the 30-28 road victory over Texas Lutheran—the program's first win over TLU since 2010. Offensive linemen **Branden Hunt '17** and **Michael Rinehart '17**, placekicker **Cesar Ruiz '18**, defensive tackle **Zain Byers '17**, linebacker **Charles Eneh '17**, and defensive back **TJ Melontree '19** were First Team All-SCAC honorees. Seven players were named to the All-SCAC Honorable Mention listing.



Zain Byers



Charles Eneh



TJ Melontree



Austin College is a member
of the Southern Collegiate
Athletic Conference.



The **Austin College men's and women's cross country teams** performed well in the 2016 season, with several runners putting together some of the best individual performances in program history. The women's team finished fifth at the SCAC Championship Meet, while the men finished sixth.

The **Austin College women's soccer team** entered a transition season in 2016, with new head coach **David Sheridan** leading the 'Roos to the sixth seed in the SCAC tournament. The 'Roos finished the year with a record of 3-13-2, falling in the SCAC quarterfinals when they were edged in double overtime by third-seed Texas Lutheran.



The **Austin College men's soccer team** had a strong overall season, finishing with a record of 10-9-2 and hosting the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) championship tournament. The 'Roos fell to eventual champion Trinity University in the semifinal round. **Phillip Le '19** had an historic season, scoring 14 goals—the most by any Austin College player since the program joined the SCAC—to lead the conference. He was a two-time SCAC Player of the Week. Le also was named Third Team All-West Region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America—one of only 10 SCAC players recognized.



Phillip Le



Cesar Ruiz

Academic Honors

Phillip Le '19 of the soccer team and **Cesar Ruiz '18** of the 'Roo football squad were named CoSIDA Academic All-District selections during the fall 2016 season. The honor places them among the top scholar-athletes in the region and makes them eligible for Academic All-America honors.

Le is completing majors in finance and economics. He has aspirations to become a professional soccer player and is working toward that goal. If that doesn't happen, he would pursue coaching and start his own soccer company.

Ruiz is completing a major in international economics and finance, with minors in Spanish and non-profit organizations and public service. His career goal is to work in international development through the United Nations or the State Department.



"A" Run Raises \$7,500

The "A" Run for 'Roos at Homecoming 2016 included more than 55 participants. The run, sponsored by the "A" Athletics Alumni group, brought in \$7,500 for Athletics Enrichment funds that support Austin College sports programs.



Celebrating Jerry and Joy Apple

"We are blessed at Austin College to have many dedicated alumni but none more so than the late **Jerry Apple '60**," President **Marjorie Hass** told a large group of alumni and friends present for a luncheon October 29 in celebration of "Jerry and Joy Apple Day."

"Jerry loved Austin College and he loved Austin College athletics. Though we miss him on the upper deck of the football stadium cheering on the 'Roo's, we are pleased that his name lives on in Apple Stadium. Though **Joy Apple** graduated from the University of Texas, she has been a part of Austin College since she and Jerry

married in 1971. She has probably attended more Austin College dinners, football games, and other gatherings than most of our alumni! We are so grateful for their devotion and their investment in our mission of educating talented students."

Joy shared that the celebration was happening 60 years after Jerry arrived at Austin College as a freshman. She and Jerry met on campus; Jerry's career began on campus; and many lifelong friendships were created on campus. She said she knew from the beginning that Austin College would be a part of their lives forever.

Through the years, Jerry served on the Alumni Board and as a member of the Austin College Board of Trustees. Jerry and Joy have supported many campus programs and facilities over the years, most significantly Jerry Apple Stadium.

Kylie Peterson '17, president of the Austin College Student Athlete Advisory Council, read the official proclamation establishing Jerry and Joy Apple Day at half-time of the game. Joy also took part in the official coin toss and other special events organized by Athletic Director **David Norman '83**.

A few months before Jerry's passing, he and Joy established the Apple Challenge for Coaching. Joy continues her commitment to match up to \$50,000 per year toward the goal of \$200,000 annually for five years to fund additional coaching positions at the College. To make a gift toward the challenge, email **David Norman** at dnorman@austincollege.edu or **Ryan Britt** of Institutional Advancement at rbritt@austincollege.edu or give online at www.austincollege.edu/applechallenge.



Coach Michelle Filander



Coach Mike Ramsey

Accolades for 'Roo Coaches

Two Austin College coaches earned recognitions recently for their own playing history.

Women's basketball coach **Michelle Filander** was inducted into the Ohio District 12 Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame for her outstanding high school playing career. She continued playing in college until an injury sidelined her—and her coach put her on the coaching squad. "That changed my trajectory, and I am so grateful every day that she offered me the opportunity. I have been so fortunate through my career to have worked for and with some of the best female coaches in the country and know personally how they affect and change the lives of their athletes. It motivates me to keep working hard to provide our

athletes at Austin College the same quality experience." Coach Filander came to Austin College in 2010.

Baseball coach **Mike Ramsey** likewise earned accolades for his playing career, being inducted into the Texas Christian University Athletics Hall of Fame. Ramsey was a standout player for the Horned Frogs, and still holds TCU records for career and single-season batting average. Also named an Academic All-American, he graduated from TCU in 1985. Now in his third year as coach at Austin College, Ramsey was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds following his collegiate career and played in the minors. He later moved into coaching and has spent more than 25 years in the field.



Our student-athletes are winning in every way. Over one-quarter of students enrolled at Austin College participate on athletic teams—competing in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference in 16 sports.

They're at the top of their game, with the average student-athlete GPA at 3.07. They're earning SCAC recognition for academic achievement as well as athletic skills. And, they are inspiring 'Roo fans to cheer for the crimson and gold at every competition.

Your support of Athletics Enrichment helps sustain excellence in the classroom and on the court. Make your gift or pledge online at www.austincollege.edu/giving.

EXCELLENCE.

ROOS FOR ROOS

For more information, contact:
David Norman '83 at 903.813.2401
dnorman@austincollege.edu
Ryan Britt at 903.209.8526
rbritt@austincollege.edu



FOR LOVE OF THE GAME . . . AND THE **PLAYERS**

When athletes come off the field, who is right there with praise or a word of correction? After an athlete thinks he has given his all, who asks for more? The coach.

And, who is watching for grades, and good habits, and conduct off the court? When an athlete thinks she is all alone, who steps in? The coach.

Coaches help athletes develop to their full potential. They train them in their sport by analyzing their performances, instructing in relevant skills, and providing encouragement. And they wear many hats: bus driver, tutor, and first responder. For many young athletes, a coach serves as a mentor, a lifeline, and for some—an important lead to a job down the road.

These Austin College alumni who entered careers in coaching played different sports in different decades. Some knew they wanted to be coaches from the beginning; others got there as fast as they could.

They share an appreciation for their liberal arts educations, a passion for their teams, and a belief that they were coached by the best at Austin College.





By Leigh-Ellen Romm



Editor's Note:

When we discussed an article on alumni in the coaching profession, so many names were brought up, an entire book would have been needed to tell the stories. The legacy of Austin College alumni coaches is a long and successful one—and goes back for decades. Would we profile Larry Fedora '85 who leads the Division I University of North Carolina Tar Heels in football? Go back a few years and tell the story of the namesake of Austin College's Kedric Couch '55 Alumni Coach of the Year Award and his distinguished career in Dallas? What about the coaching legends who have passed away? You see the problem—and we wanted to include a variety of sports and class years. So, we went with mostly younger coaches, the up-and-comers on their way to the headlines. (One retiree came to our attention in a sport we hadn't covered.) We know there are many, many others we could have selected but we had room for only a few. Are you a coach by profession? Athletic Director David Norman '83 is compiling a list of all coaches—current and retired. Send your information to dnorman@austincollege.edu.



BUCK BUCHANAN '97

- Head Football Coach
- Hendrix College Warriors
- Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas



FAVORITE COACHING QUOTE:

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

— Teddy Roosevelt

Justin “Buck” Buchanan '97 never faced a Hendrix College football team when he played for the 'Roos. Hendrix did not have a football program—and would not until 2013 when the former Austin College lineman wore the whistle as the first head coach in 53 years.

“I knew I fit in here at Hendrix, and I think that being an academically oriented DIII coach is in my wheelhouse,” Buck said. In his first season as coach, he had only 52 players. Because everyone got more field time, the coach feels the players got better faster.

“We have gone from last place to the playoffs in three years,” Buck said, “using a simple philosophy: don’t wait to get good. You can’t live soft and play tough, so just do your best when you have the opportunity. That is a direct reflection of how I was coached.”

When Buck lists the names of his Austin College coaches it sounds like a list of all-time 'Roo heroes: **Bob Mason '52, Mel Tjeerdsma, Vance Morris, Sig Lawson,** and current athletic director **David Norman '83.** “I always wanted to go to Austin College,” Buck, originally from nearby Denison, Texas, said. “It was in my backyard, and I wanted to play for those coaches.” He graduated cum laude, with majors in communications and exercise and sport science and earned his Master of Arts in Teaching degree in 1999 through the Austin Teacher Program.

Buck said he believes Division III student-athletes choose colleges for the academic rigor, but if they couldn’t play the games they love, they might choose to attend elsewhere.

“The thing I like most about the Division III athletics is that it’s a relationship-based process, not a business-based one,” Buck said. “We recruit our guys by looking at three things: academics, character, and then athletic ability. Of course, you want to bring the right students for the team. But I’m glad that I never have to say to a student, ‘Hey, you have to end your college education because I’m giving your scholarship to that guy over there.’”

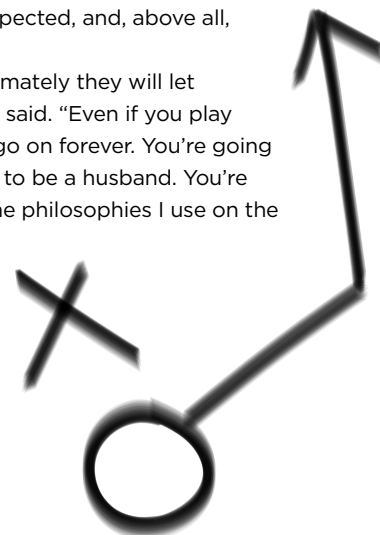
“An important piece of the puzzle is this: you can be smart and a great football player, or other athlete, or artist, or whatever you want to be. You can do all you want to do, but you must learn about time management,” he said. “I learned that while at Austin College. A big part of my success beyond Austin College is what I learned from faculty **John and Jane White** in the Austin Teacher Program.”

“Education is the sum total of life experiences,” Buck said. “Some people draw a line and say, ‘we are going to be winners in life, but it is okay if we lose on the field.’ I just don’t adhere to that mentality. I didn’t as a student-athlete because I wanted to be my best in the classroom *and* on the field.”

“On my team, we live by three things. First, no foolish penalties. Second, no botched assignments. And, third, 11 brothers can’t be beat,” he said. Translated

to the rest of life, he said this means don’t do dumb stuff, do what is expected, and, above all, build relationships.

“You can play, but ultimately they will let the air out of the ball,” he said. “Even if you play professionally, it doesn’t go on forever. You’re going to be a dad. You’re going to be a husband. You’re going to have a job. All the philosophies I use on the field, work off the field.”



Heather Woods Sanders '91 carries her coaching persona into the classroom. "I coach both volleyball and calculus to win," she said. "I want my kids to succeed on the AP Calculus exam so we take an 'US vs. THEM' approach to the AP test."

Heather coaches volleyball and teaches calculus at Canyon High School in New Braunfels, Texas. Through the support of her family, Heather said she was led to believe that she could do whatever she wanted in life.

"My middle school and high school coaches and teachers were some of the most influential people in my life, and they are the reasons I ultimately chose the profession," she said. "I felt called to coach so that maybe I could be to others what those coaches and teachers were to me."

After earning her Austin College degree in 1991, Heather earned teacher certification in math at the University of Texas. She taught at Bryan High School while her husband, **Brien '91**, completed his master's degree at Texas A&M. After three years as an assistant coach at her high school alma mater in New Braunfels, she was hired at Canyon High, where she has spent 23 years, 18 of those working as head coach.

The Canyon High School Cougars have a diverse campus with just under 50 percent of the student body identified as minority.

"My liberal arts education gave me an appreciation for all sorts of perspectives on all sorts of issues," Heather said. "As an educator, you encounter people from many backgrounds and perspectives on life." Heritage classes, study abroad in Paris, and an international studies class in Washington, D.C., laid her foundation of broadened thinking. On that foundation, she works with her students to see them reach their own potential.

"I push them hard and I want a strong work ethic from everyone in my class. I try to create a culture where it is okay to fail as long as you learn from mistakes and are better the next time."

Mike Sorrells '65 earned a business degree and expected to go to work using it. Although he had played football at Austin College and had minored in physical education, coaching was not the original plan. But, plans change.

"I've known people who have said they wanted to be a coach for as long as they can remember," he said. "I'm not one of them. I think it just evolved as I realized I really liked sports, especially football, and thought it might be a fun way to make a living," he said.

For 33 years, he made a living and a difference in the lives of athletes. It started with a homecoming of sorts when Mike's former Highland Park High School football coach offered him a job right out of college. He took that offer, and the next year, Mike got an extra \$500 stipend to coach the swim team, too—and \$500 went a long way in 1966 so he thought it was worthwhile. By his retirement in 2002, Mike had definitely gone the distance in the Highland Park pool, eventually devoting his coaching solely to swimming.

Rockwall ISD opened a new Aquatic Center in 2009, and Mike came out of retirement to serve as Aquatics Director for that district. "I didn't coach but got to hire most of the coaches and give them the same opportunity I had received except in a much fancier facility," he said. He hung up his whistle again in 2011.

"I was most fortunate to coach a lot of really great kids, some of whom became really good and even great swimmers," Mike said. During his career, he coached more than 40 individual and relay state champions and sent five swimmers to the Olympics. "I tried to instill in them the idea not to cheat themselves," he said, "to be the best they could be, not only in swimming, but in whatever they chose to do. It was fun to see kids I coached have success at all levels of swimming but also to see those who have had remarkable success in other aspects of life."

HEATHER SANDERS '91

- Assistant Athletic Director, Volleyball Coach, Calculus Teacher
- Canyon High School Cougars
- Comal Independent School District, New Braunfels, Texas



FAVORITE COACHING QUOTE:

"Impossible is nothing."
— Muhammad Ali

MIKE SORRELLS '65

- Head Swim Coach, retired
- Highland Park Scotties
- Highland Park Independent School District, Highland Park, Texas



FAVORITE COACHING QUOTE:

"Be the best YOU can be."

2012 inductee to Texas
Swimming and Diving
Hall of Fame

RANSOM OKPALA '14

- Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
- LeTourneau University Yellow Jackets
- LeTourneau University, Longview, Texas



FAVORITE COACHING QUOTE:

“It's not the amount of time that you are in the gym that counts but what you put into the time when you are in the gym.”

— Larry Bird

Ransom Okpala '14 remembers being on the B team.

“I come from a very big family and I'm the oldest of seven,” Ransom said. “When you're in a big family, everyone wants to find their niche. You want to be different and find something you're good at.”

“In seventh grade I was on the A team in basketball. But in eighth grade I was on the B team. That lit a fire in me to get better,” Ransom said. “Then as I developed from eighth to ninth grade, I spent the summer training, and it led me to my craft. People would say, ‘you're so much better!’ but I knew it was the training.”

Ransom played basketball at Austin College for four years, served as team captain for three, and was named to the All-SCAC team more than once. After earning his bachelor's degree in finance and economics, he worked in Katy, Texas, as a business analyst and then an inside sales manager. But, he has known since he was very young that basketball was his “thing.”

Returning to his passion, Ransom started a personal training business at Lifetime Fitness. Through that he connected with many young athletes from kindergarten through 12th grade. “I worked with them in groups and individually and began to see I have many that are solely basketball athletes. Recreational basketball usually practices and plays just in the summer, so I wanted to give them something that was year-round.”

Okpala began to put together teams and now has four teams that he coaches—two eighth-grade, one sixth-grade, and one fifth-grade team.



“The best thing about sixth-grade boys is they are really excited. They love to play. The hardest part is adding the discipline aspect to the practice and to the game,”

Ransom said. “It's interesting to see the growth in those boys. There are eighth graders who have practiced three weeks and are ready for games. The sixth graders have been practicing for two months, and they're still not ready. It's the child's mind.”

He works as the only coach but says he gets support from the kids' families. With a

cooperative arrangement at Lifetime Fitness, he is able to have court time for the teams to play.

“Anyone who knows me knows I'm super competitive,” Ransom said, adding that was especially true at Austin College. “As a coach, I've learned to pull back a little on that. In coaching, you have to bring that edge out of each kid in his own way; that's kind of the evil-genius thing of coaching.”

Ransom is preparing to transition his basketball genius to another, bigger court. His recent hire as assistant basketball coach at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, will draw particularly on his experience as a DIII student-athlete. He'll bring his team-building experience to the recruiting effort and help players on and off the field. Transitioning over the spring, Ransom will be completely on board there by August 2017.

The new position means leaving his youth basketball teams as they develop through their critical middle school years. “I'm looking for the right coach to take this thing over. The kids mean a lot to me and, I can't leave them with just anyone; it has to be the right person,” he said.

The right person coaches with an A team mentality. Ransom wants to encourage all athletes, growing or grown, B team or better, to find their niche and to train for strength, skill, and endurance.



You can lead a business major to a desk job, but you can't make her stay.

Lexi Beeson '14, now assistant director of strength and conditioning at University of Texas at San Antonio, was preparing for her Austin College graduation and had a job offer on the table. "I was offered a position as a business analyst with a fairly prominent company and realized that the idea of sitting at a computer doing work in Excel all day wasn't something that would truly make me happy."

Mentor **David Norman '83** suggested the former women's basketball team captain look into coaching instead. "I'm extremely thankful for him because I truly love my job," she said. With her minor in exercise and sport science and commitment to her own training, Lexi transitioned to the gym.

Lexi picked up her best coaching strategies not only on the court but also in the classroom. "I learned from my time at Austin College how to approach different students and athletes," she said. "Austin College truly teaches you to be accepting of different cultures and people in general and to think about things from other perspectives than just your own. I think that's extremely important in coaching as not every athlete responds to things the same way."

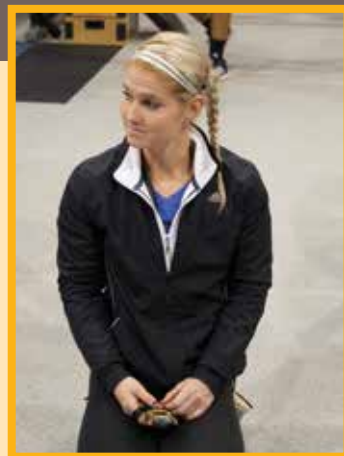
"In coaching I've dealt with hundreds of athletes, all with a different story and background so I think that it's been invaluable to be able to think about how each athlete may respond to situations or coaching tactics differently and what might be most effective for each," she said. Last year, Lexi worked with a basketball player who transferred to UTSA from another Division I school and was therefore not allowed to play for a full year. She was a serious athlete with aspirations of playing professionally after college. "I didn't want her staying on the two-to-three day-per-week, season-maintenance lift that the rest of the girls were on," she said. "So, I wrote her a four-day-per-week lifting and conditioning program aimed at increasing her strength, power, and speed to give her the greatest athletic advantage when she was able to participate."

All the athletes at UTSA are Lexi's athletes. Starting her day at 6 a.m. with the first team lift and often ending 12 hours later, she customizes the gym work according to the team, time of year, and coach's needs. The coaching staff communicates to help Lexi bring out the athlete's best. "Where my job is unique is that I can see each of the athletes from each of my teams all year long, whereas a softball or volleyball coach has certain times of the year where they are restricted in how much access they have to their athletes. Sometimes they aren't allowed any hours with them at all. In the off-season times, I am typically with the athletes more than their head coaches are, so being on the same page as an entire staff is incredibly important." ■



LEXI BEESON '14

- Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning
- University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners
- UTSA, San Antonio, Texas



FAVORITE COACHING QUOTE:

“I'm not out there sweating for three hours every day just to find out what it feels like to sweat.”

— Michael Jordan





THIS IS US
DIVERSE AND UNITED

To remain relevant an institution must adjust—either lead the way or respond in a timely manner to cultural growth and educational needs.

By Leigh-Ellen Romm



On any sunny afternoon in Fall Term 2016, some of the 365 members of Austin College's Class of 2020 pass through campus along Windsor Mall, the branches over the tree-lined walkway creating a shady archway overhead. The scene offers a picture-perfect view of today's campus while the melodious strains of the carillon from Wynne Chapel add atmosphere to the moment.

When the 60-some members of the Class of 1956 arrived on campus, College Street ran through campus where Windsor Mall is today, and cars drove by the Administration Building and Student Union Building, right on past Hughey Gym. No Wynne Chapel or carillon bells existed.

President Marjorie Hass frequently tells alumni that though campus buildings come and go, students and faculty graduate and retire, and courses change, the foundational liberal arts education that makes the Austin College experience transformational for its students remains. The College continues to educate students with a focus on academic excellence, intellectual and personal integrity, and participation in community life that emphasizes respect for all its members.



Pictured—Left: Members of Black Expressions perform at the 2016 Student International Organization Fashion Show, which welcomes participation from all campus groups. *Photo by Erin E. Laine.* Above: All campus social and cultural organizations are represented at the Opportunity Fair held the first week of classes each fall in order to familiarize new and returning students with options for involvement. *Photo by Katie Barber*

To remain relevant an institution must adjust—either lead the way or respond in a timely manner to cultural growth and educational needs. Austin College welcomed women into the student body two years before they won the Constitutional right to vote. In 1942, when the country needed trained military, Austin College taught more than 300 men and women in engineering, science, and management courses sponsored by the United States Office of Education.

During the presidency of Dr. **John D. Moseley** (1953 – 1978), the campus evolved into the modern age of diversity and saw the beginning of educational practices still used today. Just four decades later, Austin College has its first woman president. The student body and faculty, too, continue to evolve.

Today's Austin College

A look at today's student body offers a vibrant picture of people from 30 different citizenships, many religions, or no religion at all. Students identify as liberal, conservative, and wondering. They work hard in areas of study ranging from accounting to Western intellectual tradition. Students come from rural communities and metropolitan cities, graduating from homeschools, private schools, and public schools. They excel in academics, co-curricular activities, and athletics. They've served their communities and their places of worship.

Today's students also represent greater ethnic diversity than ever before, as well as a new high in first-generation college students. In fact, the Class of 2020 is the first minority-majority class in the history of the College. Fifty-three percent of freshmen identify as non-white, which brings the minority group percentage of the entire student body to 48 percent. That's a demographic President Hass is proud to announce.

"Those diversity numbers matter not for the sake of a 'favorable' statistic," Dr. Hass said. "We want a diverse student body because the world in which we live is diverse—and diversity of perspectives expands the experience of all. Our faculty

racial diversity also is increasing—from 8 percent in 2010 to 16 percent in 2016. We all have much to learn from one another, whether about life in a country halfway around the globe or the culture of the neighbor down the street. The diversity of our community allows easy dialogue and identity with individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences."

Dr. Hass welcomes the discourse. "We continue to welcome talented students no matter their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, religion, or country of birth," she said. "All students are welcome and should feel they are the center of their college experience and not on the periphery—not because we believe this is politically correct or religiously mandated, but because we cannot fulfill our mission any other way."

Earlier in 2016, Dr. Hass created the Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity to develop recommendations for best practices for underserved and minority groups in all areas of the College. Dr. Hass says she wants all members of the community to feel valued—not just to the point of acceptance or comfort, though that is important, but valued for their contributions.

Austin College chaplain Dr. **John Williams** '84 and psychology professor Dr. **Lisa M. Brown** serve as co-directors of the task force. Together they lead a team that looks holistically at how Austin College supports diversity and how it serves the educational mission, which includes teaching students to think critically and clearly, understand and respect differences, and express themselves persuasively.

"I definitely had not been in such a diverse place before I came to Austin College," **Yasmin Renteria** '19 said, "so my freshman year was really an eye-opening experience." She is the president of Los Amigos, a student group organized to bring people together to learn about and celebrate Hispanic culture. Most members are Hispanic students although all are welcome, and many students of other backgrounds join because of an interest in the culture and language. Membership has increased



Pictured—Left: The Art Bus, decorated by Art Department students, draws attention for the Student Organization of Modern Art. Above: The Indian Cultural Association celebrates Diwali each year, at which many student groups and individuals participate. This group is shown in performance at the 2015 event. Diwali is one of the largest festivals in Indian culture. *Photos by Katie Barber*

this year, likely a reflection of a greater number of Hispanics in the student body overall. The campus organization list includes several cultural groups, all intent on enjoying their own traditions and sharing them with others who are interested.

Sharing and hearing first-hand knowledge of various cultures and religions enhances the discussion-based classes that are common in a liberal arts education. “In the classroom the professors are open to students’ insight,” said **Nikhil Jaisanghani** ’17, who is president of the Hindu Student Association and the Indian Cultural Association. “For instance, I took a gnostics class with **Peter Anderson** (associate professor of English). Much of what we studied had connection with my own religion, and I was encouraged to share. Professors help us develop a confidence to share from our own experience.”

Sharing perspectives is not an occasional opportunity. “There’s a lot of liberty to connect with like-minded peers to talk about issues that matter to them,” Jaisanghani continued.

While the College’s connection with the Presbyterian Church (USA) remains strong and the majority of the student body identifies as Christian, the Religious Life Program cultivates an inclusive atmosphere that supports students’ faith journeys regardless of religious tradition. “We’re not diverse in spite of being a Presbyterian college,” Williams said. “We’re diverse because we’re a Presbyterian college.” The campus community includes opportunities for Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant students who want to grow in their religious tradition. All groups have open-membership policies so students can learn about one another’s beliefs and views. Inter-faith dialogues are encouraged and supported.

“As a cultural group, Muslim Students Association (MSA) adds a valuable voice about Islam and raising awareness of how Islam really is,” said **Rija Soofi** ’18, president of the group. “MSA stretches far beyond simply an ‘organization.’ This is a community where Muslims who are away from home can feel comfortable growing and practicing Islam.”

Student organizations dedicated to the celebration and sharing of ideas—Los Amigos (Hispanic culture), Gender-Sexuality Alliance, Indian Cultural Association, Student International Organization, Black Expressions, and Asian Student Association as examples—provide campus events that are attended by broad cross-sections of the campus community.

New Dynamics

President Hass and the Board of Trustees have committed to making an Austin College education accessible to talented students from a wide range of economic backgrounds through merit-based scholarships. Evidence of academic excellence and potential to succeed are the key decision-making factors in granting admission.

In 2016, some 35 percent of students came from households with an Adjusted Gross Income of less than \$50,000, and the percentage of students eligible for PELL grants, representing high financial need, has grown from 22 percent to 29 percent over the past five years. That creates another set of issues.

“New dynamics lead to new conversations. And, those bring new problems,” said Dr. **Lisa M. Brown**, professor of psychology. “The socioeconomic change in the student body brings a set of issues I’ve never seen before. When a student suggests dropping a class because he can’t afford the book, it’s time to consider socioeconomics in our planning. And, it’s time to find an extra book. Also, the fact that his first solution was to drop the class shows we have work to do.”

First-generation college students (the first in their family to attend college) may experience a steep learning curve that begins with understanding the jargon, requirements, and logistics of higher education. And, they face these and other challenges while making all the usual adjustments to the responsibilities and freedoms of campus life, like living with a roommate, learning to manage time, and being away from family.



Austin College has more than 70 campus organizations, including interest groups such as Society of Physics Students and Pre-Law Society. Students participate in honor societies, local fraternities and sororities, and service and religious groups like InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Cultural groups like the Asian Student Association educate, support, and celebrate traditions and heritages. *Photos by Katie Barber*

Many Austin College athletes happen to be the first generation of their families to attend college. “If we’re doing the work of Austin College and building trust through recruiting then I already have a good sense of a student’s background,” said **Michelle Filander**, head women’s basketball coach. “I use sports language because that’s a language with which they’re quite proficient. When they want the ball they go after it, and go after it, and go after it. If they lose it, they go after it again. I tell my athletes to be aggressive in their course work just like on the court. With sporting language, we’re communicating with everyone regardless of their context.”

A System of Support

In the event any student drops the ball, academically speaking, the College has systems in place to identify the trouble spot, make a recovery plan, provide support, and hold the student accountable. “Diversity and differences among students today cause us to provide support and assistance through a network of individuals outside of the classroom,” **Tim Millerick**, Austin College vice president for Student Affairs, said. “We offer coaching and tutoring through academics, assistance with transitions, and fundamentally work to ensure that each of the different student populations has the timely and accurate information they need to be successful in their Austin College experience.”

Millerick refers to staff such as those in the Academic Skills Center, which offers assistance with college coursework, study habits, content-specific peer tutoring, and accommodations for documented learning disabilities. The center also includes a staff member providing support services for transfer students and international students as both have their own set of issues in settling into the campus community. Student Engagement, Enrichment, and Development (SEED) staff also help students with adjustment to college life, as do professionals in Career Services, Residence Life, Health Services, and Counseling

Services—all working together to offer a broader, deeper network of support at Austin College than ever before. And, of course, faculty provide assistance beyond the classroom as mentors and guides for their students, working with Student Affairs staff as needed when issues are identified.

Sabrina Yassin ’20 left her home in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, and traveled 8,300 miles for a better education and safety from civil unrest in her country. “The country is at civil war and the government will not allow us to go to college in Ethiopia until things ‘settle down,’” Sabrina said. “In college the students tend to protest, and then the government sends soldiers ... so I am better off here.”

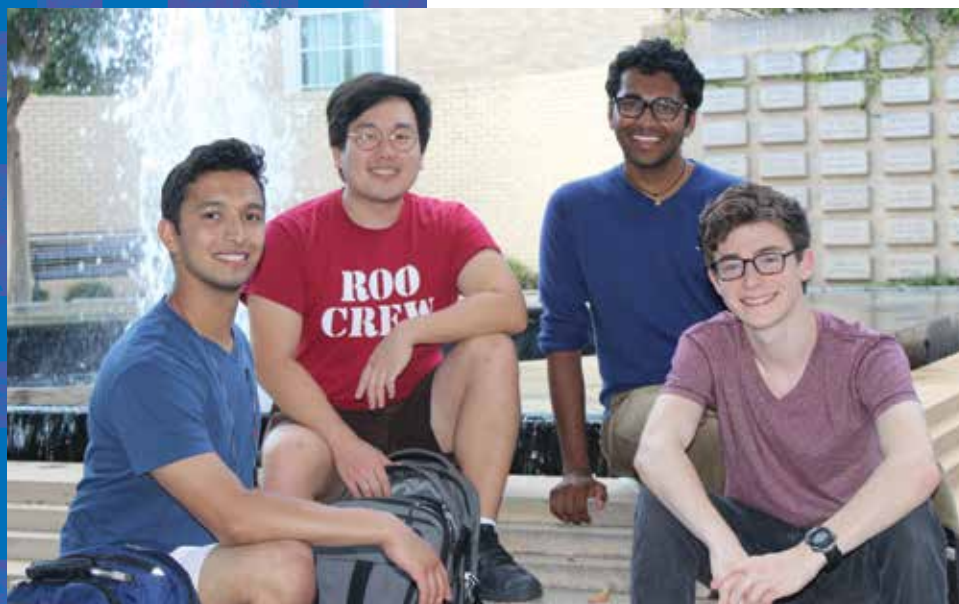
She readily admits she misses her parents and nine younger siblings. Her father wanted this opportunity for her, and initially her mother objected—but came around. “She’s a mom, you know,” Yassin said. “After my parents left me here, it was hard.” Her pre-med studies are challenging, partly because she did not have the high school science lab facilities that are common in the U.S. She has adjusted her coursework, and takes care of herself with attending a stress management group on campus.

Academic, social, and emotional health all are part of each student’s picture of success. “As with all of higher education, we’ve seen an increase of students with learning differences that result in the need for particular accommodations, such as alternative test-taking environments and time adjustments with tasks,” Millerick said. “Our student body also reflects a greater population coming here having already received support on a range of counseling issues and emotional needs. We’re poised to take care of them because they are our kids.”

Chaplain Williams echoed Millerick’s commitment: “Our goal is to understand how to ask the right questions that will benefit everyone as we accompany students in their journey at Austin College. We are diverse, but rather than imposed diversity, I would say our diversity is organic—it’s the result of caring for the people who are here.”

Roommates, left to right, Rohail Rahman, Jason Shin, Ganesh Maniam, and Noah Selz didn't consider their diverse backgrounds; friendship brought them together.

Photo by Vickie S. Kirby



Four Roommates—Four Religions

A beautiful thing about diversity is that it's often simply dressed as friendship. **Ganesh Maniam** '17 who is Hindu, found himself paired with **Noah Selz** '17, who is Jewish, as freshman roommates. They were a great match, and when they wanted to move to different housing the next year, they needed two more roommates—enter **Rohail Rahman** '17, a Muslim, and **Jason Shin** '17, a Christian. Of course, the roommates didn't even recognize the "diversity" of their living situation. Chaplain **John Williams** '84 pointed that out later. The roommates simply are friends, and none is super-

conscious of their "differences." They consider their diversity phenomenon a coincidence born out of friendship.

Ganesh said he was impressed that the refrigerator was always full because it takes a lot of groceries to accommodate the various diets ... beef, no beef, pork, no pork, and traditional Korean, Indian, Pakistani, and Jewish dishes. Plus snacks. That's a lot of groceries.

The roommates have attended social events at one another's supporting organizations. The Hindu goes to the Jewish Rosh Hashanah celebration. The Christian goes to Diwali with the Hindu. They simply enjoy the opportunities to experience new things with good friends.

Welcomed and Supported

Before junior **Morgan Laday** ever committed to Austin College as a basketball player and pre-med student, she got assurance from a campus tour guide that she would be accepted for herself. She's an athlete who grew up playing softball, golf, basketball, soccer, tennis, and track. She's African-American, a serious student, a Christian, and gay.

"My Admission tour guide was gay, and I asked him how accepting it was here, if being gay was okay," Morgan said. "One of the reasons I chose this school is the welcoming atmosphere."

Morgan has a busy agenda with studies and involvement with Black Expressions, Gender-Sexuality Alliance, and the basketball team. "Study for classes already takes up a lot of time," she said. "Before basketball season I was really involved with Black Expressions. We put on several events and talk a lot about the current issues in society—not just issues that affect African-Americans but those that affect a variety of minorities."

"I've never felt discriminated against because I'm gay," she said. "It might sound cheesy, but I know the whole school has my back." Morgan received the Austin College LGBT Alumni Scholarship, which was created by the alumni group to benefit students who exhibit exemplary academic achievement, high standards of personal character, commitment to the LGBT community, and financial need.

"I know I always have people in my corner no matter what race, religion, or sexual identity I am," Morgan said. "And, having a community that supports LGBT people is a huge thing sometimes. Not everyone is as fortunate, but I am lucky enough to have a family that loves me no matter who I love."



Morgan Laday has her hands full with a busy academic and social schedule of classes, student groups, and athletics.

Photo by Priya Chary



Campus Sisters: Front row, left to right, Erin Adams, Jazmen Marquez, Emma Cortez, Zane Trebino, Katia Lopez, Greyka Galvan, April Rodriguez, Monica Martinez; and back row, Aurora Hadzic, Tramondranique Hawkins, Yasmin Renteria, Emma Chalott, Maria Jaramillo, Karla Herrera, Mitzi Briseno.

Photo by Erin E. Laine

The Sorority of the Plaid Skirts

The self-named Sorority of the Plaid Skirts is a coalition of students attending Austin College through a relationship with the Young Women's Preparatory Network (YWPN). **Greyka Galvan '17**, the group's campus leader, will graduate this spring with a degree in business administration.

Eight high schools around the state participate in the network and agree on the mission of single-gender, college-preparatory, public education that equips young women with academic and leadership skills to succeed in college and life.

"I would say my all-girl, magnet high school education made all the difference in the world for me," Greyka said. "Our priorities weren't boys, but scholarships, connections, and college acceptances. We were taught to advocate for ourselves and our worth in such a way that we were made leaders. My Dallas high school, Irma Rangel, had the motto: 'Girls today, women tomorrow, leaders forever.' These words are strong. They hold meaning. It gave us and still gives us a drive to excel, even now that we are in college."

The group's members range from freshmen to seniors and study a variety of academic disciplines. They support one another with social events and one-on-one communications. "There are many personalities and characters among our sisters but we all get along really well," Greyka said. "We text each other whenever we need anything or want advice. I feel like it really helps the girls' transition from high school to college, knowing that when they get here, they're not alone."

Austin College is in its third year of formal partnership with YWPN and meets the full demonstrated financial need of three to five freshman students each academic year and through their next three years. Admission staff members have worked closely with the schools for many years. Currently 18 alumni of YWPN schools attend Austin College.



Michal Magdziak traveled some 5,550 miles from home to attend Austin College.

Photo by Erin E. Laine

Michal Magdziak—Tackling Texas

From **Michal Magdziak's** '20 home in Warsaw, Poland, you can drive three hours north to the Baltic Sea or three hours south to the Carpathian Mountains. The drive is a lot longer in North Texas to get that kind of variety. Although he may miss the scenery of his homeland, Michal chose Austin College and Texas for specific reasons.

"I applied to other universities in the United States, but I chose Austin College because I wanted to play football and the school is academically demanding. Also, it's situated in Texas for hot weather and where football is a serious thing," he said. Believing that a U.S. education will help him in the future, he also came here to improve his English and have better employment opportunities.

"I haven't decided my major yet, but it's probably going to be math or business," he said. Reading long academic assignments in English language has been challenging, and he is designing his course load to be successful.

Along with learning English, Michal has discovered a few things about himself since coming to Austin College. "I'm not well-organized," he said, "but it is not hard for me to find new friends."

Football has helped with both of those things, since the team provides an instant peer group. "I think football helped me get used to college due to not having a lot of free time. This forces me to become a better-organized person. I'm working on it."



Named the 2015-2016 Outstanding Freshman, Erin Laine loves being busy and thrives on involvement in a variety of campus activities.

Austin College Photo

Diversity is the Norm

As a freshman, **Erin Laine** focused on academics early in fall 2015, as most freshmen are advised to do. But for a person who is better when busy, it's hard to hold back for long.

"I ran for freshman representative in Student Assembly, which began in the spring for me last year, and then I got very busy," Erin said. She shrugs off the idea of being "too busy," saying she's had a job since she was 11 years old, first at a miniature horse farm, then as a tutor. She also led a Houston-area 4-H chapter as president for four years.

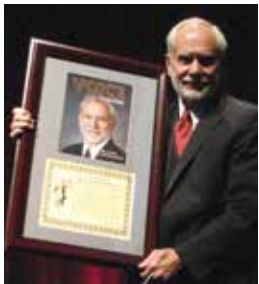
Erin was homeschooled and took many of her classes at a community college. "I've always been an independent learner, and I understand how to manage time pretty well," she added. Growing up in the large, international city of Houston, she has been exposed to the variety and benefits of diverse people and opportunities.

"I love diversity and have had a diverse group of friends," she said. "It's important to look beyond culture because we are all diverse. We come from different socioeconomic backgrounds and different places. Having all these perspectives at Austin College is important to a full experience."

This year, Erin brings her unique perspective to daily life as a resident advisor, campus tour guide, student letter writer for the Admission Office, and campus event photographer. She also serves on the Food Advisory Committee for Student Assembly. Erin is in the Austin Teacher Program, majoring in English with a minor in education. ■

'ROO NOTES

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Buck Files has represented hundreds of individuals and corporations before juries and judges in his 50-year career as a lawyer. He also has been a regular

contributor for the *Voice of Defense* and was honored in 2016 for writing 200 articles for the magazine. That represents 20 years of work, writing 10 times a year; he is proud that he has never missed a deadline. Buck has earned an incredibly long list of honors for his work. He currently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Texas Bar Foundation—the first criminal defense lawyer in that capacity. A former president of the State Bar of Texas, Buck is a shareholder and founding member of Bain, Files, Jarrett,

Bain, and Harrison law firm in Tyler, Texas, where he lives with his wife, **Robyn (McChesney)** '62.



**GOLDEN 'ROO
WEEKEND
SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 12-14, 2017**

The Class of 1967 will be formally inducted into the **Austin College Golden 'Roo Society**. Watch for more details this spring.

'Roo News



WALKER REPRESENTS AUSTIN COLLEGE

When Trinity University's new president, **Danny Anderson** '80, was inaugurated in February 2016, **William Walker** '53 served as the Austin College representative at the ceremony. He has served in that role for inaugurations of Trinity's previous two presidents—and represented Trinity at Austin College's inauguration of President **Marjorie Hass** in 2009. Bill is the Jennie Farris Railey King Professor Emeritus of Religion at Trinity University, having taught religion at the university for more than 40 years. He has received many honors during his career, including the 2016 "Distinguished Service Award" from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he received his M. Div. degree in 1957. He said the honor was equaled only by his Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. Bill added to his long list of books with publication earlier in 2016 of *Gospels, Jesus, and Christian Origins: Collected Essays* by Polebridge Press. The book is a companion to his *Paul and His Legacy: Collected Essays*, released in 2015.

64

Don R. Read was featured in the *Best Docs Magazine*. Dr. Read is board certified in both general and colon and rectal surgery. He is the former director of surgical education at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He has given lectures



on colon and rectal surgery in Europe, South America, and the United States. Dr. Reed is a Fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons

and the American College of Surgeons. He has served as president of medical staff of Medical City Dallas Hospital and president of the Dallas County Medical Society and the Texas Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. He is president-elect of the Texas Medical Association and is a distinguished alumnus of Austin College.

65

Fran Crown Sims received Austin College's Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award at Homecoming 2016. See *Page 44*.

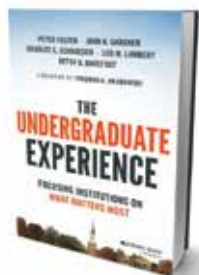
67



Charles Schroeder (MA '68) has published a book, *The Undergraduate Experience: Focusing Institutions on What Matters Most*, with four colleagues, including the president of Elon

University. This is his third co-authored book related to undergraduate education. Charles spent over 30 years as chief student affairs officer, working at Mercer University, St. Louis University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Missouri-Columbia. In 2001, he was appointed a professor of higher education in the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Department at the University of Missouri. Following retirement from that role, he served two years as a senior

executive at Noel-Levitz, a national higher education consulting firm. He currently serves as a part-time senior associate consultant for Ruffalo Noel Levitz, specializing in retention and student success strategies.



When not working on higher education issues, he is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys backpacking and hiking in the Rocky Mountains, float fishing in Alaska, and rock and ice climbing in the U.S. and South America. He and his wife, **Barbara** '68, have two adult children. **Tim Millerick**, Austin College vice president for Student Affairs, said he is pleased to see Charles' success. "Charles is a legendary scholar-practitioner who has advanced the Student Affairs profession in many ways," Tim said. "As a partner school, I am pleased to know he is among the cadre of people from whom we receive insight at the Ruffalo Noel Levitz group. I have

RICHARD LENTZ AND HIS DOG ROO SHARE LIFE'S LITTLE LESSONS



Richard Lentz '76 has written a children's book, *Life's Little Lessons by Roo, More Than Just a Dachshund*, inspired by his dachshund Roo. A portion of proceeds from the sales benefits DFW Dachshund Rescue as well as Adopt a Dachshund: Dachshund Lovers of Texas Rescue. The book reflects life through the eyes of Roo, a miniature dachshund, who meets the challenges of life head-on, sharing lessons learned with his readers. According to a publisher press release, Lentz and his

wife, Annette, have long had a fondness for dachshunds, and Richard had noted a lack of children's books about them. So, he decided to combine his interest in creative writing with his love of his dog Roo. Richard said that Roo sat next to him as he was writing the book, listened to discussions with the publisher, and posed "like a seasoned model" for photos to be used by the book's illustrator, Jack Unruh. Finding time to write a book was a challenge for the founder and CEO of Lentz Landscape Lighting, which he has operated for nearly 30 years.



been fortunate to host Charles on campus and to visit with him at many national conferences."

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Bill and Lynn Marie Mayfield Campaigne visited **Ed Jones** and his husband, **Jeffery Twu**, in Hong Kong in February 2016. Jeffery's field research there toward his Ph.D. in anthropology offered a perfect chance for travel-loving friends to gather. The group is pictured in Macau.

71

Don Johnson was named to the Distinguished Alumni of Austin College at Homecoming 2016. See *Page 44*.

John Sheridan has been installed as the Texas-Oklahoma Kiwanis district governor



for 2016-17. The Texas-Oklahoma Kiwanis District is a 7,500-member organization that is part of Kiwanis International. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

See news of
recent weddings
in 'ROO-MATES
on *Page 39*

[ACCOLADES]



TOM VICK LEADS THE TEXAS BAR



Tom Vick '77 was sworn in as the president-elect of the State Bar of Texas in June 2016. He will serve as president from June 2017 to June 2018. A partner in Vick Carney L.L.P. in Weatherford, Texas, Tom chaired the Texas Bar Foundation board in 2013-2014. He served on the State Bar of Texas board from 2005 to 2008 and the Texas Access to Justice Commission from 2006 to 2009. A former mayor of Weatherford, Tom has served as president of both the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, as a chair of the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section, and as chair of the Supreme Court

Task Force to Expand Legal Services Delivery. Board certified in family law, he has published dozens of works on various aspects of the law and lectured widely. Tom was named the 2008 State Bar of Texas Family Law Section Outstanding Family Lawyer, presented the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists Judge Sam Emison Award, and named the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Fellow of the Year in 2009. He received presidential citations for service to the State Bar in 2008 and 2012. Tom will be the second Austin College alumnus to serve as president of the State Bar of Texas.

Show draws members of Congress and regulatory officials to see new advances in the automotive industry. As executive vice president of the Automobile Division of American Honda, Mendel is the head of U.S. sales and marketing activities for both the Honda and Acura brands. Before he joined the company 11 years ago, Mendel spent 28 years with Ford Motor Company, ultimately serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Mazda North American Operations. He and his wife, **Luan Beaty Mendel '75**, live in California.

78

Katy Massingill Manck was elected president of the International Association of School Librarianship at its conference in



Tokyo, Japan, in 2016. Katy is a librarian-at-large and reviewer of young adult books at BooksYALove.com. She now lives in East Texas, having earlier worked in academic, corporate, public, and school libraries.

She and her husband, Lynn, celebrated their 35th anniversary last year and have five children—including 2005 'Roo Josh, 12 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and several dogs. They are members of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Longview, Texas.

74

Kay Bartholomew Eldredge, a longtime professor and distinguished teaching



professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, was announced as

recipient of the school's John P. McGovern Award in February 2016. She was to be an honoree at a lecture series and award ceremony that recognized her trailblazing work in the field. Sadly, the event became a memorial service, as she died from cancer a few days before the event.

76

Roger Luttrell (MA '77) was named to the *Insurance Business America* "Hot 100" for 2016, a list of those industry power players "making waves in the insurance industry ... whether for 12 months of achievements or one gutsy move that shook up the insurance world." In 2015, Roger took

over as chairman of Combined Agents of America, a nationally ranked insurance



agency aggregator of independent agencies in the central region of the country, including Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. In addition to his duties as CAA chair, Roger is a 35-year industry veteran and a partner and owner of Benton Luttrell Brown Insurance.

John Mendel, executive vice president for automotive at America Honda Motor Company in California, presented the



keynote remarks to open the 2016 Washington, D.C., Auto Show's Public Policy Preview Day in January 2016. He spoke about the vision for sustainable mobility and empowering drivers to take the wheel of a greener, cleaner world. The Washington Auto

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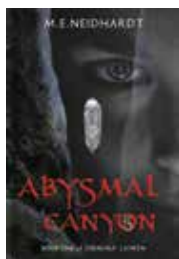
Sean Coleman was named the associate vice president for Military and Governmental Affairs for Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2016. He oversees the 39 military campuses that provide master's level educational opportunities to service members, their families, and civilians. He lives in the Washington, D.C., area, where four of his campuses are located.

80

Eve Neidhardt has published her first young adult science fiction/fantasy novel, *Abysmal Canyon*, on Amazon, as M.E. Neidhardt. Available in print or e-book, it is the first book of the Domina Lumen series. The contemporary novel is about an 18-year-old girl who is a dowser and about to go to college when she unwillingly inherits an ancient title that could be the



deciding factor in a war between positive and negative energy entities. Ysolde is thrown into constant danger on Earth and other worlds as she struggles to accept her new role as the Domina Lumen. When Eve is not



writing, she works on her art and assists in the management of the art estate of her late father, Richard “Dick” Neidhardt, who was a member of the Art Department faculty at Austin College from 1967 until he was named

professor emeritus in 1986. Eve lives in Sherman with her four-legged friends. Read more on her blog: meneidhardt.com.

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PHOTO BY SHERYL LANZEL



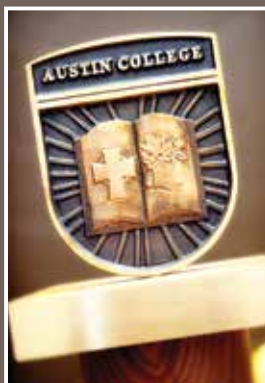
Steven Ponders received the 2016 Kuchling Humanitarian Award at the annual Black Tie Dinner in Dallas in October 2016. The award, which recognizes “extraordinary gifts

of time and talents,” honors Steven’s 25-plus years of serving the LGBT community with compassion and dignity through his medical practice, beginning at a time when HIV and AIDS were sweeping through the community with devastating impacts. Beyond his practice, Ponders volunteers as the medical director for Resource Center’s Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, which provides free medical care to those in need in the LGBT community. “I am humbled to be included on a list loaded with champions of social change and equality for the LGBT community,” Steven said. “My activism began in 1981 caring for and treating patients with the disease we came to know as HIV and AIDS at UTMB Galveston. While I’m very proud of our advancements in medical, legal, and civil rights, I realize there is much work ahead.” The award is named in honor of the late Raymond Kuchling, a leading activist in Dallas’ LGBT community in the 1980s. Since its beginning in 1982, Black Tie Dinner has been the nation’s largest fund-raising dinner for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. The event is one of empowerment, education, and entertainment.

82

Doug Kohrs recently has been named to the board of directors for MedShape, Inc., an industry leader in orthopedic devices using advanced functional material technologies. He is currently president of the Foundation for Essential Needs and separately serves as a strategy consultant to the medical device industry. With more than 30 years of experience in the industry, he has served on the board of directors of more than 10 different medical device companies including Inova Spine and OmniGuide, Inc.

AN AUSTIN COLLEGE LEGACY



Austin College has provided transformational education for generations of students since its founding in 1849. An initial bequest from Emily Austin, sister of Texas leader Stephen F. Austin, helped lay the financial foundation for the College. Her legacy gift, and those of numerous donors who have followed, ensures Austin College’s place among today’s acclaimed colleges.

The John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society acknowledges the College’s friends who have named Austin College as beneficiary in their legacy plans. Through their future estate gifts, the members of this special society will ensure the future financial well-being of the College. From one generation to another, Austin College remains grateful that so many families have entrusted it with these special gifts.

To learn more, contact Suzanne Crouch, CFRE, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of Estate Planning, at 903.813.2059 or scrouch@austincollege.edu.

[ACCOLADES]



MARLENE LLOPIZ LEADS PHARMACY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION IN MEXICO



Marlene Llopiz ’80 was elected president of the Association of Medical Specialists in the Pharmaceutical Industry in December 2015. Her second election to this leadership post is a first; she is the only woman and past president to be re-elected. She also has been named to the Commission on Institutional Collaboration for Universidad Anáhuac Medical School in Mexico City. The commission combines the work of academia, market access, and investigators throughout Mexico and abroad for clinical research and the pharmaceutical industry. This gives her

a seat at the Chamber of Commerce for the pharmaceutical industry and all of its committees, as well as entry into Cofepris, Mexico’s equivalent to the FDA. Marlene also is the chair and president of the Mexican chapter for the Association of Clinical Research Professionals in the USA. These roles represent a tremendous honor for Marlene and evidence her extensive work in clinical research management, regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, and medical marketing in Latin America. She has done extensive work in developing resources and programs to provide adequate public health and works closely with governmental and private institutions in Mexico. Marlene is a member of the Universidad Anáhuac Health Sciences faculty and has written and spoken extensively on her work. In 2010 and in 2011, she was included among the “100 Most Inspiring People” in the Life Sciences industry by the readers of *PharmaVoice*, and was the first Latin American included.

83

Margie Briscoe Norman received the Cindy Curtis Bean Service to Alumni Award at Homecoming 2016. See Page 44.



Clayton Oliphant has co-authored a Bible study series titled *The Basics*. The series is comprised of three studies for a complete 12-week course on the basics of living as a follower of Jesus. Created especially for busy people, each book offers short, readable chapters with highlighted subtitles. The series is available through Abingdon Press. Clayton is the head pastor of First United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas. He and his wife, Lori, have three children.



84



Danny Henderson (MA '85) joined the Oklahoma State basketball coaching staff in April 2016. His teams won more than



700 games and four state titles when he was a high school coach in Texas. He spent the last three seasons as an assistant coach at Boise State, where he helped the Broncos win the 2014-2015 Mountain West Conference title and at least 20 games each season. Throughout his career, Danny received several coaching awards, and was a finalist for Naismith National High School Coach of the Year. He also

was named TABC Texas Coach of the Year, Texas Sportswriters Coach of the Year, and Southwest United States Coach of the Year. Danny and his wife, Anna, have two children, Maddie and Sophie.

85



William Kerrigan has earned two prestigious fellowships that will support both his latest research project and his teaching at Muskingum University. He was one of 25 faculty members

from the Council of Independent Colleges members selected to participate in summer 2016 in a week-long seminar on slave narratives at Yale University. That fall, the professor traveled to Mt. Vernon for a fellowship at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. The one-month residency supported research for his latest book, *Citizen Henfield: Privateering and the Politics of Neutrality During Washington's Presidency*. The Mt. Vernon residency was key to William's research for the book because of his access to President Washington's books and papers, allowing him to carefully examine Washington's correspondence with his cabinet on the question of neutrality. The professor was one of 17 faculty members selected for the fellowship. He has been a member of the faculty at Muskingum University since 1997.

[ACCOLADES]



SPEARMAN TAKES MEDICAL TALENTS TO CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Paul Spearman '82 was appointed the Albert B. Sabin Professor and Director of Infectious Diseases at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in September 2016. Since 2005, he had served as vice chair of research at Emory University, Nahmias-Schinazi Professor and Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, and chief research officer of Children's Healthcare Atlanta. Previously, he spent 11 years at Vanderbilt University as assistant professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Microbiology and Immunology.

Paul's laboratory research focused on fundamental aspects of HIV biology and pathogenesis. He also served as co-principal investigator of the Emory Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit. Clinically, he had attended on the pediatric ID service and been an organizer of the St. Jude/Pediatric ID Society Meeting for fellows since 2009. He also had served as the Ph.D. supervisor for seven graduate students and mentor for nine post-doctoral fellows. In addition to his position in pediatrics, his professorships in Emory's departments of Microbiology and Immunology and Cell Biology led to invited presentations around the world. He is the author of more than 100 publications, including peer-reviewed manuscripts, case reports, and book chapters.

Michael Minton of Fort Worth, Texas, represented the United States at the 6th World Union of Karate-do Federations Championships in Dublin, Ireland, in June 2016. He had placed third at the 2015 AAU National Karate Championship and earned the Team USA invitation. In Ireland, he competed in the Veteran Division (51 and older) in kumite (sparring) and kata (forms). He had trained for many years but gave it up when his law career and family demands grew. After nearly two decades away from the sport, he began training a few years ago when he moved his law office to a new location that turned out to be very near his former instructor and Genjikai Karate & Tai Chi.

86

Michael Adams was named to the Distinguished Alumni of Austin College at Homecoming 2016. See Page 44.

88

Scott Josephson is head writer for Uppermost Entertainment (www.uppermostentertainment.com) in Dallas, Texas. The first project, a comedic, one-man stage play, *I'm Always on My Mind*,

revolves around the life of Brock Besson, a Harvard graduate and possible narcissist. It played to positive reviews and audience reaction at StageWest in Fort Worth and Water Tower Theater in Addison in summer and fall 2015. The play has been accepted by Tony-winning producers at Jumpstart Entertainment who are now seeking investors for a Broadway production.

89



Tim Newson has formed the law firm of Young & Newson, P.C. in Amarillo, Texas. He also was selected as a Texas Super Lawyer in *Texas Monthly* in the area of personal injury plaintiff for the 12th consecutive year.

Each year, Texas Super Lawyers publishes a list of the state's top attorneys based on peer recognition and professional achievement. No more than five percent of Texas lawyers are selected as Super Lawyers. Tim co-authored an article titled "The American Jury" that was featured in the spring 2016 edition of *Voir Dire* magazine, the publication of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He is a former president of the Amarillo Chapter of ABOTA.

90

Virginia Smith Volpe was named to the Distinguished Alumni of Austin College at Homecoming 2016. See Page 44.

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Darin Gustafson received new 'Roo gear for Father's Day 2016—as did his 5-year-old son, A.J. Wife Megan knows how to outfit her men!

George Zoys was chosen for the 10th time as one of the Best Doctors, listed in *D Magazine*. He is an expert in the surgical management of sport-related injuries, trauma, arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder, and total joint replacement of the hip and knee. He is board certified,



'Roo News



CROWNOVER LEADS FAMILY BUSINESS; "FASTEST EXECUTIVE" DONATES CHECK TO SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL



Matthew Crownover '96 became president of Identification Plates, Inc., based in Mesquite, Texas, in January 2016. He is the third generation to lead the family business that provides metals, fabrication, and imprinting processes. After earning his Austin College degree, Matthew earned a bilingual Master of Divinity degree at Southern Methodist University and volunteered, studied, and worked in more than 20 countries. During his 14-year career as a medical chaplain in Dallas-area hospitals, he received multiple certifications in the fields of oncology, psychiatry, emergency room, and neonatology. Matthew returned to his family's business in September 2013 to re-integrate into the organization and graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10K Small Business program in 2015. Matthew said the company's purpose in business is to bless the lives of customers, vendors, and employees. One such blessing came when Matthew ran in the Dallas Marathon in 2015. As the winner of Columbia Business School's Executive Challenge, his run as the "fastest corporate executive" resulted in a \$10,000 donation for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children on behalf of Identification Plates. "It was an honor to run through some pain for a few hours to provide this tremendous gift to the hospital," Matthew said. Above, Matthew is pictured with his daughter Lydia and representatives from Scottish Rite Hospital.

a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons. In his 14 years of private practice, he has been recognized many times in the *Guide to America's Top Orthopedists*, received numerous Patients' Choice Awards, been nominated for listing in America's Best Doctors Registry, selected for the Compassionate Doctor Award 2013, and selected as a member of the Best Doc Network.

Additions to the
'Roo family:
see Joeys on Page 41

TEXTS FROM THE MOON



Even if you've never met **Dave Justus** '98, there's a decent chance his name is in your phone. You'll find it just below the words "Written by" on the title screen of the app called *Lifeline*. The game is a text-based choose-your-own-adventure in which players aid a stranded astronaut named Taylor. It has been downloaded nearly 7 million times since its release, and found its way to

the top of many of 2015's "best app" lists, with no less than *TIME Magazine* calling it "the best game on the Apple Watch."

"I just think we hit at the right time, with the right idea," Dave said of the app, which simulates a text conversation between friends ... one of whom is lost on a hostile desert moon. "Honestly, the fact that I wasn't a gamer—that I hadn't really played a video game since *Tomb Raider II*, way back when I lived in Baker Hall—was probably a huge boon." *Lifeline*'s Taylor, whose gender is never specified, has become friend, crush, and hero (or heroine) to players who need a voice on the other end of the line even more than they need a quest to complete.

The game's success has allowed for a whole universe to spring up around Taylor, with Justus penning a direct sequel (*Lifeline: Silent Night*) as well as an urban fantasy game (*Lifeline 2: Bloodline*), with more on the way via Big Fish/Three Minute Games. "When I see someone cosplay as a character I created, or someone tweets that they're on the edge of their seat, waiting to see what happens next ... it's humbling, knowing I've made this fantasy world real for them."



An English major with a concentration in creative writing at Austin College, Dave never missed a trip to the comic book shop in college. Along with his writing partner Matthew Sturges, he currently pens the comics *Everafter: From The Pages Of Fables*, a sequel to the long-running DC/Vertigo series *Fables*, as well as *Public Relations*, a dark comedy that he describes as "It's Always Sunny In Westeros."

"There's nothing writers love more than to be cynical, particularly about their liberal arts education," he concluded. "But hey, if you struggle for 40 years or so, you, too, can be an overnight success."

98

Juan Caraveo is riding a wave of interest in competitive swimming since Olympic-medalist Simone Manuel triumphed in the 2016 Summer Olympics. Juan is the sports diversity and inclusion consultant of the USA Swimming Foundation, a philanthropic organization aimed at teaching every child to swim by third grade. He says the very next day after Simone's win, calls increased

by about 15 percent. "Swimming is the only sport that can save your life," Juan said. Drowning rates are higher among Hispanics and African-Americans, and Juan and USA Swimming hope to help curb that. Juan said that swimming skills also can open doors for higher paying jobs for youth as lifeguards, give them opportunity to join competitive teams, and therefore meet higher grade requirements. Those higher

grades can open doors to scholarships and college and trade schools, he explained.

00



Riann Emch was named "Rookie of the Year" for Keller Williams Dallas DFW. In her first 12 months as a licensed REALTOR®, she sold \$6.7 million in real estate, focusing on residential home sales. She was also named among Dallas Best Real Estate Agents by *D Magazine*. She serves the Dallas/Fort Worth and surrounding areas.

Kourtney Penn Garrett is now president of the economic development group Downtown Dallas, Inc., and takes on the CEO role as well in January 2017. She



has worked at the organization for 13 years, most recently as executive vice president since 2012. Kourtney works to transform downtown Dallas from a space that can be driven to and from, to a

place where citizens and visitors can find community. A *Dallas Morning News* article called her "downtown Dallas' biggest economic evangelist" and she's determined to move the city forward. She serves on many Dallas-area boards, is a 2009 Leadership Dallas graduate, and has been included on the *Dallas Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty" list. Kourtney lives in a Farmers Market townhouse with her husband and 4-year-old twins.

02



P. Lindley Bain was selected to the 2016 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars. The distinction places her among the top 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state of Texas. The annual Texas Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" ranking recognizes the state's best lawyers under the age of 40 and practicing for no more than 10 years. Lindley is certified in family law and heads the Austin offices for Goranson Bain law firm. She joined the firm in 2007 and practices in Austin and Dallas.

'ROO-MATES

93

Wendy Motch was married in July 2015 to Elizabeth Karen Ellis and started a new job in November 2015 as director of Titan Recreation at the Associated Students, Inc., Cal State University, Fullerton. Wendy previously spent 12 years working in recreation at UCLA. She is an active member of NIRSA - Leaders in Collegiate Recreation, where she serves as the co-chair on the NIRSA Commission for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

07



Kristina Kwass and Valmichael Leos were married in September 2015. Kristina works at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and the family lives in Midlothian, Texas. The wedding was shared with 'Roo's who remain Kristina's best friends: left to right, **Kate Redington Dalton '07**, **Katie Scofield Garza '07**, **Monica**

Mitcham Salas '07, the bride—**Kristina Kwass Leos '07**, **David Luna '08**, and **Elizabeth Gomez Luna '07**.

09



Molly O'Farrell and **Jonathan Rawlins '08** were married October 10, 2015. The couple said that Austin College meant and still means so much to them so they were pleased to have 'Roo friends celebrate with them. The group members pictured are all 'Roo's!

11



Frank McStay and **Carla Khalaf '12** were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sherman, on June 4, 2016, with a reception at Austin College. Carla is a resident physician in internal medicine, and Frank is a senior health policy advisor and researcher for Baylor Scott and White Health. The wedding party included **Bryan Botello**, **Andrew McColloch**, **Randy Tea**, and **Samuel Baggett**, all '12.



Nick Timmerman (MAT '12) and **Suzanne Francis '15** were married July 16, 2016, in Fort Worth, Texas. After a visit to Disney World and a Disney Cruise for their honeymoon, Nick is teaching elementary music and secondary choir for the second year with The American School of Kinshasa in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Suzanne is working for the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa. The wedding party included groomsmen **Matthew Giddings '11** and **Will Reynolds '14**, and bridesmaids **Sarah Davis Reynolds '15**, **Sarah Monroe '17**, and **Alena Oglesbee '14**. Nearly 30 alumni, as well as **Wayne Crannell** of the music faculty, attended.

12

Astrid Grouls and **Paul Derry '11** were married in Spring, Texas, on December 19, 2015. They met at Austin College in the 2009 JanTerm course "Brain & Behavior." Astrid is a first-year internal



medicine resident at UT Health, having graduated from McGovern Medical School in Houston, Texas, in May 2016. Paul is working on his thesis for his Ph.D. in chemistry at Rice University, where he works with Dr. Eugene Zubarev.

15

Elizabeth "Libby" Wise and **Jesse Janes** were married June 11, 2016, in Wynne Chapel. **John Williams '84**, Austin College chaplain, officiated. The wedding party included **Kalli Burdick '15**, maid of honor, and **James Tenney '15**, best man, as well as **Christine Garner**, **Jordan Meredith**, **Jonathan Dittman**, and **Sean Ryan**,



all '15. Jesse is in his second year of medical school at Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine. Libby is working on her master's degree in social work at Texas Tech University.



04



Veronica Bonhamgregory has joined the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges as an associate in the banking and finance practice in its Dallas office. Veronica

earned her law degree magna cum laude at St. Mary's University School of Law in 2015. While in law school, she interned with Judge Edward C. Prado in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit. She also served as a staff writer for *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Race and Social Justice*, as a research assistant for professor Ann Nova, and as a student attorney for St. Mary's Center for Racial and Social Justice.



Cory McDowell was named a shareholder at the law firm of Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin & Browder in Midland, Texas, in January 2016. He joined the firm in January 2015

to lead the Estate Planning and Probate practice. He recently was named one of the *Midland Reporter-Telegram's* "Top 20 Under 40" Young Professionals. He and his wife and fellow 'Roo, **Jennifer (Whetsel) McDowell**, have twin daughters, Cori Ann and Carli, 4.



Ariana Vasquez completed her doctorate in educational psychology from The University of Texas at Austin in May 2016. She has accepted a position as a post-

doctoral research fellow at the University of Pittsburgh in the Developmental and Motivation Research Lab.

05

Josh Manck '05 has joined the Texas A&M University-Commerce staff as director of athletics communications, serving 14 intercollegiate sports. He will communicate the story of Texas A&M-Commerce's student-athletes and coaches to local, regional, and national media through traditional and emerging media. Josh is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America, the Football Writers Association of America, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, and the National Wrestling Media Association.

[ACCOLADES]



STOENESCU NAMED TO ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Dan Stoenescu '03 was appointed Minister Delegate for Romanians Abroad in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania on November 17, 2015, in the interim government led by prime-minister Dacian Cioloș.

A career diplomat, journalist, and essayist, Dan has worked since the beginning of his career for the rights of Romanians abroad and has been involved in projects regarding the preservation of the Romanian language, culture, and identity.

Between February 2009 and February 2010, he coordinated the activity of the Division for Romanians Abroad in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also is a founding member of the Worldwide Romanians Youth League and of the Center for Democratic Education, developing projects to support Romanian communities abroad. He has worked for several specialized agencies of the United Nations and also in non-governmental organizations in the U.S., Latin America, and the Middle East. He has had diplomatic postings in Romanian Embassies in Madrid and Beirut. Between 2011 and 2013, he was president of the European Union National Institutes for Culture in Lebanon for two consecutive mandates, as a representative of the Romanian Cultural Institute.

In 2005, Dan earned a master's degree in globalization and development from Warwick University in the United Kingdom, where he studied on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship (District 5810) secured while at Austin College. He also holds a graduate diploma in Forced Migration and Refugee Studies from the American University in Cairo and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Bucharest. Dan also attended several courses at the European Security and Defense College, Belgium; Matías Romero Institute, Mexico; and the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael. He is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and Italian and has some knowledge of Portuguese and Arabic.



06

Melida Ailshire received the Sherman Chamber of Commerce 2015 Community Leader Award—and a standing ovation



from the large crowd in attendance. "Some people light up a room by walking out of it and others light up a room by walking into it," the board chair said in announcing the winner. "Our 2015 Community Leader Award winner definitely lights up the

room when she walks into it." Melida said she was humbled by the honor. "I have always said we all need to give back, to take care, be involved, and invest in our community—it's the only one we have," she said. "My greatest reward though, is that I can inspire others, especially my children, to be more civic-minded." Melida is active in several local organizations and owns JTALK Services, which provides Spanish-language translation. She and her husband live in Sherman. Evidencing just one of her community involvements, she is a longtime Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer and was a recent Big Sister of the Year in Grayson County.



92



Morgan Walden McFall welcomed her adopted son, Joseph Jack Walden McFall, (an actual "Joey"!) to her family December 18, 2015. Joseph, Morgan's first child, turned 2 in August 2016. Morgan works for Congressman Lamar Smith as a constituent services liaison. The family lives in Austin, Texas.

01



Megan and **Travis Stein** welcomed the birth of Edward Smith Stein on May 24, 2016. He joins big brother Henry, 4. Travis owns The Odee Company, Dallas' oldest commercial printer, established in 1923, and Megan is governance and communications manager at Children's Medical Center. They live in the Lakewood neighborhood of Dallas.

05



Patrick and Holly Ramsey Blaydes welcomed the arrival of their second daughter, Riley Olivia, on January 6, 2016. Riley joins big sister Claire, 2. The family lives in east Dallas.

Robert and **Sheila Dyer-Trigg** welcomed a daughter, Saylah, to the family July 28, 2015. She joins her brother, Jaydon, 12, and sister, Madison, 9. Sheila works full time at



Mary Kay, Inc., in Addison, Texas, teaches piano, and is pursuing her master's degree in professional development at Dallas Baptist University. The family lives in north Dallas, and Robert is a branch manager at Bank of America.

09

Mason and Courtney Baker Anders '08 announce the birth of their first child, daughter Daphne Louise, on April 25, 2016. The family lives in north Dallas where Mason works as a postdoctoral researcher in the Radiation Oncology Department at UT Southwestern Medical Center.



10



Paul and **Cherie Blaylock Brown** welcomed their son, Joshua Wolfgang, on November 17, 2015.



Ricky and **Curstin Reichelt Ploch** welcomed their daughter, Julia, on June 1, 2016. Curstin teaches in Lewisville, and Ricky is a client services manager for a merchandising company. The family lives in Aubrey, Texas.

07

Kristin Saboe received the Austin College First Decade Award at Homecoming 2016. See Page 45.

08



Jacqueline Armstrong Zimmerman (center) is pictured with **Ben and Mary Gwen (Chapin) Hulsey**, both Class of 1968, at a gala event of the Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston in May 2016. Mary Gwen is a board member and longtime supporter of Interfaith Ministries. (She also is a senior member of the Austin College Board of Trustees.) At the time of the gala, Jacqueline was senior development officer at Interfaith Ministries. She since has moved to Bryan, Texas, where she serves as associate director of advancement for Catholic Charities of Central Texas. Her husband, Steve, is an assistant district attorney there.

11

Jillian Jean Kerbacher graduated from the Seattle University School of Law with the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in May and was admitted to the Washington State Bar Association in September 2016.

12



Kris Alborz is now an associate in the Dallas office of the family law boutique Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson. His practice focuses on all areas of family law. He earned his doctorate of jurisprudence from St.

Mary's University School of Law in 2015. 🦘

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Legends 2017

AUGUST 4 - 6

WATCH FOR DETAILS

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Greetings 'RooNation! Homecoming and Family Weekend 2016 was well attended and filled with renewed friendships, countless connections, and precious fellowship. As I interacted with alumni of all ages, a frequently expressed sentiment was the feeling that Austin College really knows them, once as students and now as alumni. I kept thinking about this and pondered what it means to be part of a place that knows you, a knowledge that transcends time and creates our Austin College community.

Reflect back, for a moment, to that day you received your acceptance letter from Austin College. Your name is written along with the promise of a bright collegiate future, and you realized: Austin College knows you.

Reminisce about your student years at Austin College. You made lifelong friends, maybe found your sweetheart, completed course work, joined groups, and earned degrees. Your name was read at Commencement, and you hit the world with the confidence that Austin College knows you.

Time flows; you live your life, returning to Austin College for Homecomings, graduations, or in service to the College. You see your name on badges, giving lists, letters, and perhaps even in the legacy of children and grandchildren who graduate from Austin College. You marvel at the continuity and realize that even as time passes, Austin College knows you.

Years fly by, and the moment arrives when each of us must depart from this world—a world made better by your contributions, many were shaped by Austin College. And when your life is over, your name will be read aloud at the Homecoming Service in Wynne Chapel, followed by the ethereal tinkle of a bell. And with that speaking of your name, even from another realm, you realize Austin College knows you.

Celebrate your relationship with Austin College by connecting through AlumNights and other alumni events. Austin College knows you! Make plans to see your friends at Homecoming 2017, October 13 - 15. Austin College knows them!

Support the magic of Austin College with a gift of any size before June 2017 and make a difference for others—so Austin College will know them!

In all ways a 'Roo, always,

Jeanne (Holland) Thoes '84
Alumni Board President

Graduated? New job? Just married?
Had a baby? Retired?

Write editor@austincollege.edu to be included in the next 'Roo Notes

Legends 2016

HONORING LEGENDS OF 'ROO NATION

The 2016 Legends celebration included the usual reminiscing and sharing of memories as Austin College alumni athletes gathered on campus for several events. One of the July 9 events became quite memorable when a "legendary" storm hit the city, with forceful winds that took down trees and knocked out power on campus for hours—all just before the annual awards dinner and silent auction were scheduled to begin. In true Austin College alumni fashion, the guests found alternate ways to celebrate. Some guests ended up at City Limits; others convened at the Hilton Garden Inn in Denison. By morning, the storm had cleared and the annual Slats Golf Tournament went on as planned.

Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching

David Norman '83 was a four-year football letterman and a member of the College's 1981 NAIA national co-champion team. After earning a master's degree in secondary education in the Austin Teacher Program, he began his career in the Denison Independent School District, where he spent five years working as head women's track and field coach, assistant varsity football coach, and an elementary physical education teacher.



In 1989, David returned to his alma mater as an assistant professor in what is now the Department of Exercise & Sport Science. He also was named head baseball coach and an assistant football coach, serving as offensive coordinator under head coach Mel Tjeerdsma. In 1994, David was named head football coach and assistant athletic director at Austin College, working under Bob Mason and Tim Millerick. In 2006, David stepped down from coaching and devoted himself to work as associate athletic director. In 2010, he was named director of athletics and chair of the Department of Exercise & Sport Science, positions he continues to hold today. David stepped back into coaching briefly in 2013, leading the women's cross country program in its first season.

2016 Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees

FOOTBALL



Mark Burtner '72

- Assistant county attorney, El Paso County
- El Paso, Texas
- 31 years in law
- Former high school coach

SOCCER



Tresy Ross Capelle '04

- Full-time mom and volunteer coach
- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Former assistant coach, NCAA Division 1 schools

BASKETBALL



Kenny Hillyard '94

- PNC Bank, application development
- Midlothian, Texas
- Former business system analyst, quality assurance in banking

FOOTBALL



John Leonard '76

- Attorney, Leonard, Key & Key
- Wichita Falls, Texas
- Previous partner in several firms and solo practice

FOOTBALL • TRACK



Keith Powell '76

- Owner and publisher, *Fort Worth Magazine*
- Fort Worth, Texas
- 40 years as graphic designer

FOOTBALL • TRACK



Chris Sanders '95

- Principal, Saint Pius Catholic School
- Garland, Texas
- Former teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal

FOOTBALL



John Womack '93

- NASA, investigator, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- La Canada Flintridge, California
- Former U.S. Army criminal investigator
- Former U.S. Department of Defense, federal agent
- 2015 Investigator of the Year

2016 Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year Awards



Kirk Thor '91 had a very successful year as head football coach at Mansfield Lake Ridge, guiding his team to a 15-1 record and a first-ever spot in the Division I 5A championship game, a first for the school. The state runner-up title marked a remarkable turnaround as the team was 0-10 in Thor's first season as coach in 2012.



Ross Reedy '05 achieved historic success as the girls basketball coach at Frisco Liberty High School. The team made the school's first appearance in the Texas state tournament, reaching the championship game and finishing as the 5A runner-up, with an overall record of 33-7. Reedy was named the Texas Girls Coaches Association 5A-6A Coach of the Year.

2016 ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Honoring the accomplishments of alumni is a highlight of Homecoming every year, and 2016 recipients of Distinguished Alumni and service awards have achieved much to be celebrated.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Michael Adams '86 (MA '87) has served as superintendent at American School Foundation of Monterrey, Mexico, since 2013. He began his career in 1986 as an elementary teacher, then from 1990 to 2010, lived in Colombia, South America, working in several educational roles, from teaching to counseling to administration. He has been very active in his communities, serving in a variety of volunteer positions for professional and service organizations. He completed graduate studies at University of Houston Clear Lake in school guidance and counseling and later earned a doctorate in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, **Clara Rico '88**, live in Monterrey, Mexico, and have three children.



Don Johnson '71 is a licensed psychologist and operates a private practice, Western Trails Counseling Services. For more than 30 years, he served as executive director of Austin Psychotherapy Associates, which he founded. He also was a member of the graduate school faculty at St. Edward's University. Past president of the board of the Child Assault Prevention Project of Austin, Don has received service awards from several Austin organizations. He is president of the board of Wimberley Valley Radio and host of the station's "Mind/Body Talks." He earned a master's degree in clinical psychology from Trinity University and later, a Ph.D. in education from The University of Texas at Austin. Don and his wife, **Karolyn Tybor**, who also is his business partner, live in Wimberley, Texas, and have three adult children.



Virginia Smith Volpe '90 is a chartered financial analyst (CFA) and a managing director at SS&C Technologies. She has worked in the financial services industry since 1997, spending 17 years at Citi where she received the Chairman's Award for top sales three consecutive years. Prior to her work with Citi, she was a fixed income analyst with Reuters. She also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka from 1992 to 1994. She has been involved with several professional organizations and served as a speaker and moderator for SAIS Global Women in Leadership Conference. She earned a master's degree from John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). A community volunteer, she also has served as a member of the Austin College President's Visiting Council. Virginia and her husband, **Andrea**, live in New York, New York.

The **First Decade Award** is given to those alumni who particularly make their mark in the first 10 years after graduation. See next page for the 2016 honoree.

Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award

The Clemons Award is given to alumni or friends in honor of continued service and commitment to the College. The award honors a previous longtime Austin College Board of Trustees chair.



Fran Crown Sims '65 was recognized for many hours dedicated to reconnecting Austin College graduates with the College. Beginning with her own 50-year reunion class members in 2015, Fran has continued to diligently search databases, make phone calls, write emails, and do whatever necessary to restore lost 'Roos to College records. Now retired, Fran worked with a variety of organizations throughout her career as a leadership and management consultant, focusing on the human side of business. She and her husband, **John**, live in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award

The Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award honors a member of the faculty or staff who demonstrates extraordinary commitment to the support of alumni. The award is named for **Cindy Curtis Bean '75**, who served many years in the College's Alumni Office before retiring.



Margie Briscoe Norman '83 joined the Austin College staff in 1995 as a career counselor and Student Services program coordinator. She was promoted to director of Career Services in January 2000. She has helped thousands of Austin College alumni identify career paths, secure internships for career exploration, make connections with alumni, prepare resumes, build interview skills, and begin their careers. She serves as a resource for many alumni as well and connects them to current students. Before joining the Austin College staff, Margie worked as a misdemeanor probation officer and a felony pre-sentence investigation officer for Grayson County. She also served as director of educational services at a private therapy clinic. Margie and her husband, **David Norman '83**, live in Sherman, Texas, and have two adult children.



On the Ground & At the Table



Kristin Saboe '07
2016 First Decade Award Honoree

Kristin Saboe '07 chose combat boots over the corner office because she has a great respect for timing. With “dream-job” offers in front of her after completing her Ph.D., she says she had a gut feeling that the offers weren’t the right fit at that time in her life. She notes that her career decisions always include her larger goal to do something that changes the world and makes people’s lives better. Having done work with the U.S. Army in her Ph.D. research, Kristin knew that serving in the Army as a research psychologist would allow her to affect and change people’s lives for the better. “I knew if I was going to go into the military, that was the time due to the age cap,” Kristin said. “I can pursue the other opportunities later.”

After she completed her doctorate in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of South Florida, Kristin joined the Army as a Captain in 2012. She spent her first three years in the Army at the Walter Reed Army Institute for Research (WRAIR) where she worked with and on behalf of soldiers and their families conducting and publishing research and advising senior Army leaders. In that role, she deployed to Afghanistan in summer 2013 as the lead analyst of a hand-picked team evaluating the mental health and leadership of American soldiers in combat. Upon her return, she briefed the Commander of the U.S. and Joint Forces in Afghanistan with the results of the study and her recommendations.

Kristin is now stationed at the Pentagon as the Acting Branch Chief for Science and Research Integration at the Army Resiliency Directorate within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army. She manages and directs research and policy efforts promoting positive psychological growth, resilience, and risk-reduction in soldiers through training, self-assessment, and self-development. Dr. Les McFarling, the Senior Advisor for the Army Resiliency Directorate, offered a recommendation for Kristin for Austin College’s

First Decade Award, including, “The position she holds is slated for a much more senior officer. Kristin was selected based on her performance at WRAIR and her potential. Working with senior Army leaders, Kristin quickly sized up the situation and developed a plan to fix the faults of the ArmyFit program (an Army-wide effort promoting personal growth and well-being which has been adopted by militaries and organizations worldwide). She established her credentials with officers much her senior in several different Army organizations.”

Kristin has received a variety of military and professional awards and recognition—such as several significant Army achievement awards and being a featured expert during Congressional Testimony, for senior level executives, and before a variety of national media outlets. Beyond her military service, Kristin is also nationally recognized for her volunteer and leadership efforts with veteran employment.

“Being in uniform has enabled me not only to be at the decision-making table with regard to significant life-changing issues for millions but also to broaden my perspective, understanding, and appreciation for the depths of human experience, all while enjoying a successful and engaging career as an industrial-organizational psychologist,” Kristin said.

At home, Kristin and her husband, Michael Webb, welcomed their first child, Grant, just a few weeks after their campus visit for Homecoming. Mike is a professional musician, and Kristin’s favorite hobby is being his number one fan. As for the future of her career, Kristin says she knows she has choices and will continue to draw on many of the skills she learned as a student at Austin College.

“While I was at Austin College I got a really good idea about what the right fit feels like, and knowing that is very important,” she said. “Austin College set me up to understand that about myself.”



Aging Whiskey and Making History

By Leigh-Ellen Romm



Ironroot Republic Distillery in Denison, Texas, owned and operated by Austin College alumnus **Robert Likarish '09** and his brother Jonathan, celebrates a historic alliance

with Britain's oldest wine and spirits merchant, Berry Bros. & Rudd. The story began long ago when Texas was a nation.

After Texas declared independence from Mexico in 1836, Texas Republic President Sam Houston dispatched the Texas Legation to London to build diplomatic relations.

They took an office above

the Berry Bros. & Rudd shop on St. James Street and remained until Texas joined the United States.

Now, in honor of the 180th anniversary of Texas independence from Mexico, Berry Bros. & Rudd announced the addition of the Texas Legation whiskey to its range

of spirits. Ironroot Republic was chosen to provide *the* Texas whiskey from several distilleries invited to submit samples. They shipped six barrels that were blended for the inaugural batch in 2016, and expect to ship 60 to 120 more barrels this year. It's typical for bottled spirits

to be exported and sold worldwide, but sending barrels of carefully aged whiskey is brand new. Robert said the offer seemed almost too good to be true, as one of the whiskeys that inspired the Likarish brothers' journey is Berry Bros. & Rudd's Speyside whiskey.

Robert discovered himself on the first step of this journey when visiting the Highland Park Distillery on the Orkney Islands in Scotland in 2008 as part of the Scottish Castle Tour JanTerm course led by Dr. **Wayne Crannell**, associate professor of music. The distillery may have been just a fun stop on the itinerary for some students, but Robert was inspired.

The classes he took at Austin College helped him more than he ever could have expected at the time. "While studying economics and Asian studies, I took several science classes," he said. "It's amazing how useful that became as I'm learning about fermentation and how a still works. If I hadn't done that, I'd be completely lost around here, and it would be all up to my brother, the engineer," he said.

Robert draws on his business and economics education and the law degree he earned at St. Louis University Law School. "When you're an entrepreneur, you wear a lot of hats," he said. "We're distillers, bottlers, bartenders, forklift drivers, and marketers—all the while keeping up with federal paperwork, licenses, and PR. We do it all."

A good barrel of whiskey takes a long time to age, but Ironroot Republic Distillery is making history with its fast track to success.



AT CENTER, ROBERT LIKARISH



Ironroot Republic Awards and Commendations

Ironroot Harbinger Bourbon

- Double Gold, New York International Wine and Spirits Competition
- Silver, International Whiskey Competition
- Silver Outstanding, Whiskies of the World
- Bronze, San Francisco World Spirits Competition

Ironroot Promethean Bourbon (newest release)

- Gold/Best in Class, Whiskies of the World

Ironroot Hubris Corn Whiskey

- Double Gold/Best Corn Whiskey, San Francisco World Spirits Competition
- Silver, New York International Wine and Spirits Competition
- Silver, Whiskies of the World

State of Texas

- Small Business of the Year 2016
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IN MEMORIAM ☹️ ALUMNI

1932	Marguerite Flecher David	October 19, 2016
1939	Jaqueline Dickson Hallet	December 14, 2016
1939	Alice Louise Mills Moore	July 6, 2016
1941	Mary Janice Blackburn Goff	September 23, 2016
1943	Jean A. Christian	August 11, 2016
1943	Christine Harling Smith	October 1, 2015
1944	Jean McCutchen Steakley	August 30, 2016
1944	Robert Steakley	September 8, 2016
1946	Mary Thorington Guerrant	October 18, 2016
1946	Peggy Oglesby Whitley	April 24, 2016
1949	Stephen O. Bruno	April 23, 2016
1949	Mack Quinn Hunter	October 22, 2016
1949	Jennie Echo Griffin Martin	February 27, 2016
1950	James Blackmon	December 30, 2016
1951	Gwyn Morton	October 21, 2016
1952	Gordon Bowers	January 1, 2016
1952	Janet Marie Guthrie Sims	September 24, 2016
1953	Shirley Enix Brazill	February 15, 2016
1953	Jack Bryant Walker	April 7, 2016
1954	Jo Ann McLane McClaren	April 23, 2016
1954	Charles Purdy	November 3, 2015
1957	Donis Kay McBee Henson	October 18, 2016
1957	Mary Scott "Scottie" Daugherty	January 5, 2016
1957	Ray Sprinkel	June 2, 2016
1958	Charles Ralph Galbraith	March 1, 2016
1958	Martha Tarpley Sanford Port	June 19, 2016
1958	James Sandridge	February 24, 2016
1958	Lemuel Scarbrough Jr.	September 1, 2016
1958	Lila Lois Hall Smith	April 16, 2016
1960	Mary Elizabeth Kennedy	February 4, 2016
1962	Donnie Duncan	March 13, 2016
1962	Richard Wayne Hairston Sr.	March 9, 2016
1963	Mary Sue Hand Adams	January 6, 2016
1963	Margaret "Margo" Ann Hubbard	October 8, 2016
1963	Donald Frederick Manthei	February 18, 2016
1965	Henry Adams	January 6, 2016
1965	Bedford Mather Vestal	April 25, 2016
1966	Michael Morris	February 17, 2016
1967	Frances Johnson Bailey	July 21, 2016
1967	Kathrine Elizabeth Neel	February 29, 2016
1968	James Harmon "Sandy" Beach	August 5, 2015
1969	Kerry Anne Warren Goldsmith	April 7, 2016
1969	Freddie Ray Maples	August 10, 2016
1969	John Michael McKinney	August 15, 2016
1972	Bobby Anderson	January 14, 2016
1973	Ronald Lynn Floyd	April 7, 2016
1974	Kay Bartholomew Eldredge	February 9, 2016
1975	Thomas Edwin Blackwood	October 9, 2016
1975	Joseph D. Whitson Jr.	April 2, 2016
1977	Ray Matthews	August 24, 2016
1979	Donald Byers	June 25, 2016
1981	Randel Dean Spoonemore	September 27, 2016
1982	Rickey Turner	September 14, 2016
1984	Lea "Lelo" Schafer	August 21, 2016
1985	Melody Ann Tadlock Mills	May 19, 2016
1986	Timothy George Schroeder	July 28, 2016

Friends We Will Miss

Robert Alther, who taught history at Austin College in the early 1960s, died February 15, 2016.

Alan R. Isley, who served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Music in spring 2011, died November 19, 2016.

Sue Sappenfield, who worked in the College library and Registrar's Office from 1973 until her retirement in 1997, died September 16, 2016.

Lenora Ann Steadman, who worked at Austin College in public relations from 1979 through 1981, died April 23, 2016.

Annabelle Wilson, who worked for Austin College and ARAMARK Housekeeping for 30 years before retiring, died May 20, 2016.

Remembering Senior Trustee Janet Sims



The Austin College community lost a beloved friend and supporter in senior trustee **Janet Guthrie Sims**, who died September 24, 2016.

Janet served as a member of the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1989 until 2001 when she was elected to the Senior Board, remaining active until her death.

Janet taught history and English at Hillcrest High School in Dallas while her husband, Dr. Jerry Sims '53, was in medical school. The couple moved to McKinney, Texas, in 1965.

The daughter of a minister, Janet found her true calling in church work. She was an active member of First Presbyterian Church of McKinney for more than 50 years, serving as an elder and involved in all phases of the work of the church. She also was active in ministries of Grace Presbytery and the Synod of the Sun, serving as moderator of Grace Presbytery in 1991.

Janet aspired to help others; her work as an Austin College trustee helped many students discover their potential.

Community Mourns Deaths of Faculty

Jack Pierce, a member of the biology faculty since 1967, died September 26, 2016.

Don Rodgers, a member of the political science faculty since 2003, died November 13, 2016.

See the story on Page 10.

“In Other Words”

'Roo Coaches Are Educators First

By Marc Parrish '92



Henry Frnka had been out of coaching for some time by 1969. A decade in the oil business and the general prosperity of the Kennedy and Johnson years had been kind to his pocketbook. But it was not enough.

“The oil business is fine,” Frnka had remarked. “But it’s not football, which was my life for so long. I don’t mind telling you I get lonesome for football.”

At Austin College, Frnka was one of legendary coach Pete Cawthon’s most reliable players. Frnka played a pivotal role in leading the 'Roo to a 1923 conference championship and was instrumental in the College’s 7-3 victory over Southwestern



HENRY FRNKA

Conference champion Baylor in 1924. By defeating the Bears that year, Henry Frnka and the 'Roo were able to accomplish what Texas A&M, Arkansas, SMU, Rice, and the Texas Longhorns could not.

Frnka graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education in 1926 and like many of the “Cawthon Boys” immediately went into coaching. He turned Lubbock High into a power and won a state championship at Greenville in 1933. Assistant coaching positions at Vanderbilt and Temple University followed, as did a master’s degree at Austin College.

In 1941, Frnka was offered the head coaching position at Tulsa. Five straight winning seasons followed, including appearances in the Sugar Bowl and a win in the Orange Bowl. Struggling Tulane was watching closely and lured Frnka to New Orleans in 1946 to turn around the program. By 1948, Tulane was a top-20 team. And in 1949, Frnka’s Green Wave won the SEC championship, defeating, among others, Florida, Auburn, Alabama, South Carolina, and LSU.

Like Austin College athletics itself after World War II, Henry Frnka began to sour on the increased role of money and media in the college game. He left coaching for good in 1951 and returned to Sherman to take an administrative position in development at Austin College. The oil business in San Antonio would come later.

Collegiate athletics brings us joy in ways very few experiences can. But the games today are also frequently influenced by the negative forces that drove Frnka away from coaching and back to Sherman. What Coach Frnka longed for was what he enjoyed as a player under Cawthon: a commitment to success to be sure, but also a priority on education, mentoring, and character building. In leaving the big-time game to return to Austin College and his love of education, Frnka closely mirrors the arc of Austin College athletics itself.

Austin College graduates who go into the field of coaching are first and foremost educators. Their top priority is to turn young boys into men and young girls into women. They understand the value of loss as well as the exhilaration of winning. They are often less consumed with the negative pressures found elsewhere in the commercialized world of collegiate athletics.

By 1969, Frnka was ready to return to his love of football, but only on his very Austin College-like terms. He envisioned creating a coaching clinic, an annual retreat in San Antonio where some of the best coaches of the day would educate other collegiate and high school coaches on the biggest challenges facing their schools and squads.

To turn his vision into reality, Frnka needed some heavy hitters to teach. So Frnka called up a friend whom he had recommended for the head coaching job at Kentucky in 1947 after turning down the offer himself and staying at Tulane. His friend enthusiastically agreed to participate.

“Henry, I couldn’t turn you down for what you did for me when you helped me get the Kentucky job,” said Alabama coach Paul “Bear” Bryant.

Some of the biggest names in coaching would play a prominent role in the Henry Frnka Football Coaching Clinic throughout the 1970s and 1980s, among them Darrell Royal, Frank Broyles, Woody Hayes, Tom Landry, Forrest Gregg, Tom Osborne, Lou Holtz, and Bum Phillips.

'Roo coaches today can be found throughout the state and the country, from the smallest Little League fields to the ACC championship game. Like Frnka himself, they’d all quickly point out that winning is important. But winning isn’t everything, and it’s not the only thing. What makes a place like Austin College unique in the coaching world is a commitment to the more fundamental values of educating, inspiring, and mentoring young minds to be tomorrow’s doctors, lawyers, professors—and coaches. ■

Marc Parrish '92 is a manager of information technology at The University of Texas System in Austin, Texas. He is a former First-Team TIAA All-Conference 'Roo tennis player and a self-professed 'Roo sports fan. He is working on a book about Austin College athletics and writing short “Roo Tales” about Austin College sports (<http://bit.ly/1UM0CSH>).

The content of this column expresses the perspectives of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views, position, or policy of Austin College, its administrators, or its Board of Trustees.

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