

AUSTIN COLLEGE

Magazine **Spring 2014**

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On the Cover: Rizwan Gangwani '16 and other members of the 2014 Williams Student Investment Fund class. Photo by Jason Earnhart, Michaels Photography

Rizwan is the recipient of the Goodloe Lewis Endowed Scholarship for Student Leadership, Williams Student Investment Fund Sponsored Scholarship, and Fullinwider Sponsored Founders Scholarship.

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An IDEA Realized



FROM THE PRESIDENT

“What kind of residential, liberal arts do our students need in order to serve and lead in a digitally connected, globally linked, and rapidly changing world?”



Many of you have heard me say that I see my work as two-fold: to ensure that the College is making the changes necessary to remain successful and relevant for a new generation, and equally, to ensure that we continuously reaffirm and reinvest in the things about Austin College that should never change.

In my conversations on campus and all over the country with alumni, I find strong agreement that the “unchangeables” have to do with the character of our community, the strength of our liberal arts education, our commitment to opening our doors to talented students no matter their family circumstance or background, our supportive covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the quality of our teaching, mentoring, and student support.

Those things that you tell me must evolve over time include the ways we meet each new generation of students “where they are,” the ways we prepare our students to lead and serve a changing world, the facilities that support our mission, and the ways we interact with local, regional, and international communities.

I am very pleased that our new strategic plan continues our commitment to both sustenance and progress. You can find the complete plan, *Adding Value to a Changing World* on our website at www.austincollege.edu/strategicplan. And within the pages of this magazine you will find information about several of the new initiatives that are part of the plan. But I am delighted to provide here a brief overview of our thinking and a preview of the plan’s four core areas of focus.

Our plan has emerged from focus on two key questions:

- What kind of residential, liberal arts do our students need in order to serve and lead in a digitally connected, globally linked, and rapidly changing world?
- What sustainable business model will allow us to provide this education?

The plan explores these questions in detail and identifies four core areas in which we intend to make meaningful progress over the next five years:

Career and Life Planning: As the nature of work evolves, our liberal arts curriculum and our co-curricular program must be integrated and aligned to maximize opportunities for students to develop transformative life and career skills.

Liberal Arts in a Digital Era: Graduates of this generation need to be able to express themselves using both traditional and new communication technologies. We are committed to expanding the

ways we integrate technology into learning so that our students are prepared for the new ways knowledge is being constructed and disseminated.

Sustainability in the New Economy: We are committed to making an Austin College education even more affordable and its opportunities more accessible to all talented students, including first-generation college students, international students, transfer students, early-access college students, and others who could benefit from expanded opportunities. We will create financial stability by slightly expanding the size of our student body, by developing revenue streams that build on our core strengths, and by undertaking a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will move Austin College to the next level of competitiveness and excellence.

Global Vision, Local Engagement: We are ready to serve as an accelerator for the cultural and economic growth of our surrounding region. Concurrently, we will build international partnerships that have a local impact and further build on our long-standing reputation as a leader in international education.

We have set measurable goals and identified key projects for each of these areas. And we will continue to seek out the best ideas and put them into practice as our plan unfolds. We are confident that we can realize our vision:

By 2020, every graduating Austin College student will be ready to offer perspectives, skills, and knowledge that add authentic value to a changing world. The College and its graduates will be well prepared to flourish amidst rapid technological advances and economic disruption.

Please do let me know your thoughts after you read the plan. We are eager to have your engagement and support. And be sure to keep in touch with us about other things as well. We love to hear about the ways our alumni are continuing to find value and meaning in the education they received at Austin College.

On a personal note, I’ll be spending some time this summer with Larry, Jessica (on her summer break from St. Edward’s University), Cameron (newly employed at Mathematica Research and living in Philadelphia), and our extended families in Chicago and Wisconsin. I hope that your summer is equally full of love.

Warmly,

Majorie Hase

The school year is over but for Austin College students, the journey continues...



Erin Riley '14 is one of the some 255 new graduates who are benefitting from the investment others have made in their lives. Following her May graduation, she is pursuing her master's degree through the Austin Teacher Program.

Her experience as a member and captain of the women's basketball team—and a unique cultural exchange playing basketball in Costa Rica during one summer—brought new friends for life.

"If I hadn't played basketball here, I don't know if I would have been invited to Costa Rica—and it's the best experience I ever had," she says. "Now I want to become a teacher and leave my mark on the world!"

Will you help them
voyage
on?

Erin—celebrating at the sports banquet with David and Joy Simpson—was supported by a Morris Foundation Sponsored Scholarship, Charles Curtis Sponsored Academic Honors Scholarship, and next year, will earn her master's degree as recipient of the Brittany Daniele Simpson Memorial Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding Student in Teacher Education.



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www.austincollege.edu/support



AUSTIN
COLLEGE

SNAPSHOT



Bird's-Eye View

While studying abroad in Seville, Spain, in Fall Term 2013, **Alejandrina Ocanas '15** traveled four hours outside Seville to the small town of Arcos de la Frontera, which sits on a huge rock cliff. She, and another “visitor” shared an amazing view of the valley below. Alex said the area has evidence of Neolithic and early Roman settlement, but is mostly influenced by the Moors who took over around the year 1000.

CATALYSTS FOR GOD



Anyone who has attended a youth event led by the Austin College ACTivators understands the group is doing dynamic, engaging ministry, and creating reactions among the young people and adults gathered around them.

Of course, “active” is the core of the name. Whether leading worship or trademark energizers, serving as small group leaders, guiding students in service opportunities, or taking part in recreation time, “active” alone is insufficient to fully describe the singing, dancing, praying, playing, teaching, and traveling young people who have been regulars at youth ministry events in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for nearly 20 years.

The first ACTivators said their initial offer to assist with an event resulted in requests to make a few posters and help with moving some tables. Today, the ACTivators are sought out regularly to organize and lead events, and the group is recognized throughout the region as a force to be reckoned with in youth ministry.

Next spring, the ACTivators will mark their 20th year of ministry. That anniversary is still a year away, and already, since its founding in February 1995, the ACTivators

program has involved **512** Austin College students who have traveled over **158,000** miles to plan and lead **588** local, regional, and national ministry events involving over **47,000** children, youth, adults, and senior citizens from 20 presbyteries in 14 states.

The effort, led by **John Williams '84**, then associate chaplain at the College, started with five students who recruited others –Presbyterians and beyond—to join them in outreach. Today’s thriving ministry was just the germ of an idea for those five young people who all have continued in ministry in their lives after Austin College.

In addition to service to others, the program is designed to provide to students the opportunity to remain involved in the life of the church through their college years. That has certainly been the case—offering hundreds of students many and diverse opportunities to practice gifts and share the message that all are “gifted and beloved” by God.

The program received a boost in 1998 with the creation of the Sallie Majors Religious Life Internship Program through a gift from **Robert M. Johnson '53**. Mrs. Sallie Kennedy McLane Majors (1885-1975) was a leader in Presbyterian Christian education at the congregational, regional, and national level. She also was Johnson’s great-aunt. The program in her memory created interns who work with Williams, now Austin College chaplain and William M. Elliott, Jr., Chair in Christian Ministry, to plan and promote all aspects of the Austin College Religious Life Program, including the ACTivators ministry.

The students who serve as ACTivators and Majors Interns are not necessarily interested in a career in ministry; they represent a wide variety of academic majors and religious backgrounds—but share a common commitment to young people and providing examples of fun, active college students ready to share their faith in God. ■



The original ACTivators returned for a 2011 celebration of the group’s 500th event. Pictured are Tim Millerick, Brandon Wert '96, event speaker Cindy Rigby, Noelle Castin '03, Amy Allen Parker '03, John Williams '84, Janet Chester '03, and Michael Harper '94.

Of the 108 Sallie Majors Interns who have graduated since the program was inaugurated in 1999-2000,

- **44 have had a church-related job after graduation**
- **22 have gone to seminary**
- **16 are now ordained Presbyterian ministers**
- **1 is an ordained Methodist minister**
- **24 are in education**
- **10 served as Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteers**

**Activator
#500**



Sarah Monroe '17 of San Antonio, Texas, was the 500th student to join the ACTivator program, hitting that mark in fall 2013. She just happens to be an Austin College legacy: granddaughter of Haskell Monroe, Jr., '52, who earned a master's degree at the College in 1954 and was awarded an honorary doctorate at Austin College in 1980.

Sarah made a beeline for Austin College because it seemed a great place to embrace two interests, music and biology, while making a new Presbyterian home for herself. In addition to serving as an ACTivator, Sarah attends Covenant Presbyterian Church and takes part in regular Sunday evening worship services on campus. She also is a member of the A Cappella Choir.

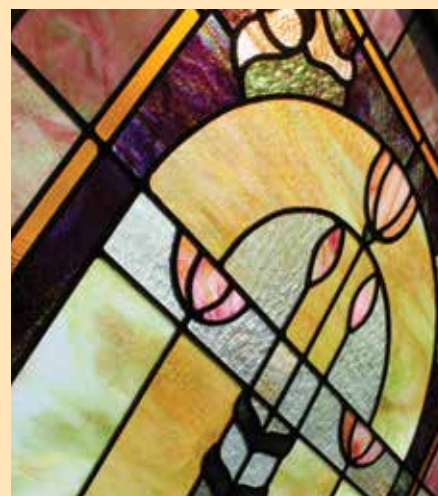
*John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship
Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship for Presbyterian Students*

Benediction

*As beloved, gifted, capable, and
safe children of God,
Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold on tight to all that is good.
Return no one evil for evil.
Support the weak.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Honor all people.
Love and serve the Lord.
Share what you have.
Speak truth tenderly and lovingly.
Clean up your own messes.
Use the brains God gave you.
Act like gifted and beloved people,
Because that IS what you are.
And go with the full confidence
That the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
The love of God;
And the communion of the Holy Spirit
ARE with us all;
Today;
Tomorrow;
And forever.
Amen.*



— John D. Williams '84



**COMMENCEMENT
OF THE
165th YEAR**

Austin College's
Class of 2014 alumni
take on the world



**“WE HAVE TRANSCENDED
MERE STUDENTHOOD IN THE
INTERESTS OF STARTING A
NEW STORY” — Cody Edwards '14**



ALONG GRAND AVENUE

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

Sunny skies and smiling faces abounded for Commencement 2014 at Austin College. Led by College marshal **Hunt Tooley**, professor of history, the procession made its way from across campus to the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court amidst a sea of family and friends. The traditional bagpipers accompanied as faculty split into two lines to flank the graduates as they marched. Faculty clapped as each of the 15 Master of Arts in



hood in the interests of starting a new story. This ceremony is called Commencement. It is the preface to a story you will write yourself—a story in which you become a lawyer, or a writer, or maybe even president of the United States. And if you've ever tried to write a story, you know that it's tough work."

Words of encouragement for the soon-to-be graduates came in the Commencement address by Rotary International president Ron Burton. "Turning your dreams into reality is something all of you are getting ready to do. You've finished

your college degrees, and you're heading toward the next stages of your lives—whether that's graduate study, or a job, or something you're still deciding," he said. "But whatever you do next, you will do it better, you'll be happier in your lives, and you'll achieve more if you aren't living your lives just for yourselves. At the end of the day, you'll never regret choosing to do what is right instead of what's easy. And you'll never regret the time you spent helping make the world a better place."

Finally, came the Class of 2014's chance to take the stage and receive diplomas from President **Marjorie Hass**, and then, the march out of the graduation court, smiles even wider and more dazzling, as the new alumni set out to face the world.



Teaching degree candidates and some 255 Bachelor of Arts degree candidates passed by. The line slowed occasionally for a quick

hug or handshake from a mentor, and always bright eyes were searching the crowd for special faces.

Cody Edwards '14 spoke on behalf of his fellow graduates, telling a story of students who arrived on campus four years ago and began to find focus and transformation through their experiences at Austin College. But that story, Cody said, is done. "The group sitting in front of me is no longer the protagonist of that story. We have transcended mere student-



Honoring the Austin College Community



Top Graduates

Each year, the faculty selects two outstanding graduates for special recognition. The J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Medals are awarded, with no distinction between them, on the basis of students' entire academic records. President **Marjorie Hass** presented the 2014 awards to **Alexi Beeson** of Kenai, Alaska, and **Zhiwei "Jerry" Cai** of Guangdong, China.

Alexi, who was captain of the Kangaroo basketball team and president of the Austin College Student Athletic Advisory Committee, as well as a Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic honoree, hopes to become a strength and conditioning coach for a Division I college. She will intern this summer with the University of Kentucky and this fall with Ohio State University, in their strength and conditioning programs, before pursuing graduate school in fall 2015. She completed majors in business administration and Spanish.

Jerry plans to find a job in software engineering or finance, perhaps in algorithmic trading or information system management to combined his interests in finance and economics with his knowledge in computer science. He is considering graduate school, but only after working for a time. He completed majors in computer science and international business and finance.

Alexi Beeson—Morris Foundation Sponsored Scholarship, Grace Collins and Will Collins Scholarship in Business and Economics

Jerry Cai—Will Mann Richardson Endowment Fund and Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and Service

Honorary Doctorate Degrees

Commencement speaker **Ron Burton** received an honorary doctorate degree, along with **Sallie Sampsell Watson '78**, who presented the Baccalaureate sermon in which she reminded seniors that happiness is often touted as a life goal, but the real goal, she said, is not to lose heart. "God has shaped and refined you for His good purposes that will only be evident in time as you continue the journey," she said. "And as long as you can cling to that truth, dear ones, you will never have the opportunity to lose heart."

Honorary doctorates also were awarded to **Bill Douglass**, an Austin College trustee, for service to his Sherman community and to Austin College. Honorary doctorates also went to two very familiar Austin College faces: President Emeritus **Oscar C. Page** and past Board of Trustees chair **Robert Johnson '53**, recognizing the depth of their personal service to Austin College.



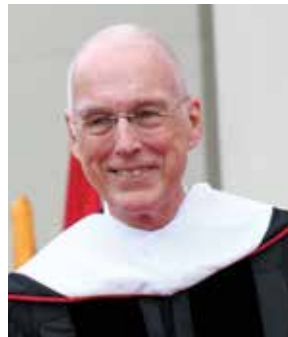
Ron Burton



Sallie Sampsell Watson '78



Robert Johnson '53



Oscar C. Page



Bill Douglass

Faculty Awards

Each spring, Honors Convocation provides a means to honor students who have distinguished themselves by completing the best individual work in various academic disciplines. Austin College faculty members, too, are recognized for what they do best: teaching.

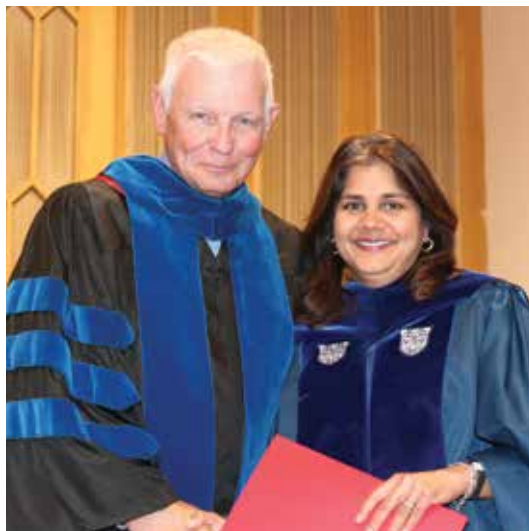
Austin College honors three individuals for teaching excellence each year. Two recognitions come in the form of nominations for Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship and CASE U.S. Professor of the Year competitions. The third honoree receives the College's Excellence in Teaching Award. "The student accomplishments we recognize today are reflective of the excellent faculty of Austin College," said Dr. **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty, shown with the honorees.



Dr. Stephanie Gould

Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship Nominee

- Associate Professor of Chemistry
- Member of the Austin College faculty since 2008



Dr. John White

Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership Award

- Associate Professor of Education, Austin Teacher Program
- Member of the Austin College faculty since 1980



Dr. Jacqueline Moore

CASE U.S. Professors of the Year Nominee

- Professor of History
- Member of the Austin College faculty since 1994



Homer P. Rainey Award

Another 2014 Honors Convocation announcement: **John Jennings**, executive director of facilities, was presented the Board of Trustees' Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service to Austin College. John has been a dedicated member of the staff since 2001, and his input and oversight were invaluable during the construction and opening of the IDEA Center.

Felicitations for Retiring Faculty

For the Austin College community, thankfully, retirement doesn't always mean faculty members go away. Some move on to new locations and new projects; others can be found around campus teaching one or two classes or taking on a special task. Redshaw will teach one course in fall 2014; White will serve as interim director of the Posey Leadership Institute. Whether the fall term brings retirees back to campus or to projects near or far, congratulations and gratitude go with them.



Dr. Peter DeLisle

- Crane Chair in Leadership Studies
- Director of Posey Leadership Institute 2005-2014



Dr. Peggy Redshaw

- Professor of Biology 1979-2014



Dr. Anthony Tanner

- Associate Professor of Chemistry 1984-2014



Dr. John White

- Associate Professor of Education, Austin Teacher Program 1980-2014

Faculty Publications



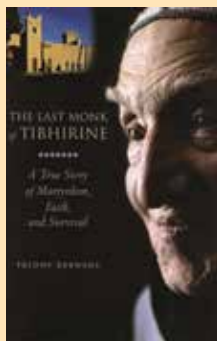
The Hunter-Gatherer Within

George Diggs, MacGregor Chair in Natural Science, and **Kerry Brock**, associate professor of mathematics, propose that the modern American diet is very much out of sync with human genetics and evolution. They have studied biology, nutrition, and evolution for many years, and expanded their study into newer fields of evolutionary medicine and ancestral health.



The Fair Ophelia

John McGinn, associate professor of music, served as music director for the recently released CD *The Fair Ophelia*, a production of The Shakespeare Concerts of Massachusetts. The CD was released in November 2013 by Navona Records, a division of PARMA. The CD website includes related links and a 12-minute YouTube sampler.



The Last Monk of Tibhirine

Ruth Cape of Austin College's German faculty and colleague **Andreas Kiryakakis** from St. John's University of Minnesota have translated the German book *Der letzte Mönch von Tibhirine* by Freddy Derwahl, published in Germany in 2012. The English translation of the book by Cape and Kiryakakis was released in fall 2013 by Paraclete Press.



Promoting Social Skills in the Inclusive Classroom

Jill Schurr, associate professor of psychology, is co-author of this new book that she and colleagues released through Guilford Press in October 2013, offering tools and strategies for improving the social skills of all members of the inclusive classroom (K-6), especially students experiencing difficulties in this area.



A very “Austin College” element of KangaRAAS is the team’s multicultural membership. KangaRAAS was the only team at the SMU competition with non-Indian members.

KangaRAAS Go National

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Austin College competitive Indian Garba/Dandiya Raas dance team, KangaRAAS, participated in its inaugural competition. During 2013-2014, the team moved up to its first national competition, joining teams like UT-Austin, Texas A&M, and Michigan State on the stage. Just getting there was a milestone—an audition video was required. Once accepted, practices accelerated to perfect the intricate dance moves. The team practiced 3 hours a day during the week and 5 hours per day on weekends, with a few 8-hour practices thrown in, all toward the team of 14 perfecting the 7-minute routine for the competition.

Hard work, but definitely worth it, said team captains and Class of 2014 graduates **Sathya Kikkeri**, **Surya Ravi**, and **Meghana Bellary**. The dancers traveled to the Dallas event in “competition mode,” expecting fierce rivalry, but were pleasantly surprised to find the other teams friendly and helpful. And, KangaRAAS were thrilled to be among others who love the dance as much they do.

The captains said they discovered a new aspect of school spirit through the dance team. “We are proud to let people know who we are, and now people who knew nothing of Austin College know all about us,” Meghana said. “Through KangaRAAS, we’ve succeeded in putting Austin College on the map in a new way.”

New to the Board

Austin College welcomes six new members to the Board of Trustees:

Brent Christopher
Dallas, Texas

Bill Crook '80
Houston, Texas

Joan Darden '87
Fort Worth, Texas

Craig Florence '84
Dallas, Texas

Sarah Gunderson '81
Dallas, Texas

Todd Liles '87
San Francisco, California

\$500,000 Mellon Grant Moves Liberal Arts to Digital Age

What is sometimes referred to as “the digital age” is simply everyday life for today’s college students. So, to incorporate increased digital technology in learning as an element of Austin College’s strategic plan is to capitalize on the strengths and interests of learners. A three-year \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in support of “Collaborative Pedagogies in the Digital Age” will make that possible.

The Mellon grant will enable faculty to better incorporate digital storytelling, blogs, podcasting, wikis, electronic notebooks, website creation, real-time collaboration with experts and colleagues around the globe, and digital film production to enhance learning opportunities.

Austin College President **Marjorie Hass** said many people think digital education means putting courses online and reducing direct contact between teachers and students. She is quick to point out that will not be the case at Austin College. “We are not looking for ways to take the professor out of the equation,” she said. “We are looking for ways to put the professor more deeply into it.”

“Just because students are digital natives and fluent in Twitter and other applications does not mean they are educated in effective communication using those tools,” Dr. Hass said. “When our students come to us, they already know how to read, but that doesn’t mean we don’t teach literature. This is the same thing. The Mellon grant will give our faculty and students the training and tools necessary to collaborate more effectively with each other and with our local and global partners.” **Patrick Duffey**, professor of Spanish and newly appointed associate dean of the faculty, will direct the Mellon program.

Above all, Austin College leaders say they expect this grant to help them reach their goal of providing a cutting-edge, 21st-century, educational experience. “People sometimes think a liberal arts college is something from the medieval period, with people walking around in robes,” said **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, vice president for Academic Affairs. “But check back in three years and see the innovative things our faculty will have done with this opportunity,” she said. “We will have a lot to talk about.”



GATEWAYS

Gateways of Opportunity

A quality liberal arts education fosters critical thinking and reflection, written and oral communication skills, problem-solving abilities, leadership, and adaptability. Still, some wonder whether a liberal arts degree opens doors beyond the college campus for graduates.

“Austin College has long served as a tremendous launching pad for our students,” said Austin College President **Marjorie Hass**. “We want every student that crosses the stage at graduation to be moving toward a bright future.” She acknowledges however, that students sometimes find it difficult to navigate the options before them.

With those challenges before them, President Hass and **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, vice president for Academic Affairs, have created a “Gateways initiative” that will encourage students to begin to visualize paths to creating and achieving their future goals. “This initiative is another step to assure that Austin College students will find their places in the highly competitive marketplace,” Dr. Hass said.

This program operates in conjunction with—and expands beyond—the work of Career Services through partnerships that offer specific opportunities for students. In the first phase of the initiative, the partnerships involve preferred graduate and professional school admission and summer enrichment programs. The next phase of the program will focus on corporate and community partnerships that will expand internships for current students as well as some first job opportunities for graduates.

The growing list of graduate school partners includes:

- Carnegie Mellon University’s H. John Heinz III College for master’s programs in Public Policy and Management, Arts Management, and Healthcare Policy and Management
- Kansas State University’s College of Human Ecology and programs in Family Financial Planning, Gerontology, Conflict Resolution, and Personal Financial Planning
- Texas Tech University School of Law
- Texas Tech University Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration
- University of Texas at Tyler
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) in the Dominican Republic

The partnerships, Piñeres said, are available because of the caliber of education that happens in the Austin College classroom. “The quality of our students combined with the preparation by our faculty and the excellent programs at Austin College are the reasons that graduate schools and employers are willing to engage with our students,” she said. “The Gateways initiative will work because of the excellence of the Austin College education and the vision of our selective partners who see the real value of the liberal arts as a strong foundation for tomorrow’s professionals.”



GOLD Impact: Studying Abroad at Austin College

Min Shim '17 of South Korea loves his college experience, feeling right at home among the good friends he has made at Austin College. He first came to the United States as an exchange student as a high school sophomore, living with a family in Utah. He found the education challenging so arranged to remain in the country, graduating from a private school in Utah.

Wanting to attend college in the U.S., Min, along with his sister who attended the University of Michigan, began to research colleges. Learning about Austin College, Min

liked the size of the student body, small classes, attention from faculty, and the emphasis on global education.

Being awarded the **GOLD Impact International Student Scholarship** confirmed his college choice.

A business major, Min said he likely will return to South Korea to work in his father's business in transportation after graduation. In the meantime, he is enjoying learning more about the lives of his classmates and telling them about his home in South Korea.

That important influence of international students within the Austin College community led students in the Class of 2008 to direct their senior gift toward establishment of a scholarship for an international student. Over the past year, Graduates Of the Last Decade (GOLD) alumni helped to complete funding and fully endow the scholarship, now known as the "GOLD Impact Scholarship."

Min is interested in learning additional languages and possibly a study abroad experience while at Austin College. He enjoys Texas, though the winter months were a bit colder than he had hoped. He likes the sense of Texas state pride and confidence he sees around him. While in Utah, he particularly enjoyed the Texas Roadhouse restaurant and finds it very interesting to now visit a Texas Roadhouse *in Texas*. Amidst the many things he is learning at Austin

College and in Texas, he finds cheese fries a good discovery. He looks forward this fall to attending the State Fair of Texas—"especially for the food." Sounds like a native!



Heard Around Campus



Todd Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecturer

"The one thing you can choose every day is your disposition. If you wake up every day and believe that people in America are generally anti-(insert any group here), somebody will say something to you that will validate that every day, and you can go through life with a big chip on your shoulder. If you believe men are sexist or people are homophobic, you can wake up every day and wait for somebody to make you angry. Or, you can believe that every day is a gift from God, and every day is an opportunity for you to do something extraordinary, to see something that will put a smile on your face, and you will live a life of joy."

– Ambassador **Ron Kirk** '76,
former U.S. Trade Representative, senior of counsel, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

FULBRIGHT | UDALL | BOREN



Madeline Akers—NOW Scholarship
 Lauren Tepera—Lela May Currie and Marion Carol Currie Memorial Scholarship, John Peyton and Mary Louise Shoap Fellowship in Modern Languages, The Morris Foundation Sponsored Scholarship
 Alexandra England—NOW Scholarship

Students Win Prestigious Awards

Five Austin College students received notification this spring of highly competitive national awards for continued study.

Class of 2014 graduates **Madeline Akers**, **Lauren Tepera**, and **Alexandra England**, pictured left to right, have been awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grants to teach English in Germany for the 2014-2015 academic year while serving as U.S. cultural ambassadors. Fifteen Austin College students have received the increasingly competitive Fulbright

grants since 2010, and the College has been recognized as a top producer of Fulbright awardees.

Sophie Higgs '15 was one of 50 U.S. students to receive Udall Scholarships for students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy, or Native American health care. Sophie plans to pursue a career in environmental research, possibly as a college professor. The 2014 Udall Scholars were selected from 489 candidates from 228 colleges and universities.

Phyllis Goode '16 was awarded a Boren Scholarship to study in Shanghai, China, where she will focus on Intensive Chinese Language studies as well as Chinese culture and history. The Boren Scholarships, sponsored by the National Security Education Program, are awarded to provide important international and language components to students' educations in world regions critical to the future security and stability of the U.S. In exchange, Boren recipients agree to work in the federal government for at least one year. Of 868 Boren Scholarship applications, 165 students received awards.



Sophie Higgs

Sophie Higgs—Plachy Family Sponsored Academic Honors Scholarship, M.D. "Bud" Bryant Fellowship in Biology



Phyllis Goode

Phyllis Goode—Charles F. Richardson III, International Studies Scholarship, NOW Scholarship

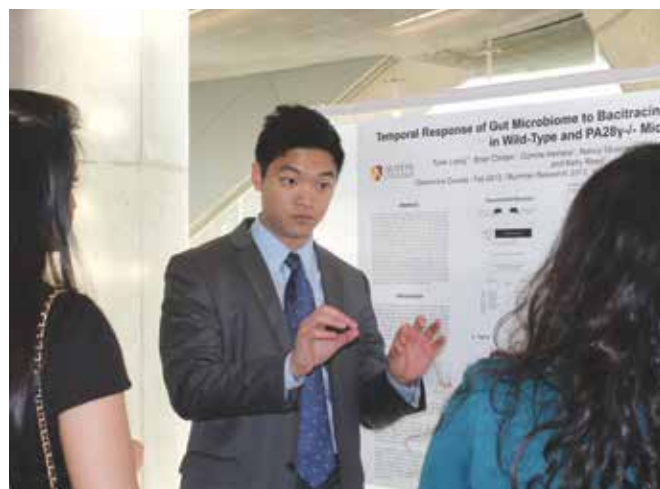
Conference Highlights Student Research and Performance

Opportunity for undergraduate research, presentation, and performance is a priority at Austin College and establishment of the Austin College Scholarship Conference in 2012-2013 provided a venue to spotlight student work.

In March 2014, the conference was held again—showcasing student presentations of research projects, intellectual scholarship activities, and creative works. More than 150 students were involved, from performance of the College Improv Troupe to "Chamber Music for Voices and Instruments" to bilingual stage readings of "Quixotic Madness." Other settings were a Poster Symposium, multiple oral presentation sessions of student research, art displays, and a shadow cast presentation of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Many of the research projects were undertaken with faculty members while others represented individual work.

Sponsored by the College's Robert and Joyce Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching, the conference represents a collaborative endeavor by faculty to provide a forum for students to share discoveries and creative expression in their respective areas of study, encompassing all academic divisions of the College.

The conference was coordinated by **Lance Barton**, associate professor of biology.



Timing of the 2014 conference allowed several of the Poster Presentation students, like Tyler Liang '15, to share their work with a broader audience at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science the evening of the Austin College Posey Leadership Award presentation to microbiologist Dr. Nathan Wolfe.

PREVENTING PANDEMIC

2014 Austin College Posey Leadership Award and GO! Forum

Dr. Nathan Wolfe, dubbed “the Indiana Jones of virus hunting” received the Austin College Posey Leadership Award for 2014 in recognition of his service on behalf of global health. The pioneering epidemiologist works in the jungles of Africa and Southeast Asia, examining the transmission of deadly viruses such as HIV or SARS to help prevent such viral threats from emerging as the next world pandemic. He spoke to students, faculty, staff, and guests on campus as well as at the College’s annual Global Outreach Forum at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

The 43-year-old scientist has been included in important lists of the world’s most influential people, including the *Time* “Top 100,” the *Rolling Stone* “100 Agents of Change,” and among the *Popular Science* “Brilliant 10.” He also received the National Institute of Health Director’s Pioneer Award. Wolfe is the founder and CEO of Global Viral, a not-for-profit organization that promotes understanding, exploration, and stewardship of the microbial world. The group supports and links over 100 scientists and staff from countries around the world to address the most important global infectious disease threats.

The Austin College Posey Leadership Award was created in March 2005 through the generosity of Sally and the late Lee Posey, founder of Palm Harbor Homes. The annual award honors outstanding individuals who, through their work, have demonstrated the principles of values-based servant leadership on a global stage.



Select Photos:
Kristina Bowman Photography

TOP AWARDS FOR TOP ATHLETES



Shelby Eaves Nathan Packard



Cierra White Gus Daniel

Outstanding Senior Athlete Awards

Excellence and leadership come with experience and two Kangaroos have exhibited all aspects of team leadership. Winner of the Pete Cawthon Outstanding Male Athlete Award was **Nathan Packard** of the football squad. The Gene Day Outstanding Female Athlete Award honoree was **Shelby Eaves** of the volleyball squad.

After earning preseason All-America recognition, Nathan had an outstanding senior campaign, earning SCAC Player of the Week honors and also being named First Team All-Conference at his linebacker position. He also was named to the National Football Foundation's prestigious Hampshire Honor Society in recognition of excellence on the football field, in the classroom, and in the community. Nathan compiled 60 tackles in the fall 2013 season, including two sacks, seven tackles for loss, one interception, and one fumble recovery to lead Austin College to a 5-5 record, the best since 2008.

Shelby had a remarkable senior season, earning All-Conference, All-Region, and finally All-America honors while breaking the Austin College career record for kills, and finishing among the national leaders in both total kills and kills-per-set. She was selected last fall to the CoSIDA/Capitol One Academic All-District Team for performance athletically and in the classroom. She was the only SCAC player named to the team and one of only seven NCAA Division III players in District 8 to earn the honor. A former SCAC Newcomer of the Year, Shelby was an All-Conference selection each of her four years of play. She is a summa cum laude Austin College graduate.

Outstanding Freshman Athlete Awards

New talent is needed every year for the Kangaroo teams, and in 2013-2014, the recipients of the Tim Jubela Outstanding Freshman Athlete Award—**Gus Daniel**, baseball, and **Cierra White**, tennis—particularly excelled in competition.

In his first season with the 'Roos, Gus was an All-Conference selection after batting .330 with 13 RBIs. He surpassed all SCAC catchers with 23 runners caught stealing and an incredible stolen-base-against percentage of .451, easily the best in the conference in 2014.

Cierra finished her first season 11-3 in singles competition, recognized as an All-Conference selection and SCAC Newcomer of the Year. She was named to the SCAC All-Tournament Team and was a SCAC Player of the Week. Her record was 5-0 against conference opponents.

The award, established in 1970, honors Tim Jubela, an outstanding freshman football and baseball player from Palestine, Texas, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident in March 1969. Through the award, his legacy continues.

See all the athletic awardees:
www.acroos.com/genrel/2013-14/athconvocation14

Nathan Packard—Stephens International Studies Scholarship
 Shelby Eaves—Edwin B. and Louise C. Jordan Scholarship
 Cierra White—Ruth A. Whiteside and Richard E.
 "Scooter" Merritt Sponsored Scholarship
 Gus Daniel—NOW Scholarship



See all schedules and results: www.acroos.com

FOR THE RECORD BOOKS



Right: Ransom Okpala



Lauren Wheeler



Sophia and Briana Hernandez



Victoria Herrera

1,000 Points and Counting

Only 18 players in the history of Austin College men's basketball have reached the 1,000-point career-scoring mark. **Ransom Okpala** '14 is the latest to make the list, reaching 1,000 points during a January game against Texas Lutheran University. A 5-foot-11 guard, he completed majors in business administration and economics. Ransom received second team All-SCAC recognition after finishing the season sixth in the conference with a scoring average of 16 points per game while shooting 44.6 percent from the field and 39.9 percent from 3-point range. He also averaged 4.8 rebounds, 1.8 assists, and 1.7 steals per game.

A First for Swimmers

Lauren Wheeler '16 became the first Austin College swimmer to earn multiple All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference honors by placing second in both the 100- and 200-yard backstroke events. She just missed becoming the first 'Roo swimmer to win an individual championship at the SCAC Championship Meet—edged by just .27 seconds in the 100 backstroke, finishing with a time of 58.89 to establish a new Austin College record. Lauren also took second in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:08.83 and set a new Austin College record in the 100 freestyle while swimming the lead in the 400 free relay. Lauren swam her leg in a time of 54.41.

A Perfect Game

Sophia Hernandez '16 threw the first perfect game in Austin College softball history March 11, striking out 14 of 15 batters faced in the 'Roos sweep of Rust College of Mississippi. She struck out the first 12 batters on her way to a program record 14 on the day, and the other out came via a soft grounder to first base. She needed only 61 pitches to get the perfect game. The 'Roos won, 15-0. Coincidentally, her twin sister **Briana Hernandez** '16 was the catcher for the game.

In the second game of that doubleheader, **Victoria "Tori" Herrera** '17 had the second highest single game strikeout total with 13, allowing just three hits in the shutout victory. A few weeks later, she tossed back-to-back complete game shutouts and broke the 'Roo single season strikeout record, finishing the season with 115 and leading the SCAC—as a freshman. The 'Roos also set a new program single season win total in NCAA competition with 18 victories.

Ransom Okpala—NOW Scholarship

Lauren Wheeler—Mary Wright Presidential Scholar

Sophia Hernandez—NOW Scholarship

Briana Hernandez—NOW Scholarship

Victoria Herrera—Dr. David & Mrs. Grace Joseph Sponsored Scholarship



Still Got Game

Alumni basketball players pictured at left returned to Hughey Gym in February, some to take the court, others for a chance to visit with teammates, athletics director **David Norman** '83, and 'Roo basketball coaches **Rodney Wecker** and **Michelle Filander**. Soccer alumni also returned to campus for competition this spring. Stay informed of all the latest news and events: www.acroos.com.



A New Look on the Soccer Field

When the Austin College men's and women's soccer teams take the field this fall, they'll do so on an improved North Field, if alumni donations allow scheduled renovations. Already, a new scoreboard, windscreen, and spectator bleachers have been added to the field. Next in the plans are a covered team bench and scorer's table, cement pads and walkways for the bleachers, a new entry way for fan access to the field, plus some aesthetic and landscaping improvements. The fundraising goal is \$50,000.

"These improvements are needed to allow our soccer programs to continue to provide a positive student-athlete experience," said athletics director **David Norman** '83 (MA '84). "I hope our alumni and friends will rally behind this effort to make our soccer facility something we can all be proud of. This is a great way for people to support the soccer program specifically and positively impact the athletic and fan experience. It will also send a strong message to our recruits that our programs will continue to improve and be successful."

Donations can be made online at www.austincollege.edu/giving or mailed to Norman at Austin College, 900 N. Grand Ave., Suite 6A, Sherman, Texas 75090. Direct questions to Norman at dnorman@austincollege.edu or 903.813.2499.



'ROOS RECEPTION | AWARDS DINNER | GOLF

Register by July 7

www.austincollege.edu/legends

"A" RUN FOR 'ROOS



The Athletics "A" Association's second annual "A" Run for 'Roos brought out 64 runners May 10 in McKinney, Texas, raising \$9,500 for Athletics Enrichment, according to coordinator **Kirk Hughes** '95. Runners included **Natalie Ridley Baerwaldt** '01 with daughter Evynn, Jeremy Dinges, former cheerleader **Jill Gin Dinges** '01, and Christina Armstrong.

Remembering Our Own



Larry Kramer

■ Verde V. Dickey

Verde V. Dickey of Phoenix, Arizona, died February 15. He provided funding for the Dickey Fitness Pavilion in honor of his father, the late Verde Dickey '27.

■ Larry Kramer

Legendary Austin College football coach Larry Kramer, who guided the Kangaroos to the 1981 NAIA National Championship, died January 25 at the age of 71.

■ Justin "Frosty" Frost

Justin "Frosty" Frost '08, member of the 2007 Austin College SCAC Championship baseball team, died in an automobile accident February 28. The Justin Frost Memorial Fund was established by family in his memory in support of Kangaroo baseball. Gifts may be mailed to David Norman at Suite 6A, 900 N. Grand Avenue, Sherman, Texas 75090 or made online: www.austincollege.edu/giving.



Justin Frost



**YOU'RE
ALREADY
A FAN.
NOW
JOIN THE
TEAM!**

It's easy to make the roster.
Your gift to Athletic Enrichment
supports all our student-athletes,
helping them succeed on the field,
in the classroom, and into
the future.

Support Austin College athletics
by making your gift online at
www.austincollege.edu/giving

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



**AUSTIN
COLLEGE**

SUPPORT YOUR 'ROO TEAMS!

JOIN US AT THE OUTBACK

FALL 2014 FOOTBALL

SEPT 6 | RHODES

SEPT 20 | OCCIDENTAL

SEPT 27 | HOWARD PAYNE

NOV 1 | SOUTHWESTERN

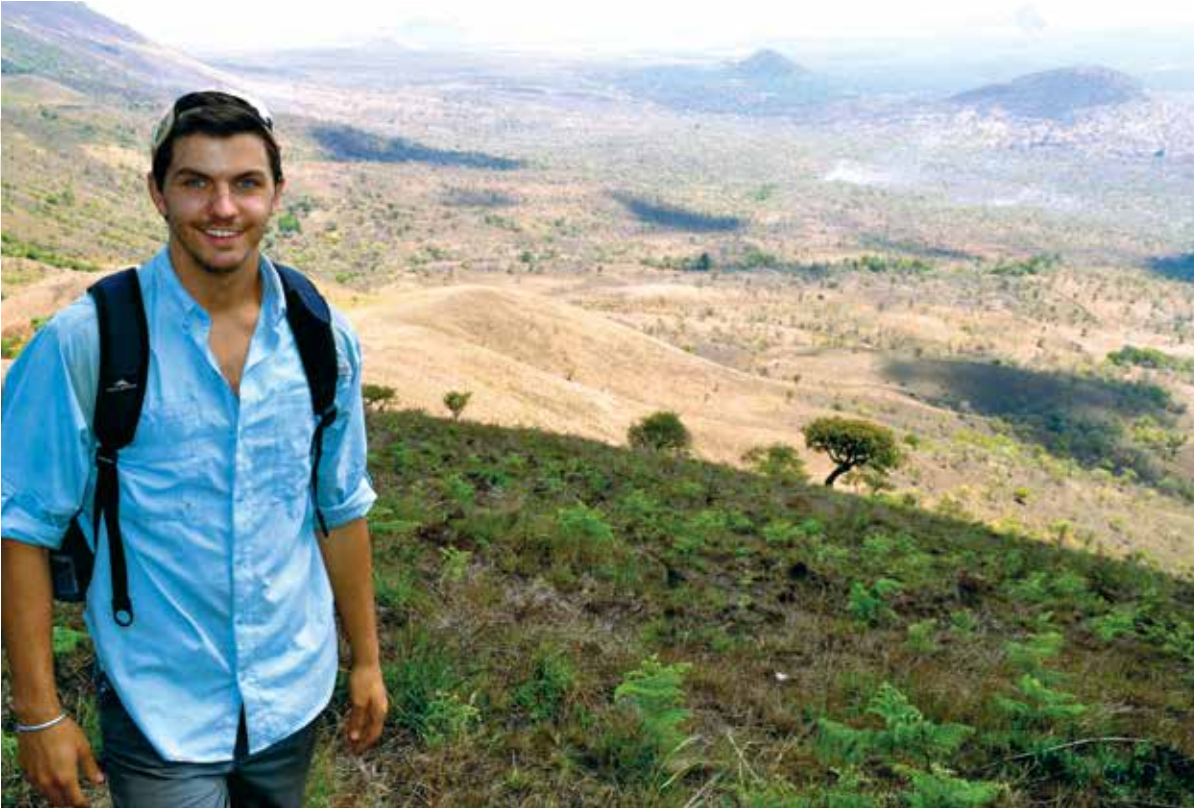
NOV 8 | TEXAS LUTHERAN

ON THE ROAD

NOV 15 @ TRINITY



A WILD SEMESTER



BY: Kris Taylor '15



STUDYING ABROAD IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST DECISION YOU CAN MAKE AS AN UNDERGRADUATE. There, I said it; it's out there. Pursuing a career and making lifelong friends are noble pursuits, but nothing will permanently change your life (and you as a person) as much as studying abroad.

I spent Fall Term 2013 doing ecology and environmental studies work in Kenya and Tanzania with The School for Field Studies (SFS). I received College support from the Kenneth and Caroline Elbert Taylor Endowed International Scholarship and the Jim Knowlton Memorial Scholarship for Travel Abroad in addition to a scholarship from African Safari Consultants that helped with my trip. (Imagine my surprise when I spoke with African Safari Consultants partner Jeffrey Ward and found he is a 1983 Austin College alumnus.)

The study abroad experience was truly unforgettable; we did something new every single day. It ranged from hiking in the steppes of Kilimanjaro to riding in Land Cruisers to performing animal censuses for Kenya Wildlife Service in Amboseli National Park. The interactions with the local community were so personal and made me realize that we should be happy about everything we have in life when they can do with so little.

One of my favorite experiences was camping out in the Serengeti on expedition. We camped in canvas tents in an area where elephants and zebras were common visitors during the day, and lions and hyenas were common during the night.



Edwin B. and Louise C. Jordan Scholarship
Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship
Dr. Paul E. Geers Award for Excellence in
Pre-Medical Achievement

It had the highest density of big cats of all of the places we had been; we saw lions hunting, cheetahs feeding and resting on termite mounds, and leopards pulling Thomson's gazelles into trees for a late afternoon snack. We spent the days hearing lectures from park officials, and going on game drives to practice observational data collection techniques. We also had a day off to spend at the buffet and swimming pool of a tourist lodge.

The landscape seemed as if it had been cut out of modeling clay. In Kenya, our camp was in the valley of a rift, and we had a perfect view of Mt. Kilimanjaro. You could see the mountain from camp while showering in the outdoor showers or working on your homework. In Tanzania, we were on the wall of the Gregory rift; you could see for miles into the rift from a hill next to our camp.

Through the SFS-directed research program, I was able to conduct a research project on African elephants. I studied stress correlates using temporal gland streaming as an indicator. In "English" that means I looked at the sides of elephants' heads (think of the temple region of the head) to see if fluid was coming out of a gland. The secretion has been linked to stress, so using some advanced statistical modeling, we were able to rank what conditions were stressing the elephants the most. To keep it short, we found that age, group size, and gender makeup of the groups play a large role in determining stress levels. My supervising professor, Dr. John Kioko (SFS), will submit the paper for peer review later this year. The research experience was a lot of fun, and getting to be outside with elephants was unforgettable.

While the course load was rigorous and the research was intensive, I wouldn't have changed a thing. I mean, who can really say that their Masai friend taught them how to throw a spear and roast a goat on a campfire? The experience is one that you will get on no other study abroad program. I would recommend it a million times over. ■

Kris received The School for Field Studies (SFS) Distinguished Student Researcher Award for his elephant studies. The award recognizes excellence and diligence in research and teamwork and leadership during the semester program as well as demonstrated sophistication in research design, field work and reporting, and contribution to the center's research plan. The SFS advisor for the project said that Taylor's work contributed to the long-term elephant studies and understanding of elephant physiology in the wild.

Serving the community

THE BOTTOM LINE IS GREENER

BY: Leigh-Ellen Romm

AUSTIN COLLEGE'S CULTURE HAS LONG HONORED THE VALUE OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY.



Is taking care of the environment simply a good deed, or is it a reasonable expectation for manufacturers in the 21st century? Is it enough that they make a high quality product, on time and on budget? Or can they, should they, save the planet while they're at it?

Good questions for **Dr. David Griffith**, Austin College Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies, and his upper-level marketing class, in which economic theory and mathematics come face-to-face with the real world. Students take on a business client each semester and develop a solution to a specific challenge. In fall 2013, the students were introduced to Starr Aircraft, a manufacturer of airline interior products, and its particular environmental challenges.

Starr's problem is common. It's difficult, if not impossible, to use 100 percent of raw material when making goods. Byproduct happens. And, every few weeks another tractor trailer heaped with scrap rolls out to the landfill.

Starr Aircraft, headquartered in Sherman, works out of 52,000 square feet of manufacturing space with more than 100 highly skilled employees. Starr produces a diverse line of products for the interior aircraft industry, including textile fabrication and embroidery, and foam cutting for airplane seats. They also make chart holders and fuel flow computers.

"One of our values is to be good stewards, not only of our people and money but of our footprint. We know there has got to be a better way to use our after-product waste. It's a clean process, so it's still good byproduct," said David Rodriguez, Starr's director of operations. "So we asked the students, 'how do we keep that waste out of the landfill? There's no profit margin necessary ... but hey, if you *can* think of a product that we or someone else can make, go for it.'"

Rodriguez suggested three criteria: meet a clean environment goal, create primary products, and pair with a non-profit. Students didn't have to accomplish all three, but consider them in their planning.

Rodriguez said the students asked a lot of insightful questions, but one that impressed him was, Why us? Why doesn't Starr take care of this? Or, in other words, how do we, as college students, add value?

Recognizing the need to reduce waste and transportation costs is one thing, but having the time to figure out how to do it is another. Starr Aircraft clientele are some of the largest companies in the industry, including American Airlines, Southwest, United Airlines, and Boeing. The company is tasked with serving its clients with high-quality products that meet extensive safety regulations. Not just airworthiness, but aesthetics and comfort are part of the package. There's no margin for error and little time for anything unrelated to the ever-changing business at hand.



BUSINESS
is among the
top majors of
Austin College
graduates.

**“ONE OF OUR
VALUES IS
TO BE GOOD
STEWARDS,
NOT ONLY OF
OUR PEOPLE
AND MONEY
BUT OF OUR
FOOTPRINT.”**

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
Director of Operations
Starr Aircraft, Sherman, Texas





Naina Singh, Diana Nguyen, and Alvin Michael examine the pallets awaiting pickup for recycling or reuse.

“We know these issues need to be addressed. There’s just little creativity time to solve these issues,” Rodriguez answered. “It’s nothing more than a time constraint.”

At Austin College, it’s the students’ job to think out of the box. So, they faced truckloads of foam, beautiful high-quality leather strips and scraps, and industrial-grade upholstery fabric. Odd sizes. Odd shapes. What to do?

Estefani Castillo ’15, a business administration major with a minor in Spanish, worked with her team focusing on cost efficiency. For instance, Starr Aircraft receives its raw materials on pallets every week. Pallets make piles. Piles get moved to the landfill, and that’s not free.

So, by locating IFCO-Dallas, a wooden pallet recycler that will pick up and pay for the pallets, the students were able to initiate negotiations between the two companies. IFCO is the largest pallet recycler in North America that repairs and re-circulates pallets. Those beyond repair are ground into landscape mulch, animal bedding, or wood stove pellets. IFCO-Dallas is only 60 miles south of Sherman, so the arrangement is cost effective for all involved. Pallets are out of the landfill, and money is in the bank.

The same student group also addressed the leftover foam material. In the course of making comfortable, high-quality airplane cushions, foam is cut away to meet customers’ specifications. Starr uses most all kinds of foams, including polyethylene and polyurethane. The Austin College team researched the contents of these to identify which were suitable for recycling. They also calculated how often enough product accumulates to merit a load to the recycler.

“The students found the foam recyclers, when we had not,” Rodriguez said. “They got on the phone, made the calls, and answered the questions. When all the logistics are worked out, the recyclers will be able to take up to 50 percent of the excess foam. Real world success.”

“What I am most proud of about this experience is that we had the opportunity to work on a real-life situation,” Castillo said. “We were able to look at real numbers and real problems. This definitely helped me have a glance at what the real world might be like. Not only that, but I was able to work in a group and combine ideas that made this solution possible.”

Another student team that included **Naina Singh** ’14, a business administration major, identified the non-profit organization Backpacks With a Purpose (BWAP). BWAP is an Oklahoma City company that provides high-quality backpacks to children in need. Launched in 2002 to serve the Urban Mission in Oklahoma City, the non-profit expanded in 2012 to include a retail line. The retail backpacks are designed for adults, and with each purchase, BWAP gives two child-sized backpacks to a local or international non-profit of the buyer’s choice. Most sales are online but a few retail stores across the United States are adding BWAP backpacks.

“BWAP’s mission to help families and Starr’s mission to recycle its waste material go hand-in-hand, as both companies have the potential to benefit from one another,” Singh said.

“We reached out to BWAP explaining to them that Starr was willing to donate scrap materials to their cause if they wanted to implement the scrap material in making their backpacks,” Singh said. The leather makes a sturdy base; the foam is a good cushion for shoulder straps and laptop pockets; and the durable fabric could make the body of the backpack.

BWAP personnel replied, saying that in 2015 the organization aims to start a “green” line of backpacks in which the use of Starr materials would be ideal.



“Starr is a perfect model for this class. The company is locally owned, entrepreneurial, and seen as a good steward in the community. They are willing to share with others and work to make the world a better place. We hope our students will see that and want to do the same.”

DAVID GRIFFITH (pictured far left)

*Austin College Professor of Business Administration
Dean of Social Sciences*

Jack B. Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies



And then there's the student who took up the materials in his own hands and created something new. After considering several environmentally friendly concepts, **William Camp '15** and his team recommended using the materials to create cots and pillows for donation to local shelters to help people who are homeless or in crisis.

Camp, a business administration major and philosophy minor, designed and sewed a pillow that is leather on one side and fabric on the other. Today, it sits in Rodriguez's office. "He took the material home and worked on it, with his dad I think, and came up with a useful product. I thought it showed ingenuity and creativity," Rodriguez said. "There's something about people who love



manufacturing. You wouldn't think it's all that creative, but when the people who really love it see a problem, they think 'we can make this work.'"

Camp says that although he's interested in law school or an executive MBA, manufacturing design does interest him. "This project gave me a unique glimpse of the process of both manufacturing design and the marketing aspects of bringing such products to their respective markets," Camp said. "I hadn't really considered the true level of involvement required in the research and product development stages of creating marketable goods."

At Starr Aircraft, where the ideas are on the table, Rodriguez is putting the best into operation. "I would love to do this again," he said. "We are neighbors in this community, and I found the students to be confident, creative, and personable. They worked hard to understand what we achieve here and looked to be creative. And, their emphasis on networks and relationship added value to the experience. The liberal arts education creates critical thinkers who add value."

As the professor, Griffith says his role in the project is to drift through the groups, redirect when he sees duplication of ideas, and encourage the students to dig for great ideas.

Rodriguez, who worked closely with Griffith, would say more. "He came out and took a tour and learned about Starr Aircraft as a company," Rodriguez said. "He is pragmatic and engaged in the class—knowing what he wants to accomplish with the time." Knowing the requirements of the class, the needs of the client, and the timeframe to do the work, Griffith finds a good-fit project each semester.

Over the years, Griffith has charged his marketing class with different kinds of issues. Students worked with two different

non-profit thrift stores to conduct site studies, which required them to evaluate traffic patterns, calculate rental costs, consider neighboring businesses, and identify clientele. Other cases include Presco, a manufacturer of films and outdoor marking products, and the public library in Pottsboro, Texas.

"Starr is a perfect model for this class," Griffith said. "The company is locally owned, entrepreneurial, and seen as a good steward in the community. They are willing to share with others and work to make the world a better place. We hope our students will see that and want to do the same." ■

"This project gave me a unique glimpse of the process of both manufacturing design and the marketing aspects of bringing such products to their respective markets. I hadn't really considered the true level of involvement required in the research and product development stages of creating marketable goods."

WILLIAM CAMP '15

THE BUSINESS OF LEARNING

BY: Leigh-Ellen Romm

Every year, business is among the top majors of Austin College graduates. Those alumni complete coursework in business law, industrial psychology, finance, accounting, marketing, capital markets, international finance, entrepreneurship, and business management. But they have also had opportunity to do some hands-on exploration—and those adventures leave a significant mark upon the learners.

Using Real Dollars and Sense



The Williams Student Investment Fund (SIF) was born out of a \$1 million contribution in 2007 from **Todd Williams** '82, now retired as partner and global co-head of Goldman Sachs' real estate private equity investment area. His plan for the SIF was to prepare Austin College students for careers in finance by providing real-world experience in the stock market. At some schools, students are making virtual investments. At Austin College, it's the real deal.

"My hope is that this fund will cause students to learn more about investing as a career while concurrently giving them more confidence to seek opportunities in this field and making them meaningfully more attractive to potential recruiters," said Williams. "Recruiters want students with practical experience who can hit the ground running."



SIF participants get experiences that simply reading about stocks can't provide.

Dan Zhao, assistant professor of economics and faculty member for the course, said there's a difference in analysis when students are managing real money. "The level of focus and serious research the students are devoting to managing this money is quite impressive," he said. "With games that involve 'play' money, decisions can be made based on feelings. Using valuation techniques and extensive research, our students are making calculated decisions, not emotional ones."

As a result of those decisions, the fund has grown and helped to fulfill the other part of Williams' plan for his original contribution. He expected, in time, that the fund would provide enough interest to cover scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend Austin College. In 2013, a cash withdrawal of \$160,000 from the earnings of the SIF established a sponsored scholarship fund that will provide \$5,000 per year to four students for four years.

The student managers in the class each are responsible for a sector of the market. Equities are divided into these sectors: consumer discretionary, financials, information technology, consumer staples, health care, telecommunications services, energy, industrials, and utilities. Students research companies and develop presentations for their advisors and peers for investment consideration. They also prepare a mid-year annual report and keep the portfolio balanced overall. The Annual Report is complete with strategy, highlights, data, and information about current holdings, and companies on the watch list. Apache, Caterpillar, eBay, Google, GE, and St. Jude Medical were among the holdings in 2013.

The Williams Student Investment Fund is a course that students take for various credits depending upon course level. (A 200-level course is .25 credits; the 400-level course is .75 credits.) Students may take the course up to four terms to earn a maximum of two credits. Most students take the course for two terms—once at 200-level and once at 400-level).

Learning From Competition

Four representatives of the Williams Student Investment Fund attended the 14th R.I.S.E. Conference in Dayton, Ohio, in March, along with students from 130 colleges and universities, representing more than 60 student investment funds. **Alicia Mistry '14**, **Jackson Ross '14**, **Rizwan Gangwani '16**, and **Katarina Heidenhofer '17** represented Austin College and participated in the investment fund competition. The Redefining Investment Strategy Education (R.I.S.E.) Symposium is sponsored jointly by the University of Dayton and the United Nations Global Compact.

The Austin College fund placed ninth in the Growth Investment-style category. The winner of the category posted a risk-adjusted performance figure of 15.98 for the 2013 calendar year. Austin College's risk-adjusted return was 11.64. Competition has increased as more schools from around the world participate and overall market performance has improved.

In addition to the competition, the conference brings together professionals from the Federal Reserve, Wall Street, corporate America, the financial media, and the international community with a worldwide collection of students and professors.

Students attend breakout sessions and lectures on topics such as private equity, fixed income, portfolio management, risk management, and perspectives. Workshops focus on honing skills in security analysis, hedge funds, and portfolio construction. The learning and networking opportunities for future fund managers is invaluable.

The Department Expands

The economy fluxes with the headlines, the frontlines, the weather, and the folly of man. To effectively develop future professionals for the demands of the ever-changing business environment, Austin College has expanded the Department of Economics and Business Administration with a new major and a new minor.

Effective this fall, a major in business finance has been added to the current majors of business administration, economics, and international economics and finance.

By mastering the high-demand skills learned in finance, the liberal arts student can be prepared for the expected 39,000 new finance-related jobs in the next 10 years. The median pay in a finance career is \$77,000 annually.

Austin College students also can now earn a minor in accounting through the department. Job forecasts call for 166,700 new accounting jobs in the next 10 years with a median pay of \$63,500 per year.



Spring 2014 SIF participants

Realizing the High Cost of Being Poor

Just for a little while, students walk in the shoes of the underprivileged, underpaid, and under informed—those under the gun to make something from little and call it a life.

“Economics of the Working Poor,” the January Term course taught by **Kevin Simmons**, Corrigan Chair of Business Administration and Economics, challenges students through classroom assignments and hands-on volunteer work to look into the faces of the poorest in the community—and, albeit just on paper, to live their lives.

Using Barbara Ehrenreich’s book *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, Simmons first exposes students to the trials of poverty through the text. Ehrenreich documents her experience of leaving her regular job to work for minimum wage and trying to support herself. She writes about real people and the high cost of being poor.

The class is divided into groups that are assigned scenarios such as single mom, with two children, working for minimum wage; elderly couple with Medicare, Social Security, and a small savings account; married couple, two minimum-wage jobs, no health insurance, and baby on the way. Then the new “families” must draw up a workable budget. After presenting those budgets to the class, Simmons throws a curve ball. Or, one might say, life happens.

Single mom loses her job. Elderly couple is scammed out of their savings. Dad’s car blows a gasket. So, it’s back to the balance sheet and the relief for students that this is only an exercise. Still, they make their own phone calls to the Department of Human Services, drive the neighborhoods looking for a place to live, and price reliable cars or bus fare. The students learn pretty quickly that Wi-Fi and cable aren’t actually necessities.

The groups also are assigned topics to research and present to the class. They study unemployment, minimum wage, living wages, health insurance, and education. These policies and accompanying math gain significance alongside the budget project.

“This makes them better citizens,” Simmons said. “They can see what’s often unseen in most communities.” And, each afternoon during January, students in the course roll up their sleeves and volunteer at an approved agency that serves the underprivileged, such as the Crisis Center, food pantry, Grayson County Homeless Shelter, and Sherman Senior Citizen Center.

Chris Melton ’16 spent his time with the senior set, serving as a technical support volunteer. “One thing that stands out to me about the experience is helping a man find a Geocities-esque website about the town on Long Island where he grew up,” Melton said. “He seemed fascinated that something like that was available.” Melton also

delivered Meals on Wheels and met a client who was proud to tell that he was a Korean war veteran and an Austin College alumnus.

“I would recommend this class to economics majors because economists need to think outside their personal experiences and see how policies can affect others,” Melton said.

The JanTerm class “Economics of the Working Poor” is offered every two years and will be an option in 2015.



Student volunteers at an area food pantry saw the tremendous need met by the availability of sack lunches they helped to prepare.

ESP Conference: The Economy in Action

Each spring, Austin College co-sponsors the Economics Scholars Program (ESP) for Undergraduate Research along with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. ESP features student-initiated or student-faculty co-authored works that bring to light new information in economics.

Since 2007, the program has grown from 23 participants to, in 2014, a gathering of 190 participants representing 27 schools across 16 states. Economics undergraduates in the program develop skills sometimes thought to be reserved for other disciplines or graduate-level scholars.

"This is not research that simply restates something that's already discovered," said **Melanie Fox**, associate professor of economics and the Jack B. Morris Professor of Economic Policy at Austin College. To qualify for presentation at ESP, the research must reveal fresh information. "Students can find something new by extending a test in a new way, conducting a new test of an old idea or using the same idea in a different situation, or developing something completely original," Fox said.

The research projects are not class requirements, so the motivation to do the hard work often comes from a driving need to know. "Some students just want to explore more or answer a question until they're fully satisfied," Fox said. Students who pursue this opportunity are often likely to participate later in master's- or PhD-level programs.

Many popular topics exist, and across the years, Fox has noticed trends. Two years ago, the focus was the economic crisis, then health economics, and most recently, labor topics. The trends typically follow the headlines. Interestingly, the conference always features topics pertaining to sports economics. "Sports is not fully explored," Fox said. "And, athletes make good researchers because they are good at strategy and often have an interest in statistics."

This year, papers covered economic issues including finance, agriculture and development, health, labor, international, public, labor and preferences, education, labor and sports, macroeconomics, environmental/commodities, and finance.

All papers initially are submitted to the ESP Peer Review Board. In 2014, the board chose the best 34 for formal presentation, in addition to 12 poster presentations in an informal setting. Austin College seniors **Varshini Kalyan** and **Evan Harper** were members of the 2014 Peer Review Board. Harper also was a presenter.

A particular challenge to young researchers is learning to narrow a broad topic. For instance, a student might be interested in the economic impact of pollution. Harper narrowed that to develop his research, "The Effects of Inequality on the Environmental Kuznets Curve," and was chosen to present during the Environmental/Commodities session. The environmental Kuznets curve is the hypothesized relationship between the quality of the environment, such as air pollution, and economic development. Kuznets curves have been found for many health issues, but not all. So, Harper narrowed and learned. (Harper was studying at London School of Economics during a study abroad semester but returned to Dallas to present his research.)

The conference initiates students into varying levels of responsibility, such as acting as a discussant or session chair.

The benefits are abundant. Fox said the project hones problem-solving skills and deepens students' understanding. They benefit greatly by learning how math leads to policy and why policy matters. ■

ESP



Austin College faculty member Melanie Fox, at far right, helped create the ESP Conference to provide opportunities for undergraduate economics students to present research. Austin College participants at the 2014 conference include Aditya Misra, Varshini Kalyan, and Evan Harper.

Transforming a Community Park

The City of Sherman's master plan has plenty of good ideas for park development, but funds for new projects are limited. The wish list included a mountain bike trail—a labor-intensive endeavor that seemed unlikely to become reality. A fortuitous conversation on the sidelines of a soccer field changed that.

Soccer dads **Don Rodgers**, director of the Austin College Center for Community and Regional Development, and Jason Griffin, local bike enthusiast, talked one Saturday morning about the possibility of a volunteer-built bike trail. Sherman Mayor **Cary Wacker**, also an Austin College staff member and a cyclist, is a champion for volunteer-driven projects to improve the community. It wasn't long before the mayor and city staff met with Rodgers and Griffin to map the strategy for building a trail network through undeveloped forest land connecting three city parks.

Rodgers organized Austin College students to help with trail workdays beginning in fall 2013. Led by Griffin and a design team from the Dallas Off-Road Bike Association, more than 40 Austin College students volunteered over the next few months to carve a single-track trail through the woods and over streams. In March 2014, the first section of the new Binkley Park Bike Trail was dedicated for the community's use. "Public-private partnership is the perfect way to accomplish goals we have for our communities," said Wacker. "The city had underutilized land, and Austin College's contribution of manpower and materials maximized that asset for our citizens."

Rodgers added, "We want our work through the center to change the community for the better. This project has tangible, lasting benefits for not only the city, but also visitors to the region. The trail adds value to the park and ultimately will create economic benefit as it brings visitors to the region to enjoy a popular outdoor activity."



Chase Griffin, son of bike trail designer Jason Griffin, races through the trees on Sherman's new Binkley Park Bike Trail. Currently at 2.5 miles, the trail network will grow to nearly eight miles and link three city parks. Austin College students volunteered hundreds of hours to complete the first phase.

Blazing

Austin College has been a hub of activity in North Texas since the institution moved from Huntsville to Sherman in 1876. In the 138 years since, many connections have been built in the local community, but none more ambitious than the new **Center for Community and Regional Development (CCRD)** that will launch in Fall Term 2014.

The concept for community service was not new, but it evolved to a new level—during Austin College's recent strategic planning process—from two very simple, but interrelated, questions:

(1) *How does the community become an asset to the College and its students?*

That is, how do the College and the community build relationships that provide students with exceptional learning opportunities?

(2) *How can a liberal arts college and its students be an asset to the community?*

That is, how do the College and the community build relationships that help make this a better place to live and work?



Trails >

Austin College charts a course to strengthen its impact through a new **Center for Community and Regional Development**

The CCRD will expand and deepen engagement of Austin College students, faculty, and staff in improving the quality of life in the Texoma region. Projects can be aligned with existing agencies, local governments, businesses, and residents to assist in planning and implementing a variety of community development projects.

Don Rodgers, associate professor of political science, will head the new center; Rodgers has been coordinating community-focused activities for the past few years, and said the new structure as a formal program will provide a stronger platform from which to engage the community.

"We are guided by a fundamental belief in the interdependence of a college and its community," said Austin College President **Marjorie Hass**. "Immersion in civic life is critical for the intellectual development of Austin College students just as the College's success contributes to the economic and cultural capital of our surrounding communities. We are excited to take this next step toward collaboration."

The College's new strategic plan, Adding Value to a Changing World: The Plan for Austin College 2014-2020, is available online: www.austincollege.edu/strategicplan.

Change Agents

Brought together under the banner of Austin College's Center for Community and Regional Development, a suite of activities is already changing the face of North Texas. These activities are helping agencies, local governments, businesses, and citizens create solutions:

- Regional Bike (Active Transportation) Plan
- Downtown Art Projects for Sherman and Denison
- Educational Outreach to Local Schools
- Marketing Plan to Promote Texoma Tourism/ Ecotourism
- Department of Public Health Lake Water and West Nile Studies
- Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) Program
- Home Hospice Program
- Library Programs
- Austin College/Southeastern Oklahoma State University Project on Native American Studies
- GIS Research Projects
- Chamber of Commerce/Leadership Sherman Programming

A primary function of the center will be to collect data relevant to regional economic, social, and educational initiatives. The information will be made available to regional organizations; the center also will organize meetings, seminars, and symposia focused on data collection and analysis.

Those efforts have started quickly: in June, the College hosted the region's first mental health conference, sponsored by the Texoma Health Foundation and celebrating the launch of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas.

A New Resource

In May, Austin College was approved as a new partner in The Foundation Center's Funding Information Network. Dedicated computers in Abell Library will offer full access to the national database of grant-making organizations—another resource for the region Austin College calls "home."



An IDEA Realized



A chilly evening didn't begin to put a damper on the joyous mood on Jonsson Plaza as faculty, staff, trustees, friends, and students joined President **Marjorie Hass** for the official dedication of the IDEA Center in November 2013.

"The beautiful building behind me—and the living laboratory all around its exterior—gives us great reason to celebrate today," said President Hass. "As the largest capital project in the history of the College, this IDEA Center truly required tremendous efforts—perhaps some blood, sweat, and tears as well—from the entire Austin College community and our many good friends. I am pleased that so many of you are able to join us in the dedication of this facility. ... Thank you, trustees, and each friend here, who played a role in seeing this 'idea' become a reality."

VALIDATION: LEED® GOLD

From its inception, the IDEA Center was intended to be a "green" building, and the design and construction included steps to reach LEED® Silver in a rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. Many elements were considered, and in April, the decision arrived with an added bonus: the building was awarded LEED Gold. "This certification is an important affirmation of this effort and one more element of our campus-wide focus on sustainability and environmental awareness, as well as our commitment to the goals of our Thinking Green initiative," said President Hass.

SIX MONTHS LATER

The IDEA Center was still in its first year at Commencement 2014, and every opportunity had been taken to highlight the new facility. So, that location for the annual post-Commencement brunch for trustees and special guests raised no questions. Quite a surprise was planned, however, for President Emeritus **Oscar Page**,



who had received an honorary doctorate at the ceremony that morning and so had many special friends and family members in attendance. Former Board of Trustee chairs **Robert Johnson '53** and **Robert Wright**, along with President Hass, delighted in rendering Page speechless as they announced the naming of the center's Oscar C. Page Atrium. The \$1.2 million raised for the naming gift will support scholarships. Wright and Johnson spearheaded the funding and made the leadership gifts. ■





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'ROO NOTES

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Emory Glover enjoyed a five-week rail tour of Europe in May and June 2013 via 40 trains and visiting 23 friends in 10 countries, despite the challenge of not having a change of clothes for the first two weeks while the airline located his lost bag. One plus: his Texas hat made it easier for hosts to find him. Emory lives in Houston, Texas.

63



Nick Lund, professor emeritus at Northern Arizona University, has begun a new "career" as a volunteer in Arizona non-motorized trails. He serves as chair of the Arizona State Committee on Trails. He also is president of TRACKS, a non-profit group of 450-plus volunteers who build and maintain more than 200 miles of trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. That organization received a National Award for Community Service from American Trails during its International Trails Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona. TRACKS has begun a project to improve safety on the trails, installing some 1,500 coded, white reflective trail markers, each location available to emergency responders. Trail users in need can call 911, report the code of the nearest diamond, and can be quickly found by emergency personnel.

'Roo News



'ROOS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Lori Domel '79, **Erin Bowen Moon '80**, and **Rebecca Wood Wyatt '80** were roommates on a 1978 Austin College JanTerm trip to London. In 2013, they enjoyed a mini-reunion in Colorado Spring to celebrate their years of continued friendship and life travels together. Erin and her husband, David, live in Colorado Springs, where David is vice provost at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, and Erin operates an independent catering business. Rebecca was visiting from Honolulu, Hawaii, but moved to Qatar in late 2013 in connection with her husband's engineering project. Lori visited from Friendswood, Texas, where she lives with her husband, **Cameron White '78**, and their son. David, Erin, Rebecca, and Lori, left to right, are pictured at a rooftop restaurant in Colorado.

64

Members of the **Class of 1964** gathered for their 50-year reunion May 16-18 in conjunction with the College's 2014 Commencement. The 1964 alumni joined the Golden 'Roo Society, all alumni of 50 years or more, many of whom return each year. See page 46 and www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos for photos and information.

66



Laurie Coker has published a collection of poetry based on her experiences during 12 years of substitute teaching in Austin, Texas. *School Daze: Poems of a Substitute Teacher* is available in paperback through Amazon.

67

James R. Bryant and Mary Hill were married in Tyler, Texas, on January 20, 2010. Since 1995, they have operated Carpe Diem Fine Books in Monterey, California, a shop that California magazine reviewers have called "simply the best" and "a bibliophile's delight." James recently was elected to the national Board of Governors of the Anti-quarian Booksellers Association of America and is a past president of the Old Monterey Business Association and Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists.

69



Larry Wheeler was elected for a second term as faculty president at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He joined the faculty in 1988 and, as an

associate professor of theatre, teaches all theatre design courses, as well as theatre appreciation and stagecraft. He also is the technical director for theatre, which requires the coordination of all technical aspects of the six-play season. He not only designs sets and lights for productions or supervises student designers but also serves as chair of the Theatre Department. Larry was instrumental in creating and implementing the school's new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre, with tracks in acting, musical theatre, stage management, design and theatre technology, and theatre education. He reported that many of the principles he learned from Austin College faculty **Bonnie** and **Paul Beardsley** remain with him and that he passes those on to his students.

70

Gary Goodfriend has been elected vice president/senior asset manager at Bank of New York Mellon in Irving, Texas.

73



Keith Hopson was named a Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers last fall, one of just 20 individuals added to the group in 2013. Membership is by invitation only and eligibility is limited to those

who have practiced environmental law for at least 15 years and whose practice for the five years prior to membership nomination has been at least 50 percent focused in the area of environmental law. A partner with the full-service litigation

and business law firm of Husch Blackwell in Austin, Texas, Keith is a member of the firm's energy and natural resources team and counsels clients in a wide variety of environmental matters. Widely recognized as a leader in his field, he has been acknowledged by Chambers USA since 2003. He has been named a Best Lawyer since 1999 and a Texas Super Lawyer since 2004. He also maintains a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent peer ranking.

74

Keith Mahaffey (MA '75), was recognized last fall for his work as a teacher. Read more in ACCOLADES on page 39.

Mark Miller was named to the 2013 *San Antonio Scene* "Best S.A. Lawyers" list in franchise and dealership and intellectual property litigation. In a survey by magazine staff, attorneys were asked to nominate their peers in different practice categories. Mark is a partner in the San Antonio office of Jackson Walker and chairs the firm's intellectual property section.

76



John and Tara J. Gibson Myers '78, M.D., won championships in ballroom dancing at Arthur Murray World's in Orlando, Florida, in April 2013. The couple won Amateur 3 Dance Smooth and Amateur 3 Dance Rhythm Open competitions. Tara placed second in Full Bronze Pro-Am 4 Dance All-Around, and John placed third in Associate Bronze Pro-Am 2 Dance All-Around. They also received the Top Associate Bronze Amateur Couple Award. John and Tara are students at Arthur Murray Houston-Cypress.

78

Stephen Schlacks, a Montgomery County (Texas) attorney since graduating from Baylor Law School in 1986, has been honored as a 20-year AV-rated "Preeminent" Attorney by Martindale-Hubbell, a leading independent attorney rating entity. The AV preeminent rating is given to attorneys with the highest legal ability and ethics peer review ratings. In 2013, Stephen was re-certified as a board-certified personal injury trial lawyer through the year 2018, which will mark 25 years as a board-

certified attorney. Only nine percent of all licensed Texas lawyers are board certified. He also was recognized in 2013 as a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a Fellow Member of the College of the State Bar of Texas.

Cameron White (MA '79) is professor of social education/critical humanities and associate chair of curriculum and instruction at the University of Houston. In addition to being awarded the University of Houston Teaching Excellence and the University of Houston Service Awards, he recently was chosen as a Fulbright Specialist for the Middle East. His eighth and ninth books, *Community Education for Social Justice* and *Critical Qualitative Research in Social Education* have been accepted for publication. His professional interests include social justice/critical pedagogy, international education, and media/popular culture. He credits his teacher education experience at Austin College, especially the teaching of Dr. Tom Baker, who died in June 2009, for much of his success.

82

Charla Glass Aldous was inducted into *Texas Lawyer* newspaper's Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame in fall 2013 after winning a \$9.3 million verdict. Aldous Law Firm also was named one of the country's "Best Law Firms" of 2014 by the publishers of *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, including a Metropolitan Tier 1-ranking among Dallas firms for both medical malpractice and personal injury law.

85



William Kerrigan, the Arthur G. Cole and Eloise Barnes Cole Distinguished Professor of American History at Muskingum University in Ohio, received the William Rainey Harper Award for Outstanding

Scholarship at Muskingum in 2013. His recent book, *Johnny Appleseed and the American Orchard: A Cultural History*, published by the prestigious Johns Hopkins University Press became a selection of the History Book Club, and a portion of the final chapter was the lead essay in the fall 2012 issue of the highly regarded *Antioch Review*. He joined the Muskingum faculty in 1997 and earned The William Oxley Thompson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2011 and the Cora I. Orr Award for Service in 2007.

86



Melissa Gatlin Wampler was featured in the *Kerr County People* magazine in summer 2013, gracing the cover as she transitioned her career from obstetrics and gynecology—

delivering many babies over nearly 20 years—to a practice in gynecology and women's wellness. She and her husband, David '84 have two growing children, and the doctor wants a bit more control of her schedule than the arrivals of babies allow. David is a partner and financial professional with Moloney Securities and a former mayor of Kerrville.

87



Jody Rhone and Tom Pritchard were married September 1, 2013, in a grove of aspen trees just outside Crested Butte, Colorado. Jody moved to New York after graduating from Austin

College, making art and working in several SoHo art galleries, including Crown Point Press. He received a master's degree in sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design in 1993 and returned to New York to continue his career. Both men are principals of Madderlake Designs, a Williamsburg-, Brooklyn-, and Aspen-based architecture and landscape design firm, which Tom co-founded. Jody's sculptural training serves him well in the landscapes that are the hallmark of Madderlake Designs. The couple left the wedding ceremony in their beloved 1971 International Harvester Scout.



Brent Williams, associate professor of rehabilitation education and research at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, is the principal investigator

and project director for a \$325 million grant to the university's College of Education and Health Professions and the Arkansas Department of Education. The grant funds a program aimed at improving the education and career outcomes of low-income Arkansas teenagers with disabilities. He has been with the university since 2002, previously working as director of research for the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center and as program coordinator of the National Center for Physical Activity and Disability at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

'Roo News



THE BEST STATE FAIR IN OUR STATE

Karel Anne Berry Tieszen '83 has been cooking at the Texas State Fair Celebrity Chef Kitchen since 1999. In October 2013, she was delighted to see fellow 'Roos **John Evans '64**, **Jay Evans '64**, **Becky Easter Farnsworth '82**, and **Jim Farnsworth '80** in her audience at a demonstration. Though the Texas State Fair is famous for all things fried, the food demonstration was transforming turnip greens into Sweet Apple Greens. Find her recipe in the online *Austin College Magazine*. When she is not in the State Fair kitchen, Karel Anne is cooking for North Texas viewers on Fridays "LIVE at 5:45am" on KXII-TV. She also was the culinary coordinator for the annual food and wine event Savor Dallas in March. She serves as president-elect for the Dallas chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International, an elite group of women leaders in the food, beverage, and hospitality professions. She still teaches cooking classes and welcomes 'Roo invitations for a class of 12 or more. If she finds any spare time, she can be found "country and western dancing around town, happy in her cowboy boots."

88



Matt Kyle, founding partner of The Kyle Law Firm, was named the 2013 Small Business Person of the Year by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce last April. It was the first time a lawyer received the honor. His community is important to Matt. He coaches youth sports, sponsors charitable events, and has a variety of local and regional causes. His personal injury and criminal defense firm has operated for the past 20 years. Readers of the *New Braunfels Herald* have voted him "best attorney" for the past four years, and he has been recognized as a Texas Super Lawyer in *Texas Monthly* the past two years. Pictured with Matt are his children, left to right, Catcher, Pierce, Cannan, Baker, and Brett, and his wife Kerri.

Julie Sims Steward was just promoted to professor of English at Samford University in Alabama, where she received the 2013 John H. Buchanan



Award for excellence in teaching. In announcing the award the university provost noted that students gave her "rave reviews for bringing energy—and even a little attitude—to discussions of great works of literature."

Steward, who joined the Samford faculty in 1999, is also director of Creative Writing. In addition to teaching various English courses, she was instrumental in launching a film studies program. Her research interests include 20th-century poetry, creative writing, literary theory, and the use of contemplative practices in the study of poetics.

89



Jim Webb has been named executive vice president – general counsel and corporate secretary at Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City. In addition to overseeing the legal department,

his responsibilities include human resources, environmental health and safety, compliance, corporate security and ethics, and government and community relations. Jim joined Chesapeake in October 2012 after serving as a consultant to the company for five months. Before joining Chesapeake, he spent 17 years as a litigator at McAfee & Taft, Oklahoma's largest law firm, serving as a partner for 12 years.

91



Tracie Hill Seed, a professional artist living in Rhode Island, now offers commissioned portraits of family pets and other animals through her website

www.TracieSeedArt.com. Although she has painted several works from nature, her favorite subjects are animals of all kinds.



Several of her paintings are available as museum-quality giclee reproductions and some have been included in juried art shows. Tracie is a member of the South County

Art Association and Wickford Art Gallery.

Thomas W. Newsom became president of Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico, in August 2013. He has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, most recently serving as president of The Art Institute of Dallas. He had been with the Art Institutes in various roles for 13 years. He holds a master's degree in secondary and higher education from Texas A&M University-Commerce and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of North Texas. He and his wife, Victoria, have three children.

92



Katie Burford spent 14 years working in journalism and earned a Fulbright Scholarship to go to Chile and teach in 2004. She now lives in Durango,

Colorado, where she started an artisan ice company called Cream Bean Berry, where she uses local, organic ingredients and focuses on sustainable practices. The shop where the ice cream is made is in a renovated Depression-era school that is

fully solar-powered. Upon seeing the "food focus" in the Summer 2013 issue of *Austin College Magazine*, she shared her stories. She pointed out that **Lisa Fain '91** (writing as The Homesick Texan) and **Katherine Withers '91**, who was highlighted in the previous issue, were both friends of hers and that she finds it interesting how all "traversed different paths through journalism to food."

94



Heisha Hunter Freeman is executive vice president at The Move Management Center, a global relocation management company, in San Mateo, California.

She continues to live in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Anthony, and son, Austin.

Adam Reed serves as chair of the board of Shakespeare Dallas, a non-profit theatre organization known for production of Shakespeare in the Park in Dallas. Adam

also announces formation of Meyer Friedman Reed, a litigation law firm in Dallas that handles family law, criminal law, and personal injury litigation in Texas and Oklahoma. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Dallas with their son, Michael.

95



Patrick "Pat" Morris has been promoted to partner in the Perkins Coie law firm's San Francisco office. He is a member of the firm's intellectual property practice, with a primary focus on biotechnology,

advising clients on all aspects of patent strategy and management. His work includes patent procurement, patent interferences, patentability and freedom to operate analyses, and due diligence relating to licensing, funding, and partnership negotiations. Pat holds a Ph.D. in molecular biology with his doctoral research focusing on elucidating the mechanisms behind helicase-mediated DNA unwinding.

[ACCOLADES]



EXCELLENCE IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY



Squire Booker '87 professor of chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology at Penn State University, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Election as an AAAS fellow is an honor bestowed by peers to members of the world's largest general scientific society. The election recognizes his contributions to the field of mechanistic enzymology, particularly his research on enzymes employing extremely reactive molecules, known as free radicals, to catalyze their reactions. In 2011, he received an Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award given by the American

Chemical Society to "recognize and encourage excellence in organic chemistry," and in 2004, he traveled to the White House to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, named among 57 of the country's most promising scientists and engineers.

Booker earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. That same year, he was awarded a National Science Foundation-NATO Fellowship for postdoctoral studies at Université René Descartes in Paris, France. In 1996, he was awarded a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship for studies at the world-renowned Institute for Enzyme Research at the University of Wisconsin before joining the Penn State faculty in 1999.

He has mentored 15 graduate students and over 35 undergraduate students, and is known for encouraging students in underrepresented groups to consider science-based careers.

96

Julie “JJ” Zuniga earned a Ph.D. in nursing at the University of Texas at Austin in May 2013 and began a post-doctoral fellowship at Emory University School of Nursing where she focuses on HIV research.

97

Melinda Massie performed with the Fort Worth Opera as a lady’s maid in *Daughter of the Regiment* during its spring opera festival at Bass Hall in April and May 2013. She also spoke about home organization at the Visions Women’s Expo at Dallas Market Hall.

98



Graham Painter has been named creative director for Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency for its recent expansion into Yangon, Myanmar. Following

democratic reforms, most international trade sanctions have been lifted, and U.S. consumer productions again are becoming available after a 60-year hiatus. One of Graham’s principal clients is Coca-Cola. After receiving his Austin College degree, Graham graduated from Miami Ad School and worked in advertising in New York, London, and Bangkok before his move to Myanmar.

99

Ishaq Kundawala is a professor of law at Nova Southeastern University’s Shepard Broad Law Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He began his career with the university in 2008 and earned tenure in July 2013. He teaches contracts, sales, secured transactions, and bankruptcy law. He serves on the law faculty’s admission committee and is an advisor to the Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association. He also coaches the school’s international commercial arbitration moot court team. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Barbara Houser and also worked in private practice with Baker Botts for more than five years.

00

Kevin Barton was named a *Buffalo Business First* “40 Under 40” honoree in Buffalo, New York, where he worked with Coca-Cola Bottling Company. “Once again our honorees exemplify all that is good with our community,” said Jack Connors, *Business First* publisher and president in announcing the 2013 honorees who were recognized in November. “Their dedication to their professions and to our community will ensure that the future of the Buffalo and Niagara region remains bright and promising for generations to come.” Kevin

'Roo News



CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Matthew Eddy '94 has had quite the journey over the past 20 years. He volunteered several months at a time in Alaska, Montana, Yosemite National Park in California, Israel, London, and New Zealand. He also spent four years as pastor of a United Methodist Church north of Seattle, and he and his wife spent nearly two years traveling the world. He said his interest in traveling and learning from other cultures was nurtured through experiences at Austin College, including a cross-cultural psychology course taught by Dr. **Jerry Middents**, theology courses that emphasized Latin American liberation theology, and a JanTerm traveling the Hawaiian Islands with **Jay Langford '94** and **Kenny Ho '95**. “Since leaving Austin College, some of the things I am most proud of are my volunteer work with international human rights NGOs and the academic articles I have published based on those experiences—which analyze trans-national human rights activism and nonviolent attitudes and ideals. But pretty much everything about my identity today—both professional and personal—was cultivated in a big way during my time at Austin College.”

Matthew earned a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1999 and completed a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Oregon in 2013. He is an assistant professor of sociology at Minot State University in North Dakota. His doctoral dissertation involved field research in Costa Rica. Through a grant from the Jubitz Family Foundation and the War Prevention Initiative, Eddy is at work turning pieces of his doctoral research into a documentary film, *A Bold Peace: Costa Rica's Path of Demilitarization*, examining the country’s history and reasons for and results of abolishment of its military. Learn more at www.aboldpeace.com.

and his wife, **Susannah (Stevens) '01**, have since moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he serves as human resources manager for converting operations with Evergreen Packaging.



Robert Greeson was promoted to partner earlier this year in the global legal practice of Norton Rose Fulbright. He works in the firm’s Intellectual Property

Transactions and Patent Prosecution section in the Dallas office and concentrates on patent litigation, licensing, transactions, and prosecution.

His technology experience includes wireless systems, wireless devices, eCommerce software and services, network infrastructure, communication software, storage devices, green energy, and mechanical devices. After earning his Austin College degree, he completed a master’s degree in applied physics at University of Texas at Dallas and a law degree at Baylor University School of Law.

01

Jill Gin Dinges was recognized last fall for her work as a teacher. Read the details on page 39 in ACCOLADES with news of other top 'Roo teachers.

[ACCOLADES]



CONGRATS TO TOP 'ROO TEACHERS



Keith Mahaffey '74 (MA '75), a psychology teacher, was selected as Galveston (Texas) ISD Ball High School Teacher of the Year and, later, as Secondary Teacher of the Year. Also, in Galveston ISD, **Jessica Antonelli** '09 (MAT '11), was Teacher of the Year at Early Childhood University—and Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Jill Gin Dinges '01 was selected by students and parents as the first “Teacher of the Year” at Imagine International Academy of North Texas for the 2012-2013 year, the first year of her teaching career. She continues teaching fourth grade at the new charter school in McKinney, Texas.



Naomi “Omi” Boggus Ford '02 (MAT '03) was named Teacher of the Year at Hunters Creek Elementary in Spring Branch ISD and later, District Elementary Teacher of the Year. This is Omi's sixth year at the school where she teaches third grade, specifically language arts and social studies as part of a teaching team.

Jessica Smith '04 (MAT '05) was named Highland Park ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is in her second year as a K-4 grade art teacher at Bradfield Elementary, with 700 students learning art history along with their studio lessons. As part of the Teacher of the Year honor, Jessica spoke at the district's opening convocation in fall 2013, discussing the importance of creativity and teamwork. Meanwhile, four of her students were on stage painting at separate easels. As she finished speaking, they combined the four paintings to reveal the district mascot.



Laura Amlin '05 was named Teacher of the Year this spring at Caldwell Elementary School in McKinney ISD. She teaches third grade at the school where she has worked for five years.

Duncan Robertson earned a master's of fine arts degree in communication design at Texas State University in December 2013. He launched his thesis project—“Makeready Podcast: Conversations About Finding and Defining Success in the Field of Graphic Design”—with a gallery exhibition as part of the school's MFA Showcase in January, interviewing creative people about their careers and processes and creating podcasts of the conversations.

02

Omi Boggus Ford was named a top teacher this spring. See ACCOLADES above.



Stacey M. Holtzman has joined the McGlinchey Stafford law firm Dallas office. She is an associate in the consumer financial services section of the national firm that includes 34 attorneys in Texas and offices in 10 other states. Stacey represents clients in consumer financial services matters, licensing, and regulatory compliance. Prior to joining McGlinchey Stafford, she was in-house counsel for a multi-state mortgage lender, where she focused on regulatory compliance, licensing, operational, and corporate matters.

03

Hayley Gillespie has opened a unique art gallery—Art.Science.Gallery.—in Austin, Texas. It is one of the first venues in the nation to exclusively feature science-related art. The gallery's mission is to provide a friendly environment to make science more accessible to everyone through science-related visual arts exhibitions, to foster the careers of emerging and established artist-scientists, and to provide professional development opportunities for scientists to become more engaging public communicators. The gallery has been featured on the PBS program “KLRU Collective.” Hayley said this small local business is a true reflection of her liberal arts education at Austin College, where she majored in biology and minored in environmental studies and studio art. She later earned a Ph.D. in ecology, evolution, and animal behavior at the University of Texas. Her continuing work as a scientist studying endangered species inspires her art. She also writes about the intersection of art and biology. She and her husband, **Cole Weatherby** '04, live in Austin.



Amanda Jester has joined the law firm Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis as a partner in their Austin office. Amanda's practice includes advising clients in the healthcare industry on mergers and acquisitions, and regulatory and licensing issues. She previously practiced in Miami, Florida, with McDermott Will & Emery as a partner in the health law group. Amanda is excited to return home to the Lone Star State with her husband, Ken, and their son, Leo, 2.

04

Jessica Smith (MAT '05) was recognized last fall for her work as a teacher. See ACCOLADES at left.

05

Laura Amlin was recognized this spring for her work as a teacher. See ACCOLADES at left.



Vera Corbett and **Lonnell Ahiyya** were married December 8, 2013, at Mercury Hall in Austin, Texas, with **Laura Page** '05 as a bridesmaid and **Krystal Pope** '05 among the attendees. Vera is in her second year teaching at a new school in Bedford, Massachusetts, and her husband is the lead robotics engineer at a company in Boston. The couple met through friends in Austin.

06



Kyle Floyd is living in Esquipulas, Matagalpa, as a small business volunteer with Peace Corps Nicaragua and celebrated his first year "in country" in March. He particularly

works to equip teachers in the local high schools, and his day may include classroom management and co-planning daily lectures for the "Emprendedurismo" program. Peace Corps and MINED (Ministerio de Educación) have compiled a curriculum for high school seniors that includes working in groups throughout the year to design a product that does not exist in their community. They complete market studies, interviews, and create a prototype of their product. Finally, students write a business plan that is presented at a local competition, with potential to advance to regional and national competitions. Winners receive money they can invest in their business plan if they wish to continue. In addition to working in the schools, the Peace Corps volunteers work with small business owners providing business and financial education.



Laura Brule and **Alan Stryker** '05 were married June 2, 2013, in Plano, Texas. The wedding party included **Laura Glass** '07, **Kathryn "Kat" Crawley** '07, **Phil Deardorff** '05, and **Nick Garcia** '05. The groom's parents are **Rick** and **Cathy Connell Stryker**, both '71. **Julie Mielke MacPherson** '91 officiated. The new couple lives in Austin where Laura works in environmental science and Alan works in computer software. Pictured are, left to right, Nick, Phil, Alan, Laura Stryker, Laura Glass, Kat, and Riley, the niece of the bride who has attended camp at Austin College so considers herself a 'Roo.

THE GOLD IMPACT

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING WAS A SUCCESS!

See Study Abroad story
on page 13 to read about the
2013-2014 recipient.

'Roo News



AN EVENING OF J.S. BACH

One Homecoming 2013 highlight was "An Evening of J.S. Bach with Friends," for which several alumni joined faculty and student instrumentalists and vocalists in a concert prepared and conducted by **Ricky Duhaime**, Mildred S. Mosher Professor of Music.

Alumni participants were **Anne Anderson** '82, oboe; **Kaitlin Hampton** '08, viola; **Nida Iqbal** '09, violin; **Morgan Causey Waggoner** '02, cello; and **Justin Duncan** '08, bass soloist and interim director of the A Cappella Choir for 2013-2014. **Nicolas Timmerman** '11, not pictured, was manager of the event.

07



Austin Coachman (MAT '08) and **Andrea Bauer** '06 (MAT '08) were married June 15, 2013, in Muenster, Texas. The wedding party included bridesmaids **Raney Bauer** '07, **Jacqueline Bauer** '09, and **Kacie Weaver** '09; groomsmen **Evan Coachman** '11, **Bradley Rawlins** '06, **Taylor Adams** '08, **Dustin Logston** '08, and **Zaq Mamot** '09; ushers **Kent Bell** '08, **David "Scooter" Means** '09, **Jonathan Rawlins** '08, **Ross Hasten** '09, **Nick Zitaglio** '10; and readers **Matt Ellington** '06 and **Brad Jones** '08. The new couple lives in Anna, Texas.



Christopher and **Amber Powell Hinds** moved to New York after graduating from Austin College. Christopher worked as the sous chef in a tavern near West Point and, for three years,

as the chef de cuisine of the Brotherhood of Thieves on Nantucket Island where he regularly served well-known politicians and celebrities, including Vice President Joe Biden. During winter 2012-2013, they moved to Gillette, Wyoming, where Christopher opened a 350-seat, multi-million-dollar steakhouse as the executive chef. At the grand opening party, he served many notable VIP guests, including Liz Cheney; Annie Clements of Sugarland, who also performed; and several high-ranking military officials. Christopher has won numerous "best of" awards and accolades from Zagat. Meanwhile, Amber is a freelance website and graphic designer with a business called Au Coeur Design. She also is a certified lactation consultant and is leading an initiative to start a K-8 charter school in their new hometown.



00 Daughter Layla Jane was born to John and **Tricia Holland Williams** on February 23, 2013, joining big sister, Stella Marie, 3.



07 **Rebecca (Stephens) and Andrew Carroll '04** announce the birth of their son, Henry, on November 20, 2012. He is the grandson of Nancy Newson Stephens '72 and great-grandson of **Boyd Newman '42**. His godparents are **Christina Faulkner '07** and **Steven Zaborowski '08**.



01 Isaac Michael was born March 4, 2013, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Adam and **Sally Altland Bjornholm**. Sally is a social worker and public health professional working in the area of HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance abuse.



Christopher and Amber Powell Hinds announce the birth of their second child, Zara Beatrix, on January 6, 2013. She joins big sister, Eleanor, 4.



Adam Spore and his wife, Maridyth, became new parents on August 13, 2013, to daughter Monroe Grace. Adam serves as pastor at First United Methodist Church in Leonard, Texas. Excited relatives include grandmother **Karen Spore** in the College's Student Affairs Office and aunt **Angela Spore Allen '01**, Adam's sister.



90 **Don Grimes** and his wife, Aaren, welcomed their first child, Mallory Brooke, in May 2013. They now live in Austin, Texas, where Don has been employed by Dell, Inc., since 2004.



02 **Mark and Emily Zwierlein Wallace '04** welcomed their son, Ian Bruce, on June 18, 2013. They live in Grand Prairie, Texas, where Emily works for Grand Prairie ISD, and Mark works for Progressive Insurance.



95 Fiona Murphy was born September 2, 2012, to Michelle and **Patrick Morris**. They live in San Francisco where Patrick is a partner at Perkins Coie, and Michelle is a clinical neuropsychologist at Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.



96 Gary and **Kaylin Bailey Nickol** welcomed a daughter April 8, 2013. Baby Lauren joins her proud older brother, Gavin, 8, at home in Alexandria, Virginia. Kaylin is vice president and practice lead at Dexis Consulting Group, a USAID-implementing partner in Washington, D.C.



What's your legacy?

Including Austin College in your estate plans will support the educational mission, future, and financial well-being of Austin College and its students.

You may never meet the young men and women who will benefit from your gift, but your investment will have far-reaching value in the lives of graduates who in turn touch the places they live and serve. For any sized estate gift, a variety of planned giving options can be tailored for you, your family, and the College.

Sharing your plans for an estate gift qualifies you for membership in the John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in your estate planning matters. To learn more, contact Director of Estate Planning **Suzanne Crouch**, CFRE, at 903.813.2059 or scrouch@austincollege.edu.



Courtney Baker and **Mason Anders** '09 were married October 5, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas, with a reception at The Argyle Club, where Courtney's parents held their wedding reception. The new couple lives in College Station, Texas, where Mason works as a research assistant for Texas A&M University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in nuclear physics. **David Riddle** '09 served as best man and **Han Kim** '09 was a groomsman. **Leeta Faye Britton** '08 and **Alicia Houser** '12 were bridesmaids. Attendees included **Sean Muder** '10, **Patrick Ray** '09, **Andy White** '10, **Daniel Jackson** '10, **Rachel Dodd** '11, **Mason Anders** '09, **Kylee Rutledge** '09, **Nayan Patel** '08, **Sam MacDonald** '08, **Ryan Buell** '08, **Rebecca Webb Buell** '08, **Steven Matthis** '09, **Robert Likarish** '09, **Ashley Sallee** '10, **Sarah Sorvet** '11, **Ashton Gelat** '13, **Jessica Douglas** '09, **Sahar Mehdi** '11, **Carolyn McLaughlin Matthis** '08, **Cari Hubbard Solano** '08, **Clint Buck** '07, **Emily Bull** '10, and **Sunaina Suhag** '11.



Cari Hubbard married **Austin Solano**, a University of Texas at Arlington graduate, on November 9, 2013, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Fort Worth, Texas, followed by a reception at The Modern Art Museum. Bridesmaids included **Leeta Faye Britton**, **Liz Varner Strathman**, and **Chelsea Chappell-Cox**, all '08. Alumni attending, pictured with the bride, also included **Mason Anders** '09, **Courtney Baker Anders** '08, **Kyle Clayton** '08, **Kerry Van Zant** '08, **Lance Frank** '08, **Ebby Arias** '09, **Leeta Faye Britton** '08, **Chelsea Chappell-Cox** '08, **Doan Vuong** '09, and **Shannon Graves** '08. **Cari** works for Route 66 Tire and Rubber, a company she and her father started in 2009. The new couple lives in Fort Worth.

'Roo News



MEDICAL SERVICE

A small 'Roo mob was discovered in the crowd in Brownsville, Texas, in January 2014, as the city's "Biggest Loser" Competition, stressing healthier lifestyles and decreased body mass index, got underway. Approximately 1,000 people were enrolled over two days. Among the volunteers doing the enrollments were **Christine Garner** '15 and **Michaela Moden** '15, completing Career Study Off Campus (CSOC) experiences in Brownsville at Frontera de Salud (Border of Health), and volunteers from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and the University of Texas School of Public Health. Among those were **Kimberly Cook** '12, completing a master's degree in public health; **Astrid Grouls** '12, a second-year medical school student at UT-Houston; and **David Savage** '07, an M.D., Ph.D. student at UT-Houston. The CSOC in Brownsville was organized by **Kirk Smith** '81, M.D./Ph.D., who founded Frontera de Salud, which provides health services to underserved residents. **Kirk** was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College in 2012.



Will Radke and **Mio Komatsu** enjoyed a wedding dinner with friends September 21, 2013, in Tokyo at the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art. Family from across the U.S. and Japan and friends gathered with them to celebrate at an outdoor dinner in beautiful weather. The new couple could be called 'Roo Sweethearts though they did not know each other at Austin College. **Will** graduated in May 2008, and that fall, **Mio** came to Austin College to begin a two-year stay as the resident speaker/assistant for Japanese in Jordan Family Language House. **Will**, who had been living in Tokyo for over a year, came back to campus in February 2010 to hear Dr. Muhammad Yunus, that year's Austin College Posey Leadership Award honoree. **Will** and **Mio** met during his time on campus; **Mio** moved back to Tokyo in May. The relationship continued, and as **Will** wrote, "that was that." In Tokyo, **Mio** is an in-house translator for pharmaceuticals company Merck Serono.

Will has been with Goldman Sachs Japan for five years. He began work with the firm in Singapore in 2008.



Beth Shaw-Meadow and **Daniel Navarrete** '07 were married at the Southwest School of Art in San Antonio, Texas, on December 28, 2012. Attendees included **Eric Hungerford** '06 who performed the ceremony; **Rachel Friedman Goldsmith** '05, **John** '07 and **Lauren Sweat Warren** '08, **Gregg** and **Monica Martinez Maher** '09, **Joey** and **Ashley Mullings Mott** '06, **Jesus** '06 and **Delilah Rodriguez Navarrete** '05, **Cassandra Navarrete** '12, **Emily Olvera** '13, **Micaela Reznicek** '05, **Swathi Dhoma** '05, **Arya Rejaee** '07, and **Ryan Patrick** '06. **Beth** earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in May 2013 at Texas A&M University. The couple has moved to the Washington, D.C., metro area where **Daniel** is a senior analyst with the U. S. Department of Labor. **Beth** works as a small animal veterinarian in Maryland.



Laura Westerlage was the first recipient of the Max Sherman and Barbara Jordan Fellowship during her Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary graduation in May 2013. The fellowship recognizes demonstrated

potential to integrate faith and public policy. She earned a dual degree: a master's in divinity from the seminary and master's in social work from the University of Texas.

09

Jessica Antonelli (MAT '11) was recognized last fall for her work as a teacher. Read the details in ACCOLADES on page 39.



Monica Martinez and **Gregory Maher** were married April 27, 2013, in Austin at St. Austin Catholic Parish. Many alumni attended, including bridesmaids

Sunaina Suhag and **Sahar Mehdi**; groomsmen **Clayton Travis** and **Tyler Wallace**; and ushers **Robert Likarish**, **Britain Bruner**, **Daniel Jackson**, and **Christopher Ellis**. Gregg is the director of the 8th grade and an English teacher at San Juan Diego Catholic High School in Austin. In the evening, he plays guitar for an Americana band that he and **Tyler Wallace** started while at Austin College. Monica is attending the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. She received the Duggan Fellowship and plans to specialize in social and economic policy with a specific focus on education. Beyond school, she homebrews beer and wine and is learning to play the accordion.

10

Emily Bull completed a year of AmeriCorps VISTA in Yuma, Arizona, as Yuma County Nonprofit Resource Center manager before beginning graduate school. In May 2013, she earned a master's degree in social work at Washington University in St. Louis, with a concentration in International social economic development. While in

graduate school, she traveled to China and Tanzania for practicum and research opportunities. She is employed as U.S. director of operations and development by the international NGO Maji Safi Group.



Dallas Key and **Karen Edwards** were married December 29, 2012, with many alumni attending, including **Emily Bull** '10 as maid of honor; **Daniel Jackson** '10 and **Jordan Rose** '11 as co-best men and **Jordan** as officiant; groomsmen **Neal Spradlin** '10 and **Shamyal Khan** '08; groomswoman **Carolyn Stone** '11; and bridesmaids **Sarah Oliveri** '08 and **Ashley Overturf** '11. Dallas graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in May 2013.

A WORD FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Have you ever spotted Austin College alumni at a restaurant or other venue? Did your kids roll their eyes when you went over to speak with them? We cross that room to meet fellow 'Roos, confident in the welcome we will receive. Do you ever wish there were more opportunities to catch up with former classmates and old friends from Austin College?

Great strides have been made over recent years in providing opportunities for Austin College alumni to connect with each other. AlumNights continue to gain momentum and popularity. No longer do you have to come to North Texas to attend an alumni function. In the past year alone, 27 AlumNights were held in 23 cities. Graduates of the Last Decades (GOLD) alumni continue to meet, but are now joining AlumNights in many cities to take advantage of networking and mentoring opportunities with fellow alumni. Women Get Connected has a large following in the Texoma area, and gatherings are planned for other cities.

In the past year, alumni have moved to a new level of engagement. Last June, Austin College hosted the first Women in Philanthropy weekend; alumnae spanning seven decades gathered to trade stories and share ideas. Alumni participated this spring in mock interviews with students on campus in the first Career Readiness Check. An Alumni Discussion Group was piloted, with reading materials distributed in advance of the instructor-led webcast. "Letter Alumni" Associations (subgroups of the Alumni Association like the Choir "C" Alumni) continue to provide avenues for social and networking activities relating to the groups' purposes. Associations exist for Athletics, Law, LGBT, Theatre, Education, and Choir. The "N" (nonprofit) association is under development now. Most of these groups have gatherings at Homecoming, and many have missions around scholarship, fundraising, and fellowship.

The Dallas Alumni Club came into existence in fall 2013, with several activities, including a kid-friendly picnic. Efforts are underway to get alumni clubs started in Austin and in Washington, D.C.

Of course, Homecoming remains the pinnacle alumni weekend. If you have not been to Homecoming in a while, a trip would be well worth your time. The Outback and the Big Tent are just two events that draw big crowds but many activities are offered; be confident that you will be welcome!

Sarah Gunderson '81



Swathi Anantha visited Nepal on a Himalayan Pilgrimage from India to Tibet during summer 2013. "The scenery the entire way was equally if not more amazing!"



Sahar Mehdi and **Vanessa Castro** '12 were in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in July, at Barrachini Restaurant, birthplace of the Pina Colada, when they heard the bartender ask a couple at the bar where they lived. When the young women heard the couple was from Dallas, they began to chat. When college came up, everyone was amazed to discover it was a 'Roo Reunion as the man, **Dallas Cothrum**, is a 1992 graduate. "What are the odds?!" Sahar graduated from the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas in May 2013. Dallas and his wife, Carrie, live in University Park with their two children. He was in Puerto Rico on business; he is CEO of Master Plan, a land use consulting firm.



Lily Van is readjusting to life in one place after nearly a year of living out of a suitcase. She spent that time serving in a branch of AmeriCorps called National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), often called the domestic version of the Peace Corps. Like all AmeriCorps programs, NCCC is a volunteer program.

What makes NCCC different than other AmeriCorps programs is that it is team-based, residential, and national. Lily was assigned to a new collaborative effort called FEMA Corps, working with disaster response and recovery. She and her nine fellow team members offered assistance in

'Roo News



A 'ROO CONNECTION

Katy Walters '07 made a 'Roo connection last summer during her internship at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, meeting **Betsy Russell Bryan** '56 who attends the church with her husband, James. The two Austin College alumnae enjoyed an afternoon looking over Betsy's yearbooks, kangaroo memorabilia, and Golden 'Roo medallion.

Katy's internship in Christian education was part of her work at Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia, where she is completing Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology degrees. During the internship, she worked with youth, doing everything from preaching and teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School to serving alongside the youth on a mission week with Appalachia Service Project in Summers County, West Virginia.

Betsy and James moved in 2000 from their long-time family home where they raised their four children in Chapel Hill—right across the street to a smaller home. The couple also has a home in Montreat (where they met) and go there often. Though Betsy has lived in North Carolina since 1964, she proudly claims her Texas roots—and is a proud 'Roo who remembers friends and faculty fondly. Her husband is retiring this year after 50 years of teaching and seeing patients at University of North Carolina Medical School, and they look forward to travel time and visiting family and friends.

New York City following Hurricane Sandy, spent time working at FEMA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and worked the Yukon River Flooding disaster in Galena, a small community of less than 500 people in interior Alaska. The Alaska assignment was Lily's favorite. Upon acceptance, all volunteers are randomly assigned to one of five regions. At completion of their assignment in fall 2013, the 140 volunteers of the Pacific region voted Lily the Corps Member of the Year, determining her to be the volunteer who best exemplified an AmeriCorps NCCC-FEMA Corps member, showed dedication and strong work ethic every day, and inspired their teammates. Lily now works for a specialty pharmacy and continues to volunteer. 🦘

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

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

[ACCOLADES]



MAKING THEIR SUPREME CASE



William Allensworth '68 of Austin, Texas, argued before the United States Supreme Court in October 2013. Senior partner and founder of Allensworth & Porter, a construction law firm, he represented a central Texas subcontractor in the case that set precedent for forum-selection clauses in the construction industry. He has more than 35 years of experience in the field and has been named among the Top 100 Lawyers in Texas (of more than 90,000) by *Texas Super Lawyers*. Additionally, he has been listed as a Super Lawyer each year since 2004. He was listed in the *Texas Monthly* Top 50 Central/West Texas Lawyers and the Austin Construction Lawyer of the Year in the Best Lawyers 2012 listing.



Buck Files '60 of Tyler, Texas, was part of a team that appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court in January in *Paroline v. United States*. A founding member of Bain, Files, Jarrett, Bain & Harrison, Files has practiced law for nearly 50 years, and in summer 2012, became president of the State Bar of Texas. Buck has received numerous honors for his work, including recognition from his peers with induction to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Hall of Fame and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization's Garner Distinguished Service Award. He has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas and the Justinian Award from the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism. Read about his experiences on page 48 "In Other Words."

Brad Kizzia '77 and **Bill Ucherek** '89 argued a case, *Bob Greene v. Farmers Insurance Exchange*, before the Supreme Court of Texas on January 7, 2014.



Kizzia is a partner and trial attorney at Brown Fox Attorneys & Counselors. He is chair of the firm's litigation and trial group and represents clients in complex business litigation, personal injury, labor and employment, and insurance litigation (including bad faith, insurance coverage, and agent errors and omissions), products liability, medical malpractice, consumer/deceptive trade practice, defamation, commercial litigation, and patent litigation.



Ucherek is a trial attorney with Juneau, Boll, Stacy & Ucherek in Addison, Texas, primarily representing clients in cases involving wrongful death, personal injury, general negligence, premises liability, and medical malpractice, as well as criminal defense matters. He is recognized as board certified in personal injury trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He also is a member of the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas.



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HONORING OUR OWN: HOMECOMING 2013 ALUMNI AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Awardees 2013 are left to right, **Richard Matkin** '74, superintendent of Plano (Texas) ISD; **Butch Worley** '76, deputy director of athletics at University of Texas at Austin, supervising all men's sports; **Donald Lovering** '78, board-certified family physician, Austin, Texas; **Richard Peebles** '70, attorney and social activist, Dallas, Texas; First-Decade Awardee **Anthony Swift** '03, attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) who has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and appeared as an expert on major news media sources, Washington, D.C.; and **Han Pham Hulen** '98, medical director for the Center for Wound Care at Medical City Dallas and president and CEO of Hulen Wound Care Professionals, Dallas, Texas.



Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award



The Clemons Award is given to alumni or friends of Austin College in honor of continued service and commitment to the College. The 2013 recipients are **Rodney Durham** '90 of Sherman and **Shane Allison** '96 of Collinsville, Texas. Both have been longtime volunteers for Kangaroo athletics team. Rodney has volunteered since his college days with the volleyball and basketball programs. He is a physical education and health teacher at Dillingham Intermediate School in Sherman. Shane has served 15 seasons as an assistant coach for 'Roo football, 11 of those as a volunteer. He has been teaching for 14 years, the past 10 of those at Whitesboro Middle School, where he now teaches in the Grand Central Station Learning Lab, supporting struggling learners.

Cindy Curtis Bean Service to Alumni Award



The Service to Alumni Award honors faculty or staff members who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to the support of Austin College alumni around the world. The 2013 recipients, pictured with **Cindy Bean** '73, are **David Norman** '83, director of athletics and chair of the Exercise and Sport Science program, and **Jack Pierce**, who has been a member of Austin College's faculty since 1967, serving since 1988 as director of Health Sciences and McGaw Chair of Health Sciences.

GOLDEN 'ROOS AT 2014 COMMENCEMENT



Happy Anniversary—Members of the Class of 1964 gathered with President Marjorie Hass for a photo are, left to right, front row: Don Newsom, Jay Evans, Jane Brazell Sisolak, Libby Irwin Cahalan, Susan Qualtrough, Sharon Vande Vuss Foster, and Joanne Berglund Dickey; second row: Robert White, Dr. Hass, Carol Porter Powers, Sally Robinson Nation, Ruth Whiteside, Roy Poinsett, and Gerry Wilson Buchholz; third row: Reggie Coon, Jean Clark, Ken Loyd, Don Read, David Frank, Will Miller, and John Evans; and fourth and fifth rows combined: Drake Cameron, Ed Kendall, Dianne Purdin, Charles Scurry, Sam Moore, Henry Staat, Richard Powers, Bill Jennings, Harold Skaggs, Trey Crosthwaite, Clint Morrow, Walt Bayless, and Fred Lehmann.

IN MEMORIAM ALUMNI

1937	Wilford "Wil" Penny	November 2, 2013
1940	Redellium Lindley "R.L." Atnip	March 16, 2014
1942	Zac Russom	June 30, 2013
1942	Orson Whited	November 21, 2012
1943	Clarence M. Basset	January 29, 2013
1947	William Robert Knox	December 17, 2013
1947	John Lancaster	November 30, 2013
1948	Ernest Helsley	July 30, 2013
1948	Clara Hawkins Jackson	August 21, 2013
1948	Harold Walker, Sr.	November 1, 2013
1949	Betty Moates Lewis	July 19, 2013
1949	Velton Williams	September 9, 2013
1950	Leslie Baldwin	February 10, 2014
1950	Thornton "Tony" Doss	February 15, 2014
1950	Charles Goode	July 15, 2013
1950	John Allan Guthrie	September 9, 2013
1950	Dudley Lee Olds	April 6, 2014
1950	James Stanley Russom	April 4, 2014
1950	G. Raymond Stephens, Jr.	August 19, 2013
1951	Rosemary Beachy Banta	October 20, 2013
1951	Bettie Jane Dobson Storey	December 2, 2013
1951	Janet Lindsay Tuggey	January 14, 2014
1951	Nancy Slocum	December 15, 2013
1952	Billy Kincaid	September 10, 2013
1953	Troy Cox	November 22, 2013
1953	David Slider	December 17, 2013
1954	Robert E. Birk	November 18, 2013
1954	Edward DeWees	March 16, 2014
1954	Ophelia Wilma Miller Hite	July 29, 2013
1954	Pearson Pollard	April 4, 2013
1956	Hartsell Haws, Jr.	November 18, 2013
1956	Walter Lynn Zimmerman	December 1, 2013
1957	John Towles	October 28, 2012
1958	Ray Smith	January 20, 2014
1959	Perry Morris	March 27, 2014
1961	David Duncan	October 7, 2012
1961	John Hunder	November 4, 2012
1961	Kenneth W. Jack	August 1, 2013
1962	Karen Keliheor	January 17, 2014
1962	Helen Hayes Sebesta	December 20, 2013
1962	David Sprowl	December 7, 2013
1964	James "Jay" Buckner	August 30, 2013
1966	Mary Catherine Cloud	March 31, 2014
1968	Conrad E. Koerper III	August 13, 2013
1969	Richard Donald "Don" Aubrey	July 7, 2013
1969	Edward Wilson	January 30, 2014
1970	Bobbie Booher Gohlke	September 27, 2012
1970	Mark Mays	March 22, 2014
1971	Stanley McGee	October 21, 2012
1971	Ronald Taylor, Jr.	August 12, 2013
1973	Timothy Flynn	April 30, 2013
1974	Robert Newton	September 14, 2011
1975	Susan Antonelli	January 7, 2014
1975	Robert A. Clark	July 8, 2013
1976	Ronald Perrett	September 22, 2013
1980	Andrew Ratcliff	September 18, 2013
1981	Richard Willaire	December 29, 2012
1983	Stanley Joe Smith	October 1, 2012
1985	Margo Smith	August 7, 2013
1987	Julie Pierce McIntyre	December 4, 2013
2008	Justin Frost	February 28, 2014

College Mourns Death of Senior Trustees

The Austin College community was saddened in recent months by the deaths of two senior members of the College's Board of Trustees.



David Charles Sprowl of Sherman died December 7, 2013. A 1962 graduate of Austin College, he served in the U.S. Air Force then began work at the Texas State Comptroller's Office. He joined A.G. Edwards and Sons in 1973, first as a broker and later vice president, then regional manager of the Southwest Region until his retirement in 2006. He also served on the Sherman City Council and was elected mayor for the City of Sherman in 1983. He served on the boards of American Bank and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital-WNJ, as well as two terms on the Greater Texoma Utility Authority. He and Frankie, his wife of 40 years, supported numerous Austin College projects, including scholarships, athletics, and Posey Leadership Institute, and contributed to creation of Collins Alumni Center and Wright Campus Center. They have an alumnus son **James Sprowl '84** as well as a daughter, Rebecca Waterman.



Dr. G. Raymond "Ray" Stephens, Jr., '50 of Sherman died August 19, 2013. After graduating from Austin College, he earned his medical degree with honors at the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston and began his residency at University of Iowa Medical Center, where he met his wife, Betty. He served in the U.S. Air Force, 1956 to 1958, as a medical officer, achieving the rank of major. After completing his residency, the family returned to his hometown of Sherman, where he practiced obstetrics and gynecology until his retirement in 1992, delivered over 10,000 babies in his career. In addition to varied service in the local community, Ray served on the Austin College Board of Trustees during the 1980s and 1990s, and remained active as a senior trustee until his death. He and Betty supported projects at Austin College for more than 50 years, particularly scholarships that assist students with international travel, as well as the IDEA Center. A 1985 Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College, Ray was an avid golfer and a regular supporter of the annual Austin College Legends event. He and Betty have three alumni children, **Susan '79**, **Martha '80**, and **John '83**, in addition to son David. If desired, memorials may be made to the Stephens Family International Studies Scholarship Fund at Austin College.

Friends We Will Miss

Harold Buskirk, who worked as a media technician at the College for 23 years, serving from August 1974 through April 1997, died August 22, 2013. ■ **Ruth Lee Cason**, an administrative assistant in Academic Affairs from August 1971 until her retirement in September 1989, died November 17, 2013. ■ **Verde V. Dickey, Jr.**, who provided funding for the Verde Dickey Fitness Pavilion in honor of his coaching pioneer father, **Verde Dickey '27**, died February 15, 2014. ■ **Margaret Ann Freeman**, wife of the late Bill Freeman, professor of education, died August 31, 2013. ■ **Jeannine Jernigan**, wife of Jack Jernigan, professor emeritus, died October 23, 2013. ■ **Larry Kramer**, legendary Austin College football coach from 1973 to 1982, died January 24, 2014. ■ **Louise Street**, wife of Ken Street, professor emeritus, died October 21, 2013.

“In Other Words”

Reflections on Fifty Years in the Practice of Criminal Law

BY: Buck Files '60

My fifty years in the practice of criminal law have been a great adventure: Always intellectually challenging; sometimes emotionally and physically draining; and, more fun than a child could have ever imagined. From prosecuting and defending cases before the courts-martial of the Marine Corps and Navy in Hawaii, Okinawa, and Vietnam to serving as first assistant criminal district attorney in Tyler to 44 years in the private practice of law, there has always been something just over the horizon that I have never seen before—and, on January 22, 2014, it was a trip to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The case was *Paroline v. United States of America, et al.* Almost six years ago, Chief Judge Leonard E. Davis of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas appointed me to represent Mr. Paroline on a restitution issue arising out of a child pornography case. [Yes, even those who possess child pornography have a right under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the effective assistance of counsel.]

“Amy” is the pseudonym for a victim of child pornography whose images were posted on the Internet. When two of these images were discovered on Mr. Paroline’s computer, “Amy’s” lawyer sought restitution from him in the amount of 3.4 million dollars.

I resisted “Amy’s” claims—urging that she had not suffered any losses as a result of Mr. Paroline’s conduct—and prevailed in the district court. When the Government and “Amy’s” lawyers appealed, I asked Stanley Schneider, a board-certified criminal appellate lawyer, to join me in the representation of Mr. Paroline. In its fourth written opinion, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed Judge Davis and ordered Mr. Paroline to pay the restitution sought by “Amy.”

Eventually, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Mr. Paroline’s case. Stanley presented our oral argument as I sat next to him with a copy of the joint appendix in front of me in order that I could give him a citation to the record if one of the Justices asked for it.

On April 23, the Supreme Court vacated the judgment of the Fifth Circuit and remanded the case to the district court for a second restitution hearing. Judge Davis will be required to award some restitution to “Amy”; however, Mr. Paroline will only be liable for his own conduct and not for the conduct of others. There will be no \$3.4 million dollar award for two pictures. We won.

I would mention these two take-aways after watching the Supreme Court on three different days:

The Court Chamber, where the Justices hear oral arguments, could be described as cavernous, yet intimate. Measuring 82 by 91 feet and with a 44-foot-high ceiling, it is large enough to accommodate about 200 visitors in the public gallery and another 50 or so members of the Bar of the Supreme

Court, who sit inside the rail and are closer to the Justices. When I was sitting at counsel table, I was only about 8 feet from Justices Thomas and Scalia.

The Justices are eager to pounce verbally upon the lawyers who are presenting arguments and to quiz them on their positions as stated in their written briefs. In some of the cases, the lawyers were able to speak for only about 30 seconds before being interrupted by one or more of the Justices. [We were fortunate to be given 60 long seconds.]

As a Golden 'Roo, I have been proud of my baccalaureate degree for more than 50 years. I first learned the value of an Austin College education when I mentioned that I was an Austin College graduate to an assistant dean at SMU’s School of Law. That was the end of the interview. He told me that I was admitted. I would have to sit for the Law School Admission Test, but that was only a formality.

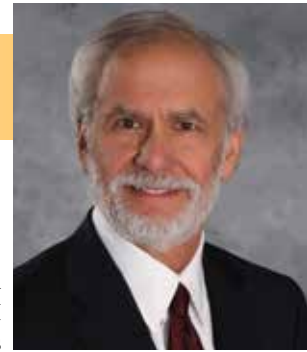
The legal profession has changed dramatically over the past 50 years. There are now more lawyers in Dallas County (16,000+) than there were in Texas when I was admitted to practice in 1963 (15,000+). Unfortunately, the cost of a law school education has escalated, and, nationally, there just are not enough jobs to go around.

Even so, I would still advise anyone who has dreamed of becoming a lawyer to pursue that dream if they understand that the legal profession is a servant profession. No one should ever become a lawyer for the purpose of getting rich. That can happen, but it should never be one’s primary focus. I am proud that Texas lawyers gave 2.42 million hours of their time in *pro bono* service last year to those who could not afford a lawyer. It has been my experience that the most respected lawyers are those who give back to the profession and help those who are poor and penniless.

In my 51st year of practice, do I intend to retire? No! If I did, I would always wonder who would have been the next person to walk through the door with some new and challenging issue. ■

Buck Files '60 is finishing his 11th year as a member of Austin College's Board of Trustees. He is the first Austin College alumnus to be elected president of the State Bar of Texas. He has received many honors in his professional career, including being elected to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Hall of Fame and receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas. Buck and his wife, Robyn McChesney Files '62, have been married for 51 years and have two adult children, Jennifer Files Beerline '89 and Trey Files.

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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Big Tent Celebration

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Graduate Antoine Thompson celebrates as
he nears the stage to receive his diploma.
Recipient of the Temple Foundation Endowed Scholarship