

# Austin College

Magazine Summer 2013



*A  
Legacy  
of Law*



In a fast-changing, complex world, we're preparing the next generation to think critically and respond thoughtfully.

Austin College's new IDEA Center—Inquiry, Discovery, Entrepreneurship, and Access—will equip students to innovate and excel in the competitive environment of life's laboratory.

From student-faculty research to community outreach, our new science complex will be at the center of the search for knowledge.

So the journey begins ...

# Think of the *discoveries* that are out there



The IDEA Center



The IDEA Center: Opening Fall Term 2013  
Homecoming Weekend Tours, October 25-26



## NEXT STEPS

At Commencement in May, amid the excitement of graduates and their families, I was pleased to note that “First Lady Emerita” Sara Bernice Moseley attended her 60th Austin College graduation ceremonies. What an achievement! That recognition turned bittersweet in mid-July as we mourned Mrs. Moseley’s passing. (See the article on page 6.)

She was such a significant figure in the life of Austin College and in shaping the ideals and spirit of campus life today. Personally, I appreciated her as a model of grace, leadership, and savvy. She will be greatly missed but her tremendous legacy will live on.

Always concerned for the future of Austin College, Sara Bernice was pleased to watch the College reach some very significant milestones as we reach the end of the planning timeline established in our current strategic plan “Roots and Branches.” Kangaroos everywhere have much to be proud of: the opening of the IDEA Center, new state-of-the-art student housing, a firmer financial foundation, a record number of newly established scholarships, a successful “Thinking Green” campus commitment to sustainability, record numbers of admission applications, and much more.

And as we now turn toward our next round of strategic planning, two interconnected questions face us:

- ✧ What kind of liberal arts education will our students need 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 to talented and deserving young people?

Quality must continue to define an Austin College education. This means that student learning—especially the kind of sophisticated, messy, hands-on, higher-order learning that is the hallmark of a liberating education—will remain at the core of our planning. The traditions that characterize this form of education must continue to play a role in our thinking. Those traditions have been developed and sustained for good reasons. But we also recognize that the methods and the aims of liberal arts education cannot remain stuck in the last century. New technologies always have shaped and changed both the dissemination and the actual *creation* of knowledge—from the development of the alphabet to the printing press, to voice recording devices, to the laptop on which I compose these words.

Our graduates must be prepared to lead in their own generation. That means they must come to know themselves and their world and must understand how knowledge is constructed and challenged. And, they must know how to communicate with audiences, actual and virtual, using the most current and compelling techniques. This is a tall order for any curriculum. It requires imagination and flexibility, technological savvy as well as face-to-face interaction with faculty and each other. The opportunity to live in shared community and have access to hands-on opportunities and learning adventures must remain at our core even as we open new avenues for student growth and learning.

Our challenge in this cycle of planning will be to craft a living and learning educational template that guides students from where they actually begin as freshmen toward the ideal of the Austin College graduate as someone who is prepared to offer something of genuine value to the world. And we want the template to be robust enough to serve as a guide for future development and leadership throughout life.

That work before us is made all the more complicated by the fact that the “business” of higher education has reached a tipping point. As is now crystal clear, our “industry” has reached its price-point ceiling. The vast majority of families are simply unable to bear even the highly subsidized cost of private higher education. And those families who might be able to stretch for this, no longer believe that the good that accrues for their sons or daughters outweighs the combined weight of debt and opportunity costs required to attain it.

Good planning will take the combined wisdom of Kangaroo Nation. We won’t all play the same role, but we each will play a role. As we look for a shared vision, we will have to be willing to bend in our assumptions, to recognize that the common good can sometimes trump individual preferences or traditions, and to see the warm light of shared values even in the midst of differing opinions. We will have to work faster than many of us are used to and more slowly than some of us may prefer.

We will set up a planning webpage in September, and I encourage you to participate in the conversation there. We need you to serve as guides and as standard bearers for the value of an Austin College education.

Warmly,

*Marjorie Hass*

Marjorie Hass  
President





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Austin College  
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Editor: 903.813.2414  
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Email: [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu)

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## STAFF

### PUBLISHER

Office of Institutional Advancement  
Cary S. Wacker, Senior Associate Vice President

### EDITOR

Vickie S. Kirby

### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Mark Steele

### SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Melanie Fountaine

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Vickie S. Kirby, Victoria Hughes, Liann Harris '14,  
Kat Jones '16

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Gary Carter  
Akshara Vivekananthan



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**Marjorie Hass**  
President

**Nan Davis**  
Vice President for Institutional Enrollment

**Heidi Ellis**  
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Vice President for Academic Affairs

*The Drama of Dance—Rizwan Jagani '15 and other members of KangaRaas, an Indian Garba/Dandiya Raas dance team, perform on campus at Masala. Originally a traditional form of dance, Raas has evolved into part of a competitive college dance circuit in the U.S. Photo by Steven Phillips '13, who begins a master's degree in photojournalism this fall at Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, D.C.*



# On the Road Again

by Wayne Crannell, director of vocal music

Austin College choral ensembles have taken their music on the road for more than 100 years. Even in the 1890s, the original Quartette boarded the “Interurban” train that ran down the middle of what is now Grand Avenue and traveled as far as Dallas and Fort Worth to sing concerts of popular glee club music.

When the Austin College A Cappella Choir was formed in 1946, short concert tours became an important part of its performing schedule. Choir tours served to recruit new students for the College in a time before targeted marketing or instant Internet communications, and the A Cappella Choir sang at Texas churches and schools, meeting with prospective students who were considering Austin College. A visit by the Austin College A Cappella Choir was the musical event of the year in many Texas towns.

The A Cappella Choir took its first international tour in 1957. After an overnight stop in New York City where the singers slept on the floor of a TV studio so they could sing on the *Today Show* early the next morning, the ensemble crossed the Atlantic for a whirlwind series of performances in concert halls, cathedrals, and international embassies throughout most of the countries of western Europe. While common for college ensembles today, American choirs were seldom heard in Europe in the 1950s, and telegrams describing the A Cappella Choir’s performances crisscrossed Europe and the Atlantic as the ensemble found itself in demand for more and more performances. In the end, it was the choir’s appearance at the Spoleto Music Festival that would become legend in the history of Austin College. Director **Robert Wayne Bedford** led the upstart Austin College A Cappella Choir to a third-place prize in the “small choir” division of the festival. This was the first award for an American choir at such a highly respected European competition, and it ensured that concert tours would remain an important part of the A Cappella Choir’s yearly schedule.

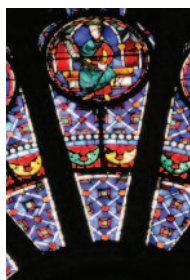
Today, the Austin College A Cappella Choir, as well as smaller vocal ensembles such as the Consort and Quartette, tour annually throughout Texas and in destinations such as Chicago, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, and this past spring, California.

International tours have continued every four years since 1971, and destinations have included all the countries of western and central Europe as well as the United Kingdom and Australia. Today, when international choir tours have become big business and regular events for countless choirs each year, the A Cappella Choir still manages to create extra special performances. In 2011, the choir sang the Sunday noon mass at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris for over 1,500 parishioners and tourists. After the choir rehearsed in the cathedral the previous morning, one student said, “I looked up as we were singing and saw hundreds of people watching and videotaping us like we were celebrities or something!”

The singers now are saving their pennies for what they hope will be a two-week tour to New Zealand in May 2015, and planning is underway for a Texas tour in spring 2014. Whether for church relations, marketing Austin College to prospective students, or providing yet another unique international experience, the Austin College A Cappella Choir tour remains a central piece of student outreach and service at Austin College.







*Photos, clockwise from top, Wayne Crannell, director of vocal music; a performance in a cathedral in France during the 2011 tour; the 2013 spring tour included a stop at San Francisco Theological Seminary, where SFTS staff took these photos.*





## Remembering Sara Bernice Moseley: A Lifetime of Grace and Dedication

The Austin College community lost a treasured and much-beloved friend with the death of **Sara Bernice Moseley**, 95, on July 18. Her contributions to the life of the College and to thousands of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends truly are beyond measure.

For a quarter of a century, 1953 to 1978, Mrs. Moseley served as first lady of Austin College while her husband John D. Moseley served as one of the most successful and forward-thinking leaders in the College's history. Upon his retirement as president in 1978, he spent three years as chancellor, at which time the Moseleys built a home on Grand Avenue, remaining just across the street from the College. Until President Moseley's death in March 2009, the two were honored participants at nearly every major activity at the College.

Since then, Mrs. Moseley continued to represent the family on campus—through the arrival of the College's first woman president in July 2009, and beyond.

"First, as the wife of the president, then as the partner of the president emeritus, and finally as the widowed grand dame of Grand Avenue, Sara Bernice served as the College's ambassador, its memory, and a symbol of its values," Austin College President **Marjorie Hass** said at the memorial service for Mrs. Moseley. "She helped welcome me to the Austin College family and was a great friend and advisor to me. Her warmth, graciousness, and visible enthusiasm for all things Austin College have made a deep and enduring impact."

Mrs. Moseley's home on Grand Avenue gave her a daily view of Austin College life, and her interest in its students and their activities never waned. She watched with excitement as construction changed the face of the campus just outside her front door—from the Sandra J. Williams Founders Plaza to the Forster Art Studio Complex to the cottages of the Village on Grand that brought her much delight and many new student neighbors. This May, she attended her 60th Commencement exercises, as proud of the graduates today as she was when her husband presented the graduates' diplomas.

Mrs. Moseley was a trailblazing Presbyterian woman. In June 1978, she became the first woman elected moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church US, the highest elected official of the church. In that role, she was an instrumental figure in the reunion of the two major branches of the Presbyterian Church, which came about in 1983. She served as co-chair of Friends for Reunion in 1981-1982 and as the first chair of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1983-1984. She also was a committed leader in her local congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Sherman, (renamed in 1995 as Covenant Presbyterian).

After she was elected moderator in 1978, *The Presbyterian Outlook* quoted Mrs. Moseley's two "profound hopes" for the Presbyterian Church: that "God will equip His people in effective ways to live out their faith," and that "with the integrity of the Presbyterian system, we will keep the church open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit."

Born Sara Bernice Honea, Mrs. Moseley served as vice president of the Synod of Texas Youth Council in 1935. (The president that year was a young John D. Moseley.) She graduated from Texas State



College for Women (now Texas Woman's University) in 1937 with a B.A. in music and completed further study at the University of Michigan and the University of Texas. She married John D. Moseley in 1941. She was 34 years old when the couple moved to Sherman in 1953 when John D. became the 12th president of Austin College.

Sara Bernice is survived by three children: **Sara Caroline Moseley** '66; **John Dean Moseley, Jr.**, '69; and **Rebecca Moseley Gafford** '72; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Austin College named Mrs. Moseley an honorary alumna in 1974, and she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the College in 1978. TWU named Mrs. Moseley a distinguished alumna in 1977, and she was named the American Association of University Women's Outstanding Woman in Sherman in 1980.

The Austin College Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarships for Outstanding Presbyterian Students in 1995, recognizing Mrs. Moseley's contributions to the church and the College. In 2002, the Moseleys' nearly 50 years of service to the College were recognized with the dedication of the College Green in Honor of John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley and Distinguished Faculty. In 2012, the Board of Trustees approved the naming of the John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society, which recognizes individuals who have included Austin College in their estate planning. Additionally, she was named an honorary inductee to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Society honorary in 2012 by the Austin College Iota of Texas chapter. She also was honored by Austin College's Texoma Women Get Connected group with a scholarship in her name for local students.

For those who had the privilege to know Mrs. Moseley, no amount of recognition and honor are sufficient to memorialize the graciousness, devotion, and warmth of the quintessential First Lady of Austin College. She will be greatly missed.



Memorial gifts may be directed to Austin College's Sara Bernice Moseley Scholars Program or Bernice and Sara Rebecca Honea Fellowship in Teacher Education. Make a gift at [www.austincollege.edu](http://www.austincollege.edu) or call 903.813.2419.



## Class of 2013 Takes on the World

Austin College's Commencement ceremony May 19 was full of celebrations and reminiscences for the Class of 2013, anticipating future goals and recalling shared moments. Austin College President **Marjorie Hass** happily presented diplomas to more than 360 graduates as **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs, announced each name.

President Hass also awarded honorary doctoral degrees to **Carolyn Hessler-Radelet**, deputy director of the Peace Corps, who delivered the Commencement address; the Reverend **Alfred W. Morgan '67**, retired Presbyterian minister, who presented the Baccalaureate sermon; and **Jerome Fullinwider**, Dallas businessman and leader in oil and gas development. The Commencement speaker was introduced by **Helen Lowman '88**, regional director for the Peace Corps Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region.

**Catherine Stodola '13** spoke on behalf of her fellow graduates.

Not to be outdone in the area of celebration, members of the Class of 1963 were on campus for their 50th-year reunion.

### At the Top of Their Class

Each year, the faculty selects two outstanding students in the graduating class for special recognition by the Board of Trustees, based upon students' entire academic record and course distribution, cumulative grade point average, and credits earned. The two students, with no distinction between them, receive the J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Medals, first presented in 1940 and 1935, respectively. **Bethanie Livernois** received the Kidd Medal and **Carina Parikh** received the Robinson Medal.

Bethanie completed majors in history and political science and a minor in leadership studies. She was inducted to Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Sigma Alpha national history and political science honor societies, as well as Alpha Chi and Phi Beta Kappa national honor societies. She was a member of the Posey Leadership Institute and participated in Model United Nations competitions. She studied internationally through January Term courses: "Turkey: Layers of History," that included exploration of ancient and modern cultural and political life; and "Exploration of Democracy," with study in Washington, D.C.; London, England; and Valletta, Malta.

Bethanie also was active in many campus organizations, including Rotaract, which she served as president for two years, and Mentors in Violence Prevention. She worked as a College tour guide and was selected as a Hatton W. Sumners Scholar and an intern in the Johnson Center for Faculty Development. She also was a children's church leader at First United Methodist Church and worked for the Montessori Academy of North Texas. She also interned with Texas State Representative Allen Vaught and with Grayson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

"My internship with Grayson County CASA was one of the most influential experiences in my life," Bethanie said. "I learned a great deal about what the legal system looks like when interacting with

children, as well as how to deal with the very human and emotional aspect of dealing with children in legal situations."

Bethanie will attend SMU Dedman School of Law this fall on a full scholarship from the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation and plans to work in family law, specifically domestic abuse and child abuse cases.

"I know, because of Austin College, that success and achievement come in a variety of forms," she said. "Individual success will look different to each person. This has helped me shape my personal view of what my own success will look like and how I hope to achieve it."

Completing majors in psychology and mathematics, Carina was involved in research in biopsychology and completed an honors thesis in psychology. She has participated in several summer internships, in work ranging from an after-school program for children with behavioral issues to an analyst for Avelo Mortgage, and then with a zoologist in his lab at Oklahoma State University. She also found time for activities beyond the academic—competing as a member of the cross country team and participating in Delta Phi Nu sorority—and managed to fit in a January Term international study experience in France. She also was inducted as a member of Psi Chi national honor society in psychology and both Alpha Chi and Phi Beta Kappa national honor societies.

She plans to conduct research this fall at the National College of Natural Medicine, examining functional medicine in a nutrition lab. She then will continue study to earn a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine degree and start a private practice or open a clinic. Much of her interest had origins in her biopsychology course, which she found her most interesting class. "The class helped me find my passion for research and neuroscience and led to my work in the biopsychology lab, which opened many doors for me," she said.

*See the Commencement 2013 photo spread on page 28 and 29; find many more photos on the Austin College website.*



*Carina Parikh received a Charles Curtis McKinney Memorial Fellowship. Bethanie Livernois was supported by the Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation Sponsored Scholarship and Joe A. Keith and Mildred H. Keith Endowed Scholarship.*



*Carina Parikh, top, and Bethanie Livernois*

## Faculty News and Accolades

M

**Melanie Fox** was installed to the Jack B. Morris Professorship of Economic Policy at Honors Convocation 2013. After joining the economics faculty at Austin College in 2005, Melanie was granted tenure in 2011 and promoted to associate professor of economics.

Melanie's area of specialization is health economics, offering an exploration of the policy issues associated with the health care industry today. She is the director of the College's Robert L. Snider Memorial Social Science Lab where research frequently involves policy issues. In 2007, Melanie collaborated with

the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank to create the Economic Scholars Program, which provides a conference venue for undergraduate student research on policy issues. The program is in its seventh year and draws outstanding undergraduate students from throughout the country.

The Jack B. Morris Professorship of Economic Policy at Austin College was established in 2005 by Linda Morris Elsey and the Morris Foundation to recognize the life and achievements of her late husband, perpetuate his legacy, and help student gain a solid understanding of the concepts of economic policy.

Morris was a Fort Worth entrepreneur and business pioneer who exhibited a love for learning throughout his life, evidenced by his many philanthropic activities, including scholarships and endowed professorships at Austin College. Linda Elsey served on the Austin College Board of Trustees from 2003-2013.



### Faculty Tenure and Promotions, Effective Fall Term 2013

#### Granted Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:

- ❖ Philip Barker, political science
- ❖ Renee Countryman, psychology
- ❖ Stephanie Gould, chemistry
- ❖ John McGinn, music
- ❖ John Richardson, chemistry

#### Tenured Faculty Promoted to Professor:

- ❖ Lourdes Bueno, Spanish
- ❖ Max Grober, history
- ❖ Michael Higgs, mathematics and computer science
- ❖ Todd Penner, religious studies



### Venit. Vicit. Vicit.

**Robert Cape**, Austin College professor of classics, was honored this spring by the Classical Association of the Middle West and South with the organization's highest award for service to the group and the classics profession.

Presented in Latin at the group's annual meeting, the award recognized Cape's contributions in promotion of the study of Latin in Texas and throughout the United States.

(By the way, the headline: He came. He saw. He conquered.)



## Faculty Honored for Teaching Excellence

*An excellent faculty is foundational to the Austin College experience, and many alumni count current and emeritus faculty among their continuing mentors. Each spring, three faculty members are recognized for teaching excellence at the Austin College Honors Convocation. One receives the College's Excellence in Teaching Award; the others are put forth as the College's nominees for external teaching awards. All three are considered Austin College teaching awards and include stipends.*

### **Bernice Melvin**

Professor of French,  
Margaret Root Brown Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures,  
Director of the Robert and Joyce Johnson Center for Faculty  
Development and Excellence in Teaching  
Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership Award  
At Austin College since 1980

"Tomes have been written about teaching and the what, how, and why of it. All have interesting and informative ideas about what faculty members do—to which I can add nothing new.

But, I love to teach, and I like my students—all of them. Sometimes my classes work well; sometimes they don't. One of the realities of this profession is that terms end and begin again, and that closure brings both sadness and hope. Eternal optimist that I am, at the end of every term, I find myself echoing Upton Sinclair's Jurgis Rudkus, declaring that next time, 'I will work harder' and always hoping that I will do a better job."

### **Michael Higgs**

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science  
Nominee, CASE Professor of the Year (November 2013 announcement)  
At Austin College since 1987

"As an educator today, I love helping students discover and satisfy their curiosity about math and computer science and the world around us. I love to inspire them to regard our discipline with excitement and wonder, over and over again.

I'm especially passionate about being agile in the classroom, about customizing the learning experience to my current students, and about giving them courage to engage the learning process without fear. I want the classroom to be a crucible, a safe but very challenging place of learning in which real transformation occurs.

At Austin College I am blessed to teach and learn from many excellent students in a mutually mentoring environment. As a teacher, I love to learn. My students constantly challenge me to be a 'knowledge scout.' They rely on me to help them navigate their learning adventure, a role I cherish very much."

### **Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Nominee, Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship  
(spring 2014 announcement)  
At Austin College since 2003

"A graduate school advisor once told me that teaching is like being a midwife. It was not until I experienced teaching and research for many years that I realized the value of these words and the impact they have had on my own hybrid pedagogical approach.

My teaching reflects diverse cultural encounters in Asia, painstaking independent and collaborative research, and valuable co-teaching experiences with colleagues. Although primarily trained as a historian of Buddhist and Hindu traditions and in the anthropology of religion, I have learned through co-teaching with colleagues and teaching a wide range of students that 'interdisciplinarity'—and not just specific disciplines—is what informs learning today in the liberal arts. For me, teaching is about relationships between actively engaged agents and not a hierarchical framework based on outmoded medieval models. It is about encouraging independent thinking and inspiring appreciation for diversity. It is about the intentionality of teaching and research. Teaching is also about being flexible and facing challenges regarding the latest tools in order to engage new breeds of students and new modes of learning."



Michael Higgs



Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan



Bernice Melvin

## Piñeres at the helm as VP for Academic Affairs

**Dr. Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres** was selected as vice president for Academic Affairs at Austin College this spring following an extensive national search. She began her duties July 1, providing collaborative academic leadership for faculty, academic staff, and students.

“With her passion for the liberal arts, her considerable scholarship, and her award-winning teaching experience, Dr. Piñeres will bring continued strength to the College’s academic programs and a bright focus to the campus as a highly selective liberal arts college,” said Austin College President **Marjorie Hass**.

Piñeres is excited about the position. “The opportunity to be part of the Austin College community and its mission is one I am both humbled and honored to embrace,” she said. “I am especially energized to join such an outstanding faculty committed to the development of engaged students so they may navigate the multiple and diverse opportunities in this ever-changing global environment.”

When selected, Piñeres was dean of undergraduate education and associate provost at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), where she also was professor of economics and political economy and holds the Mary McDermott Cook Distinguished Chair for Undergraduate Education and Research. In 2010, she received a prestigious UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award, and in April, was one of 12 outstanding educators inducted into the inaugural class of The University of Texas System Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Piñeres was a summa cum laude graduate of Texas A&M University, earning a degree in economics. She then earned a master’s degree in economics at University of Chicago and a Ph.D. at Duke University. Her major fields are development economics, international economics and finance, macroeconomic theory, and econometrics.



## Investing in Austin College

Austin College and its students have always relied on the generosity of alumni, neighbors, and friends to sustain the mission of this 164-year-old institution. During spring 2013, two new programs were introduced to connect the Austin College family with philanthropic opportunities.

**The Austin College Family Fund Leadership Council** plays an important role in supporting Austin College’s fundraising and family involvement by strengthening ties between the College and families of students. Parent giving helps the College maintain programs and opportunities that are essential to the unique Austin College educational experience; student tuition covers only a portion of the cost of this education, and annual donations help bridge the gap.

**STAT** (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow) is an application-based student leadership organization—a new version of the Student Development Board, which for many years was the “ambassador” arm of the College, as current students led admission tours and served as event hosts. Beginning in Fall Term 2013, STAT members will represent and promote the College as official student ambassadors to help build a culture of philanthropy among current students of the College, as well as connect with alumni, donors, and friends.

Austin College STAT is affiliated with the Association of Student Advancement Programs (ASAP)—under the umbrella of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the professional association for external relations programs in higher education.

Forty-five students were nominated by a team of faculty and staff, and 25 students were chosen by a selection committee to serve as the first STAT ambassadors. Officers were elected at an inaugural meeting in May; these students will use resources from the national CASE ASAP office for training and for networking with similar groups from around the country.

For more information about either program, contact the Institutional Advancement office at 903-813-2419.





## An Atrium View

*The IDEA Center already has seen visitors throughout the summer—at left, Board of Trustee spouses take a tour of the nearly-completed facility—and the campus observed the summer solstice on June 21 as the building’s “gnomon hole” directed light onto the atrium floor to the precise point measured. The move from Moody Science to the IDEA Center began in June, and faculty and students have conducted summer research in the facility’s spacious new laboratories.*

## A Powerhouse Team Heads to Vassar

*“The theatre challenges us to find our own voices, to say something worthwhile, and to say it in such a way that it could change the world by changing the lives of its audience.” – Lizzy Lincoln*

Four Austin College students are among only 40 students from around the country and the world accepted to the summer Powerhouse Theater Training Program at Vassar College. They are spending six weeks attending morning classes in acting, voice, movement, directing, and writing, then afternoon and evening sessions in rehearsals, workshops, and crew work in design, lighting, costume, and sound shops. In addition to the four apprentices, two Austin College students who are Powerhouse program alumni were invited back as stage managers for the 2013 season.

The program is the result of collaboration between Vassar College and New York Stage and Film, a professional theater company.

Apprentices for 2013 are **Lizzy Lincoln** '14, **Anika Payne** '15, **Conner Skinner** '14, and **Nick Tanner** '13. Former apprentices returning as staff stage managers are **Mateo Ervin** '13 and **Harrison Wilkie** '13.

“Our students’ acceptance by a prestigious program like this one at Vassar truly reflects their talent and hard work,” said **Kathleen Campbell**, professor of theatre. “We are excited that their work here has prepared them well for success at national auditions.”



*Pictured in true theatrical style are, left to right, Harrison Wilkie, Nick Tanner, Conner Skinner, Lizzy Lincoln, Mateo Ervin, and Anika Payne.*

*The theatre students were supported by Austin College’s Lela May Currie and Marion Carol Currie Memorial Endowed Scholarship; Goodloe Lewis Endowed Scholarship in Theatre Arts; Ira T. Anderson, Sr., Memorial Scholarship; S.D. Heard Fellowship in English; Jayne C. Chamberlin Fellowship in Communication Arts; and NOW Scholarships.*

## New Board Chair Takes the Gavel

**Austin College welcomed five new trustees in spring 2013. They are:**

*Brian Ainsworth '85*  
Dallas, Texas  
Senior Vice President, The Archon Group

*Scott Austin*  
Dallas, Texas  
Partner, Hunton & Williams

*Joe Clifford*  
Dallas, Texas  
Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church–Dallas

*Ronald T. Seal*  
Denison, Texas  
CEO, Texoma Medical Center

*Ruth Whiteside '64*  
Kensington, Maryland  
Director of Foreign Service Institute,  
U.S. Department of State

**Todd Williams '82** stepped into the position of chair of the Austin College Board of Trustees upon the retirement from that role of **Robert Johnson '53** last November. Todd has served as a member of the board since 2001 and as vice chair for several years.

After retiring from a successful career with Goldman Sachs in 2009, Todd turned his attention full time to education. He is the founding executive director of Commit!, a non-profit organization supporting educational efforts in Dallas County. He also serves as education policy advisor to Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. He and his wife, Abigail, chair the regional advisory board for Teach For America in Dallas/Fort Worth and helped establish Williams Preparatory School, a K-12, free-tuition public charter school operated by Uplift that educates more than 1,100 primarily low-income children in northwest Dallas. Todd previously served as vice chair of the board for Uplift Education.

While at Goldman Sachs, Todd served as both a partner and global co-head of Goldman Sachs' real estate private equity investment area, retiring after 20 years with the firm in its New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas offices.

The Williams name is a familiar one on the Austin College campus due to generous support of programs such as the Williams Student-Managed Investment Fund, the Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecture Series, and the Global Outreach Fellowship Program. Todd and his family also have provided support for the Sandra Williams Founders Plaza and the Thomas R. Williams Intramural Complex, in honor of his parents, as well as other campus facilities and landscaping, and provided funding for several scholarships.

**Becky Russell Sykes '67** now serves as vice chair of the board.



## New Dining Options for Campus

Alumni may recall mad dashes from the library or athletic field to make it to the dining hall in time for meals, but today's students don't worry so much about timelines. Beginning last fall, students have unlimited access to the dining hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Full service is not available in transition hours, but a variety of dining options remain during those times.

**Tim Millerick**, vice president for Student Affairs and Athletics, said the new hours are becoming the norm for college dining programs. The College's food service provider, Aramark, instituted the first phase of an update to their service last fall, with new hours and updates to the menu and service concepts. Student response was very positive to the changes, according to Millerick and the College's Aramark food services director **Todd Robison**.

This summer, Aramark is taking on the second phase of its plan—physical adaptation of the dining hall to better facilitate the new programs. Changes to the serving areas and updates in stations and locations, as well as seating changes, some new equipment, and a general facelift, are geared to a more current food program. The changes, Millerick said, will offer a renewed and refreshed dining area, with a more contemporary, less institutional, feel.

Many surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions went into planning the updates, with members of the Student Assembly Food Committee very involved throughout.

Additionally, Aramark and Coca Cola will invest in updates in the Pouch Club, with new flooring and improvements to the seating areas.



*Students will find a new look in Wright Campus Center's dining hall as the fall term opens.*



## A WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE REMARKABLE WOMEN

by Luan Beaty Mendel '75

We came from California and the nation's capital, from Dallas and from Denison—33 women spanning graduating classes from 1952 to 2013. Friends and strangers, alumni, mothers and daughters of alumni, and others with a connection to Austin College, we converged on the Jordan Family Language House on May 31 at President **Marjorie Hass's** invitation to share "A Weekend to Celebrate Remarkable Women." In her opening remarks, President Hass said the retreat was a gift from the College to us—time set aside to contemplate anew how we give of ourselves to those causes closest to our hearts.

After a get-acquainted session that brought forth both tears and laughter, we worked through a series of exercises with nationally recognized facilitator Stephanie Clohesy. Meeting in small groups, we examined our philanthropic endeavors—those that have satisfied and enriched us as well as those that have left us drained and unhappy. Hearing stories about all the projects these women have been involved with was humbling as well as energizing, and the next exercises capitalized on that energy as we focused on becoming more strategic in our personal philanthropy.

Between sessions, we gazed at the stars from the roof of the IDEA Center and enjoyed a gala dinner celebrating key female figures in the life of the College, from Emily Austin to contemporary icons such as **Sara Bernice Moseley**, **Anna Laura Page**, **Marian McCarley**, and **Ann Biggerstaff Mason** '52. For an hour on Saturday, we even became students again, thanks to Austin College faculty members **Renee Countryman**, **Randi Tanglen**, and **Peggy Redshaw**, and yoga instructor Paula Bennett.

The question posed in our final session together on Sunday centered specifically on the challenges facing Austin College: What can we do together that we cannot do alone? A flood of creative, out-of-the-box ideas about how to use our influence to serve the College poured forth.

Photo by Jenny Hendricks



**Caryn Schenewerk** '99, counsel and director of government affairs for SpaceX in Washington, pointed out that the nation's capital is home to the highest concentration of Austin College graduates outside of Texas. Caryn and fellow Austin College alumnus **Abbas Ravjani** '04 have long dreamed of an AC-DC internship and mentoring program. "The D.C. area is such a rich resource for Austin College; I hope we can tap it a little deeper and open up more opportunities," Caryn said.

Closer to campus, **Susan Stephens** '79 talked about her vision for a community garden in a vacant lot owned by First Presbyterian Church in downtown Dallas. A certified Master Gardener, Susan chairs the committee to develop the lot as a place where people can "garden side-by-side despite housing, age, gender, or socio-economic disparities and share tips on tomato-growing best practices." Susan hopes to enlist Austin College students as interns to help with the project.

The weekend retreat was indeed a gift, and it was a gift that will renew itself over and over as the many ideas generated by the group begin to bear fruit.

Special thanks to **Joyce Johnson**, without whom "A Weekend to Celebrate Remarkable Women" would not have been possible.

### Outstanding Leadership



*MC Ingram: Goodloe Lewis Endowed Scholarship in Theatre Arts  
Blake Barnes: Edwin B. and Louise C. Jordan Scholarship  
Laylee Ghafar: NOW Scholarship Fund*

Most Austin College students are pretty amazing. So what does it take to be named Altrusa Outstanding Senior Woman and Outstanding Senior Man? The 2013 honorees, **Laylee Ghafar** and **Blake Barnes**, set the bar high. They've been involved in every sort of service program and countless campus organizations, received academic honors, and traveled internationally. Laylee plans to earn a master's degree in biomedical sciences and hopes to become a doctor. Blake begins work toward a master's degree in health care administration this fall at Trinity University. He also earned the title of 2013 Outstanding Greek Man; **Mary Caroline "MC" Ingram** '13, Outstanding Greek Woman, would like one day to manage a theatre in London.

## Cultural Ambassadors through Fulbrights

**Victoria Briscoe** '13 of Fort Worth, Texas, and **Soha Nassef** '13 of Houston, Texas, will spend the next year abroad, teaching English and sharing their experiences through Fulbright grants. Each has received an English Teaching Assistantship: Victoria will travel to Malaysia; Soha will teach in France.

"I think I can bring the senses of focus, energy, creativity, and openness to others that are needed to be an ETA with young Malaysian children," Victoria said of her assignment. "I am most enthusiastic for the opportunity to inspire a child and to have the joy and satisfaction of seeing children discover new things."

Planning a career as a licensed psychologist and therapist, she will incorporate knowledge related to memory, language acquisition, and cognition into teaching English. "I am intrigued by the influence of dance in developing a cultural identity," Victoria said. "While studying abroad, I had the opportunity to learn traditional

Argentine tango and Spanish flamenco, and these experiences not only gave me a sense of belonging and immersion in the respective cultures but also functioned as creative and stimulating outlets to apply my Spanish language skills. Teaching how to dance in English to English song lyrics should have an incredible impact on the Malaysian children's language skills and their ability to both retain and practice using various words and phrases."

Following her Fulbright year, Victoria plans to pursue a degree in counseling psychology, possibly with a focus in child and adolescent development.

Soha came to love the French language through her study at Austin College and credits her professors for much of her deep feeling about the language. "Their fierce love for teaching that language spills over to their students," Soha said, adding her delight to spend a year in France. "I hope to bring to my

students my own excitement for learning and that my teaching will inspire them to continue their language learning. I am so eager and passionate about young adults learning a second or third language, and I hope my lessons will enliven the classroom each day—and that the children will leave having added another piece to their puzzle of understanding."

The Fulbright year will help prepare Soha for her career in teaching; in summer 2014, she plans to return to Austin College to complete a Master of Arts in Teaching degree through the Austin Teacher Program.

"The world needs excited, passionate teachers," she said. "Students need teachers who enter the classroom eagerly each day with the goal of giving their students skills that will remain with them all their lives. Given my previous experience abroad working with students of all ages, I believe that I can be that teacher."

*While at Austin College, Victoria Briscoe was a recipient of the Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, and Evelyn L. Milam Endowed Scholarship. Soha Nassef received support from the NOW Scholarship Fund.*



Victoria Briscoe, left and Soha Nassef

*"I can bring the senses of focus, energy, creativity, and openness to others that are needed to be an English Teaching Assistant with young Malaysian children."*



The campus hosted several speakers in Spring Term 2013, offering thoughts on profound topics:

### ...JUSTICE

"Judges have an important responsibility to inform voters about the workings of the legal system. The rule of law is one of the great assets we have as a nation. People come to this country to do business for various reasons ... our great educational system is one of those. But more than that, they come here because of the rule of law, the system that allows fair and impartial settlement of disputes in court. We cannot afford in this tremendously competitive global environment to let this advantage slip away."

– *The Honorable Tom Phillips, former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, 2013 Kenneth Street Law Symposium*

### ...IMPACT

"When you touch the lives of Austin College students, you touch the lives of everyone they touch. Consider that Mike taught someone like (trustee and 1975 alumnus) Don Gibson, a heart surgeon, and think about the hundreds of lives Don has saved. ... We know Mike Imhoff's fingerprints are all over those individuals."

– *Marjorie Hass in tribute to Mike Imhoff at the May 2013 Board of Trustees dinner*

### ...SERVICE

"You might wonder if one person can make a difference in the world, and I'm here to tell you it can. ... Relationships are the most important thing in life. To be able to walk in someone else's shoes, to see life through their eyes, is one of the most important skills you can have in this interconnected world. ... If you let the call to service inhabit your mind for the rest of your life, it will serve you well."

– *Carolyn Hessler-Radelet, deputy director of the Peace Corps, Class of 2013 Commencement address, May 19, 2013*

### ...ENCOURAGEMENT

"As you begin the second act of your life, don't be distracted by the carnival barkers, selling their wares, promising life, health, and beauty. Don't be discouraged by global warming, or terrorist threats, or economic uncertainty. I encourage you to persevere in your future by making a difference through personal integrity, and community service wherever you live. Those who have gone before us have passed on to us their faith in God, doing justice, and community service. We would not believe if it were not for them, and a future generation will believe because we keep the faith, because we bear witness, because we follow God."

– *Dr. Fred Morgan '67, pastor emeritus, Hope Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, delivering the Class of 2013 Baccalaureate sermon*

### ...HOPE

"Sitting next to you in the same polyester gown, are the movers and shakers of our generation. Under these cardboard hats are the people who are going to make a difference and change our world; they are the people who can inspire you and give you hope for a brighter future."

My hope is that you never forget your strength; you fearlessly pursue your passion; you learn from your failures; you question norms; and you never overlook life's small joys while searching for the big ones. My hope is that you may always remain infected with hope and the knowledge that you are truly incredible and can accomplish anything."

– *Catherine Stodola, Class of 2013 senior speaker, May 19, 2013*

### ...INSPIRATION

"You have to find your own center. It is our unique human trait to aim for ascension ... break through to the other side, if you will."

– *James Surls, discussing his art form and the return of his sculpture "From the Center" to campus*



### ...HUMILITY

"I'm suggesting you can do whatever you want. I'm saying human beings can do anything they want and have confidence in that. Have confidence in what you can do, but when it comes to manipulating other people, that is when I'm appealing to you to be humble."

– *Will Cain, news analyst and Sherman native, 2013 Will Mann Richardson Lecturer*

### ...FAITH

"As a church-related institution, we approach all students with humility, hospitality, and honesty. We don't tell students how God wants them to be. We make room for them to be who they are. We also don't apologize that there is a cross on top of the steeple in the middle of campus."

– *Chaplain John Williams '84, May 2013 Presbyterian Today magazine*

### ...LEADERSHIP

"We now live in a time where a small group like us can touch the whole world ... Completely rethinking education—that could be a very powerful thing. ... Now we have the tools to personalize education. For every Albert Einstein, there are maybe 10 or so others who've squandered their chances. If we can reach, say a beggar in Calcutta, who knows what he or she can become? ... Now we can give orphans in Mongolia the exact same educational experience as Bill Gates' kids."

– *Sal Khan, 2013 Austin College Posey Leadership Award Recipient and founder of Khan Academy, which seeks to provide basic education to everyone around the world*





## My Journey

by Akshara Vivekananthan '13

I used to think going to a large university would be the only way for me to branch out as a person. Surely, I'd be able to partake in all types of endeavors, become more open minded, and develop into the person I wanted to be. I was the gal who thought "big school, big school" constantly. I already had it mapped out in my head. I was wrong. But as they say "everything happens for a reason," and before I knew it, I was coming to Austin College while my friends were going to the big school I thought was meant for me.

Over the course of four years, the big school dream completely vanished from my head. My education at Austin College helped me become the person I am today. I was pushed, provoked, and painted with the colors of a young, budding mind. I was taught to look at things from different perspectives. I was encouraged to dream out loud—and dream big.

Perhaps one of my greatest opportunities through Austin College was the adventure of study abroad. I went, I saw, and I conquered. I was given a taste of the real world and the chance to discover myself in a bustling city culture like no other: London, England. But perhaps the best part was that I was able to have this experience while some of my dearest friends also were experiencing study abroad opportunities around the world. We all were on a quest for something different for ourselves.

One of the most important gifts Austin College gave me is my friends. I met Anjana, Shruti, and Nagasri at the beginning of freshman year. Oddly, I had never had a group of friends that were South Asian and Hindu (like me). I was one of maybe two South Asians in my high school, and my best friends from that period of my life are Filipino, Vietnamese, and Hispanic. So, just imagine my surprise that these Austin College students are more than just best friends to me—we're a sisterhood that has developed ever since we began college.

Deciding to study abroad "together" was one of the best decisions we made because we all came back with new perspectives. Anjana studied in Cairo, Egypt; Shruti in Oxford, England; and Nagasri in Salamanca, Spain. We explored different areas of academic interest, sought independence in different ways, and reveled in the culture of our respective cities. Afterward, we came back together as a safety net—able to apply our experiences and our new-found attitudes as seniors. This article is a small ode to them because they added the spice to my college life that I never expected to find.

In my four years at Austin College, I was able to do everything I had wanted to do at a big school. I met people from all walks of life and learned the ease of striking up a conversation without turning away shyly. I was challenged and grew to consider a larger vision for myself. I learned how to lead as a team player and enjoyed the delight in knowing I had put a smile on someone's face.

I'll be honest with you. I've complained about how small this school is and how there's nothing to do in Sherman. But I was wrong. There was always plenty to do in the form of experience—versus the mindset of going for the materialistic nuances in life. As I embark on "life after college," I am challenged to savor the experiences that come to me and to enjoy the simplicity of what I have now. Surely life after college will be an adventure of different sorts—but I couldn't be prepared better.



Above: Celebrating together.

Lower photo, Akshara, at bottom left, with (clockwise) Shruti Hegde, Nagasri Shankar, and Anjana Raghunath. Photos by Shukan Patel '12.

*Shruti Hegde was a Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Morris Presidential Scholar and the other women were supported by Austin College NOW Scholarships.*





## Fulfilling a Dream

by Nicole Holland '13

I decided when I was very young that I wanted to become a lawyer so I could right some of the wrongs of this world.

I had no idea that my college education would prepare me so well for that goal. My experiences at Austin College opened my eyes to many things and cemented my desire to enter the legal profession.

During my freshman Communication/Inquiry seminar, "The Holocaust in Social and Cultural Context," I began to understand how vital and pervasive the law is in so many aspects of our society. Because of this class, I also fell in love with sociology. I was able to complete majors in both political science and sociology and a minor in history; Austin College has given me a truly liberal arts education.

Austin College equips students, who take advantage of the opportunities here, to understand the world as it is, why it is that way—and to imagine what it could be. My desire to contribute something meaningful to our world only was strengthened at Austin College.

As a freshman, I joined the Pre-Law Society, and I served as co-president as a senior. The group hosts an array of guest speakers, and in 2012-2013, they included a district judge, an in-house counselor, an assistant district attorney, attorneys from major Dallas law firms—and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Supreme Court of Texas. These events were incredibly informative for the entire community but were even more important for students like me who plan to enter the legal profession and understand our state's legal system.

Through networking opportunities connected to these events, I was very fortunate to secure two very different internships. In summer 2011, I interned with Judge **Jim Jordan** '74 in Dallas. I observed criminal, civil, and family court sessions and discussed the legal issues with Judge Jordan, gaining a much greater understanding of procedures, professional etiquette, and our legal system as a whole.

I also spent a year interning at Reba's Ranch House, a local non-profit organization and a project of the Texoma Health Foundation

in Denison, Texas. Reba's Ranch House is a home-away-from-home for out-of-town families with loved ones in area hospitals or rehabilitation centers. Though not connected to the legal profession, this was my most meaningful internship because of the organization's direct, positive impact. I hope to continue working with non-profit organizations throughout my legal career.

Research and writing are major parts of a legal education and career, and I feel well-prepared for those challenges. Most courses at Austin College are reading- and writing-intensive, and students have numerous opportunities to conduct individual research projects. This spring, I completed my senior honors thesis in sociology, "Professors and Personal Time: Professional Autonomy and the Right to Family Leave in Academia." I interviewed tenured and tenure-track faculty at bachelor-degree-granting institutions who had qualified for family leave within the last three years to discover the workplace features that impacted their decisions to take family leave or not, and how those features related to their professional autonomy. I learned much about the academic work environment, as well as the challenges and rewards of research itself. Upon completion, I had the opportunity to present my research results at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Through this research, I became very interested in labor issues.

This fall, I begin law school at Texas Tech University and plan to concentrate in mediation and labor law. As an attorney, I hope I can help people and, as I dreamed as a young girl, right some wrongs in this world. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I had at Austin College that made that possible.

*Nicole Holland received an Edwin and Louise Jordan Scholarship at Austin College.*



# LOOKING BACK &



*Dr. Michael Imhoff joined the Austin College community in 1970 as a member of the chemistry faculty. In 1995, he was named the Rupert B. Lowe Chair in Chemistry, and in 2000, he was named vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty. He retired this spring after 43 years of service.*

**You have said you came to Austin College planning to stay a few years. What kept you here?**

I was born and raised in southern California, including my high school and college experience. This shaped my expectations of life after school, both culturally and geographically. In fact, it wasn't until I went to graduate school in Colorado at age 22 that I met people who had not grown up in a metropolitan suburb or lived more than an hour from the ocean.

My on-campus job interview at Austin College was my first time to visit Texas. It was early April, and the pastel greens of north Texas were welcoming, and I was quite impressed by the caliber of faculty and students I met at Austin College. Janet and I accepted the job offer to move to Sherman. The faculty community was very welcoming, and the educational philosophy of the College made this an exciting place to teach. Although we missed our families in California, we learned to appreciate the special qualities of Texas. The next thing we knew, 43 years had passed, and we are here to stay.

**What did you enjoy about teaching?**

Teaching was very exciting for me. Through my last year of teaching, I still experienced the nervousness of the first day of class in general chemistry. I loved the engagement that takes place in the classroom and the experience of sharing the "aha" moment with students. Also, the classroom was a pretty heady place to stroke my ego. After all, there are few professions that offer one the opportunity to gather 20 or more students to hear what one has to say about a subject dear to the heart. As a chemist, my challenge was to de-mystify chemistry for the student and present it as a few logical principles that can be applied to explain most chemical behavior. I enjoyed re-working my classes each year, which improved my presentation and helped me appreciate the perspective of students new to organic chemistry.

**Was the step into administration what you thought it would be? Has the role been enjoyable?**

Initially, from my vantage point, being an administrator looked like lots of work and not much fun. When **President Oscar Page** asked me to serve as acting VPAA, it was a commitment of only six months to a year. At that point, I did not give much thought to the long-term consequences of moving into administration. As it turns out, I have enjoyed administration quite a bit. I was blessed with the good fortune of serving a patient and supportive faculty, and receiving mentoring from Oscar Page, a very successful president. Oscar and I worked together for 10 years. Most days, we talked informally over coffee and developed an intuitive understanding of each other that made my job much less complicated. I was also very fortunate that Oscar's successor, **President Marjorie Hass**, embraces many of the same fundamental educational values. Her enthusiasm is infectious and she has the capacity to energize those around her to take on new challenges. Institutionally and administratively, the future should be very exciting.

**What has been the toughest part of your job?**

As a professor one of the toughest parts of my job was the awarding of course grades. Like most Austin College faculty, I spent a great deal of time working with students outside of class. Some students in my classes worked incredibly hard, but chemistry never clicked for them, and they ended up with some sad grades. Ironically, I admired many of these students for their great tenacity and discipline and volunteered to write them strong letters of recommendation. Not surprisingly, very few of them took me up on the offer. It is too bad, but many students believe that a faculty member's respect is tied entirely to their academic performance.

**What are the stand-out moments in your Austin College career?**

Over a 43-year career there are many more stand-out moments than I have room to report. The three presidential transitions at the



# P L A N N I N G A H E A D



College brought excitement and anticipation to the faculty. Each former president had served for many years and had imprinted the College with his personal style of leadership. However, all were student- and faculty-focused, and the changes that came with new leadership were within the framework that we all endorsed.

Other stand-out moments include improvements to the campus, such as Wright Campus Center and the IDEA Center. Also, major foundation gifts from the Priddy, Lilly, Mellon, and Keck foundations have given boosts to the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs programs and initiatives such as the Center for Global Learning and Thinking Green have been important additions. Finally, a personal highpoint was playing on the faculty intramural basketball team that took the intramural championship in 1972. We were tough and the Phi Sigs, Betas, and Chi Deltas could not understand how a group of “old men” could beat them. So sweet!!!

**If you could go back and choose another career, what would it be?**

Over my career I have interviewed many pre-med and pre-law students. When you ask them why they want to be a doctor or lawyer, they usually say, “to help people.” I respond, “Well, if you really want to help people, why don’t you become a teacher?”

I cannot think of a job potentially more meaningful and gratifying than teaching. You do get to help people. But unlike a physician or attorney, teachers do not have to work with students under conditions of high stress, and therefore, teaching can be much more fun.

At a conference I heard Maya Angelou talk to teachers about their “web of influence.” As I become more senior, I appreciate more this extraordinary role we play at Austin College. We are in constant dialogue with students and occasionally we say something that is very meaningful to a student who then takes those words or actions and passes them onto others ... sometimes years later. What is so humbling is that these words may have been incidental and long forgotten by the teacher. But, to that student, those words are as clear as if we said them today.

**What does retirement look like for you? How do you expect to spend your time?**

Retirement is going to be interesting. Janet and I plan to do a lot of traveling, but beyond that I have no solid plans. Since starting kindergarten at McKinley School, my life has been dictated by the academic calendar. I wonder if my biological rhythm is now driven by the tempo of five-day school weeks, followed by Sunday afternoon blues, preparing for Monday morning classes. Superimposed is the yearly calendar of work in the fall and work in the spring. Summer is for vacation, not fall or spring. Without interruption, that has been my calendar since I was 5 years old. I am looking forward to a more spontaneous lifestyle where we can do interesting things regardless of the time of year.

**Austin College has been a family affair—your wife and your son are graduates. If it’s a “fit” would you like to see your grandchildren attend Austin College?**

Absolutely. Austin College offers the best overall education in the state and students here have greater opportunities to learn and to grow. (Mike and Janet ’86 (MAT ’88) have two adult children, Josh ’93 and Elizabeth, six grandsons, and one granddaughter.)

## IN TRIBUTE

*Last fall, President Hass announced The Michael Imhoff Challenge, offering a 1:1 match for all gifts up to a total of \$250,000 to provide laboratory equipment for the IDEA Center. To support this challenge that honors Dr. Imhoff’s impressive career and his instrumental role in the planning and design of the new science facility, make a gift online at [www.austincollege.edu/giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/giving), or contact **Brooks Hull**, vice president for Institutional Advancement, at 903.813.2419.*

# FACULTY RETIREES REFLECT ON NEARLY 150 YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Four members of the teaching faculty retired in May, with 146 years of teaching experience between them. Divided by four, those 146 years would be impressive. But Kathleen Campbell, with her 19 years at the College, is a virtual newcomer compared to her retiring colleagues. Jim Johnson, professor of classics, has been on the faculty for 36 years; E. Don Williams has logged 43 years—and he's not really leaving. And, finally, Howard Starr, professor of psychology, has been a member of the College's faculty for 48 years—the longest regular member of the faculty in many years, and possibly in Austin College history. (Some faculty members with emeritus status have surpassed that number with the community, of course, but Howard's active teaching tenure likely holds the record.) To identify particular career highlights within such long careers was more than the retirees felt they could undertake. Their careers are full of moments to remember, particular courses and projects enjoyed, students they recall, colleagues who are long-time friends. Future plans are more easily related. A few still have a bit of part-time teaching in the works; others look forward to volunteer opportunities, time with families, travel, reading, tending flowers. Some have household moves ahead of them, opportunities for writing they have postponed, perhaps some research. Comments on careers and future plans from each of the retirees are provided on the following pages.*



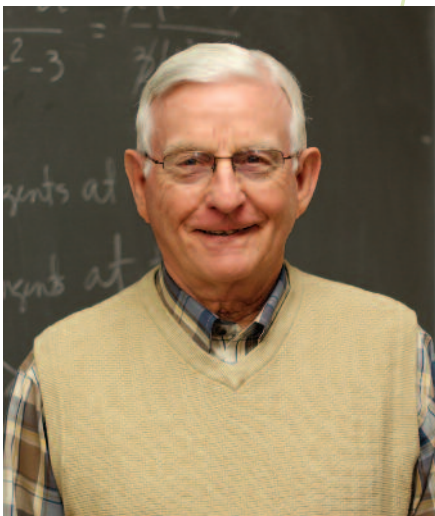


The careers of these four faculty members are not marked simply by years but by many successes. They have earned awards at Austin College and beyond for their professional work, won the admiration of their students, and gained the respect of their colleagues. The Student Affairs Division awards the E. Don Williams Outstanding Greek Sponsor Award each spring to commemorate his many years of support of students in the Greek system. This spring, the division's annual award for faculty/staff support of the division was named the Howard A. Starr Faculty/Staff Co-Curricular Support Award to recognize Howard's contributions to student life. These are just a few of the accolades that mark the careers of this spring's retirees.

Whatever their futures may hold, the Austin College community sends these beloved professors forth with the highest respect and the brightest good wishes—and the hopes that however far abroad upcoming travels may take them, their paths will lead home to Austin College long into the future.

#### **E. Don Williams**

Professor of Mathematics  
Chadwick Chair in Mathematics  
Austin College Teaching Career 1970 - 2013



Austin College is a wonderful place and I will always be thankful for the opportunity to teach and work here. I first taught summer school here in 1965 and liked what I saw and experienced. I am glad I had the opportunity to return full time. While the campus and curriculum have changed over time, Austin College is still a place that cares for students and for everyone who works here.

Currently, I plan to teach one Austin College course each fall and spring and that will keep me involved with students and faculty and events on campus. I am particularly happy to have the opportunity to teach in the new IDEA Center.

Visiting new places with my wife, Ann, and work in the yard growing flowers also will occupy my time. Leisuredly traveling the border of Texas is still a priority. Other than that, I will heed advice I was given about taking on too many commitments, and on some days, I may not wear a watch.

The College has been good to me and my family in other ways. Ann earned an endorsement to teach mathematics in the public schools; our children, **Susan** '89 and **Kenneth** '93, graduated from the College, as did Kenneth's wife, **Jasmine Soday** '95, and Susan and her husband, Sean Auerbach, were married in Wynne Chapel. We have many lasting friendships with current and former students, faculty, and staff.

Early in my career I was told employees were required to contribute to a retirement fund. My parents saved, so that was something I expected to do. While it was easy to 'need' the money for other purposes when our family was young, we now reap the benefits of having planned and saved for the future. Austin College contributed to that fund, and I am very grateful for that.

### Kathleen Campbell

Professor of Theatre

Austin College Teaching Career: 1994 – 2013

I came to Austin College in fall 1994 and immediately found it to be a warm, friendly environment for my work. I found two great academic and artistic collaborators here—**Dub Narramore** and **Andy Williams**—and we did a lot of wonderful projects together. While I have missed them (since Dub's retirement and Andy's death), I've also had the opportunity to see the program change and grow with new faculty, **Kirk Everist** and **Liz Banks**, both of whom brought new and exciting skills to the College. And I am always amazed by the ability of our students to step up and collaborate on an almost-professional level with theatre faculty and guest artists.

I've directed and designed a lot of productions since 1994, and it's hard to single out favorites. I loved the costumes that I designed for Dub's production of *Macbeth* and remember that as an especially wonderful collaboration. I remember well *The Rover*, my first production here, and the support I got from students who didn't know me yet, and our production of Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*. And during the last few years, I've been able to direct several plays that were especially important to me: *Three Sisters*, *Hamlet*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

I'm also proud of bringing *The Vagina Monologues* to campus. We produced it seven times, each time raising significant funds for the local Crisis Center. It takes a lot of courage for the cast members to present this work, and it has been exciting to see these young women find their voices and speak out on the important issue of ending violence against women. Watching the growth of the participants is perhaps the most exciting part of doing these productions to me.

I cherish the freedom I have had at Austin College to develop new courses and explore new areas of interest. The quality of our students has challenged me to continually rethink what and how I teach. I have benefitted from the opportunity to work with faculty members from a broad range of disciplines. Teaching in the Heritage program and working on curriculum changes in particular allowed me to get to know and appreciate the approaches and concerns of faculty across campus.

I will move to Dallas this fall, where I hope to be involved in some theatre work, especially as a private voice and text coach. I am part of an intentional community that is building townhouses not far from White Rock Lake, and will spend part of my time working on the landscaping and tending flower beds on the new property. I hope to do more traveling. I'll start by walking the West Highland Way (95 miles from Glasgow to Fort William) in Scotland with a Sierra Club group in September.

### James F. Johnson

Professor of Classics

Austin College Teaching Career: 1977 – 2013

I have retired from Austin College after 36 years of teaching. I do it with mixed feelings since I enjoy teaching and working with students and colleagues, but, on the other hand, it will be good to have a schedule that I can set to do the things I want to do.

My wife, Scottie, finished her seminary studies at the same time. Our plan is to eventually move to San Marcos where our son, Joel, his wife Laura, and our only grandbaby, Alice Rosalie Johnson, reside. We especially want to be close to Alice so we can be around her as she grows and develops.

Scottie will be looking for preaching opportunities in the area, whereas I will focus first of all, on doing more reading and possibly, some writing in my fields of interest. I've collected quite a few books, but haven't had the time to read them all. Now I'll have time to do more of that—the scholarship/learning part of education. Also, I will continue my hobbies of playing bridge and playing some guitar now and then.

Regarding my career here at Austin College, I would say that I've been very fortunate to work in an institution that values education and to have many good





students over the years who have been interested in learning what I have to teach. My early career at Austin College had quite a few challenges, since I was asked to teach Heritage of Western Culture (HWC) as well as Communication/Inquiry (C/I). The HWC course required me to step out of my field (classics) at times but it was an enjoyable challenge, and I felt that the sequence provided the students with a good foundation for later learning. In the last few years, my focus has been on teaching “Classical Mythology,” a popular Humanities Division elective, as well as courses in ancient Greek and Latin. The Greek and Latin were subjects that I was trained to teach, and I have always enjoyed teaching them. Mythology was a challenge for me in the beginning, but over the years, it has become one of my favorite courses and one that students seem to enjoy quite a bit. Also, since 2008, I have led students on three January Term courses with travel to Greece (2008, 2010, and 2013) that were very rich, life-changing experiences for the students and for me as well.

In the future, I don’t know what more teaching I may do—it will depend on what opportunities become available; I might enjoy teaching one course per year or per semester. In the near future, our efforts will be spent largely in getting ready to move, selling our duplex, and finding a place to live in San Marcos. First, this summer included other projects, such as grading Advanced Placement Latin Tests in Salt Lake City in June and coordinating the Richardson Summer Language Institute at Austin College in July. It’s an exciting time. Never a dull moment.

#### **Howard A. Starr**

Professor of Psychology and Education  
Austin College Teaching Career: 1964 – 2013

Can it really be that I’ve ended my career with Austin College after 48 years—plus having been with Richardson High School’s biology and counseling departments for five years? Get serious! 53 years!!

When I look back and ask “why education?” as a career, I immediately think of my first college psychology class under Sister Francis Marie of the Sisters of St. Mary of Numar at the University of Dallas. She modeled the empathy and dedication I’ve tried to imitate, not only in my classroom but also in the thousands of hours I’ve spent as a psychotherapist. To me, teaching is both an art and a science. I know of no other position where the slate is clean each September. Yet the challenges to harness the most from each of the new and returning students remain utmost. With a variety of other positions I’ve held here at the College—such as department chair, dean of Social Sciences, and vice president of the now-reconfigured College Relations Division—teaching has always been my passion. There’s nothing like being in the classroom.

I’ve taught “Death and Dying” every semester for more than 25 years; that’s been my favorite class. That came from my interest in the psychology of hospice. It was a new arena of study when I took it up, and I spent a sabbatical studying hospice treatment and the psychology of bereavement. That class and others I have been able to develop have kept me getting out of bed every morning and coming to work. But, it’s like a moment in time, not 48 years. I really did get to go every day to a place for which I have a great passion.

What’s next? At 75 years of age that is a very good question. Number one on my agenda is a trip to Spain and a 16-day transatlantic cruise back to New Orleans. Then I will volunteer at Home Hospice of Grayson County; I was one of its founders 25 years ago. I also will volunteer at Texoma Medical Center. Another area of interest I’ve developed has to do with understanding the high level of frustration I see in large numbers of new faculty today compared to earlier in my career. Over the last year, I have been researching how frustration relates to thwarted power needs.

A word about students: they are always unique, challenging, bewildering, and, yes, frustrating. Yet beyond those descriptive terms, I will remember their needs to be understood, to have a role model for catharsis and empathy, and to have a person who would take time not just to hear them but to listen and mentor.

Will I forget these years? Never.





COURTESY PHOTO

# THE BUSINESS


by Gary Carter

*Two sisters traded their pens for new apron strings and found success in the food business. An alumnus transformed a run-down diner in San Antonio into a culinary hot spot. Two graduates brought the century-old heritage of Central Texas barbecue to Big D.*

*This is a story of Austin College alumni who are living life by the drop ... and the bite.*







**Jeff Bergus** '88 met **Jill Grobowsky** '95 at an Austin College Homecoming; sparks flew and the two were married. Jeff already was a jet-setting executive in the design world, representing brands such as Geoffrey Beene and Izod. His fashion sense and the business lessons learned at Austin College were put to the test as he plied his trade in Europe, New York City, and Hong Kong.

Jill, who completed a degree in communications, embarked on a career that encompassed corporate public relations as well as journalism at esteemed news network CNN.

Yet, as their family grew with the arrival of children, Jeff and Jill wanted to settle down close to their Texas home. Drawing inspiration from Jill's family roots in barbecue, an idea was hatched. She is closely related to the original Schmidt of Smitty's and Kreuz fame, two legendary meat markets in the Texas Hill Country and among the elite of barbecue in America.

Jill's grandmother, a matron of legendary Texas barbecue, is more than 100 years old, an accomplishment that Jill says the family credits entirely to barbecue. An hour-long dinner at any of the family's dining institutions will leave a lingering, intoxicating smell of barbecue with diners. "And even when I go to the bank," Jill says, "they always tell me my money smells like barbecue."

For these alumni, that's the smell of success.

With Jill's extensive marketing experience, Jeff's success in the business of fashion and design, and the family's pedigree in barbecue, a logical step for the couple was into the culinary world. Once word spread in Dallas that the granddaughter of the man who owned the legendary Kreuz Market was working on a barbecue joint in the Metroplex, the buzz reached a fever pitch.

Jeff spent months obsessing over the finer details of making their restaurant, Lockhart Smokehouse, something one would find in the middle of the Taylor-Elgin-Lockhart triangle in central Texas known as the Barbecue Trail. Completed in February 2011, the new restaurant in Dallas' Bishop Arts District certainly looks the part. Patrons cue up in a long hallway full of eclectic knick-knacks, leading to the intoxicating aroma of the wood smoke and tender brisket coming from the fire pit.

At the counter, a customer can see the giant butcher block full of smoked meat of all kinds just pulled from the hot coals. An order comes in, a hunk of meat is cut away and served with beans, pickles, onions, or whatever tickles the customer's fancy.

And, proudly displayed in the dining room is the original Kreuz Market sign that hung in the Lockhart, Texas, location for so many years. In homage to the Central Texas original, Lockhart Smokehouse is the exclusive Dallas purveyor of Kreuz Market sausages, named among the best sausage in America in a number of esteemed culinary lists.

This nod to heritage shows the respect the Bergus couple has for where barbecue has come and the business savvy that will carry their craft into the future.



"Austin College gave me the confidence to be singular, to do things in life with a point of view," said **Chad Carey** '99, as he prepared lunch at his highly-praised restaurant in San Antonio, The Monterey.

In the third year of operation of one of a handful of Central Texas hot spots that garner national attention, Chad reflects on his path from his hometown of Bowie, Texas, to the halls of Austin College, and on to success in the culinary industry.

In middle school and high school, Chad had been exposed to Austin College through summer camps on campus. Once he had the chance to enroll, he dove into his education, completing a major in communication arts and playing football for the Kangaroos. Working at the Sherman pub Cellarman's, Chad found an interest in "the food, wine, and beer culture."

After graduating, Chad found his way into real estate development. He married his college sweetheart **Kate Currie** '00, and the two put down roots in San Antonio.

Driving through San Antonio's vibrant King William neighborhood, Chad spotted a run-down diner, a gas station in its former life. Drawing on his "foodie" inspirations, Carey said he knew then the kind of restaurant he wanted to open. After a year of design and extensive rehabilitation, The Monterey was born.

The menu, Carey said, is “bereft of a defined standard.” It could be called fine dining. Then, one also could order a cold can of Pearl beer with beef bathed in bone marrow butter. They cook with all the parts, from nose to tail, the root, and the greens. Most everything served in Carey’s restaurant comes from local farmers and purveyors. But one thing is certain, Carey said; they are not pretentious. “We don’t take food too seriously,” he added.

The culinary scene has taken notice. *Top Chef* chief Tom Colicchio popped in for an evening dinner and lit up Twitter with his compliments to The Monterey. *Texas Monthly* called his restaurant “the best patio in town” and “the place to be.”

Numerous national awards bring a humble brag here and there from Chad. But it’s pure happiness he exudes telling the story of being at the airport when a fan noticed his Monterey T-shirt and identified it as his favorite place in San Antonio. “Because happiness breeds our hospitality, it really feels good,” Chad said.



*Austin College gave me the confidence to be singular, to do things in life with a point of view.*

Two sisters have put their mark on the culinary world, quite literally, with cookbooks, blogs, and writings of all nature.

**Rebecca Withers Chastenet** ’88 and **Katherine Withers Cobbs** ’91—daughters of **John Ed** and **Jean Eberts Withers**, both ’61—say Austin College is where they honed their writing skills and developed the critical thinking skills that led to their lives in publishing and the culinary arts.

Rebecca traded her pen for apron strings with the opening of Slurp, her successful Airstream Eatery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that won accolades from local critics and appeared in *Airstream Life* and *Sunset* magazines. A restaurant critic and food writer for more than 15 years, Rebecca wrote regular food features for regional and international publications, and co-authored four cookbooks, collaborating with chefs and caterers who preferred cooking to writing. She was published widely under the name Rebecca Chastenet de Gery.

On the streets of downtown Santa Fe, the smell of home cooking beckons one toward the aroma coming from an unusual source. Just west of the New Mexico Capitol, in a refurbished 1967 Airstream trailer that she calls a symbol of culinary freedom and soup sovereignty, Rebecca operates one of the city’s first-ever food trucks, which she and her partners lovingly call Slurp.

The dedicated work of operating a food truck starts at the crack of dawn, as focaccia bread starts baking at 5:30, and soup preparation begins around 7:30. On any given day, more than 12 gallons of soup are prepared, and there’s always a vegetarian offering. At least 15 different soups a week make the final cut for the menu.

The masses get word of Slurp’s daily offerings via social media. Rebecca’s soul-satisfying work is matched only by the appetite-satisfying bowls of joy she serves.

**Update:** Slurp has transitioned into a new writing and business adventure for Rebecca at [www.urbanpopups.com](http://www.urbanpopups.com). The international blogging and social media effort chronicles the fast-growing pop culture movement. She has other projects

in the works—and continues her “greatest job” of raising her three children—two high-school-aged daughters and a 9-year-old son—at home with her husband in Santa Fe.

Rebecca’s sister Katherine graduated from Austin College in 1991, moved to Washington, D.C., and worked as an event planner at the Smithsonian Institution. She later moved to France for six months to work the grape harvest in the Bordeaux region and learn local culture. Returning stateside, she took a job at *National Geographic* magazine. After several years in the publishing industry, Katherine left D.C. to work for a small publisher of photojournalism books in Sausalito, California. That blossomed into a job as an editor for the Williams-Sonoma brand.







# C O M M E N C E





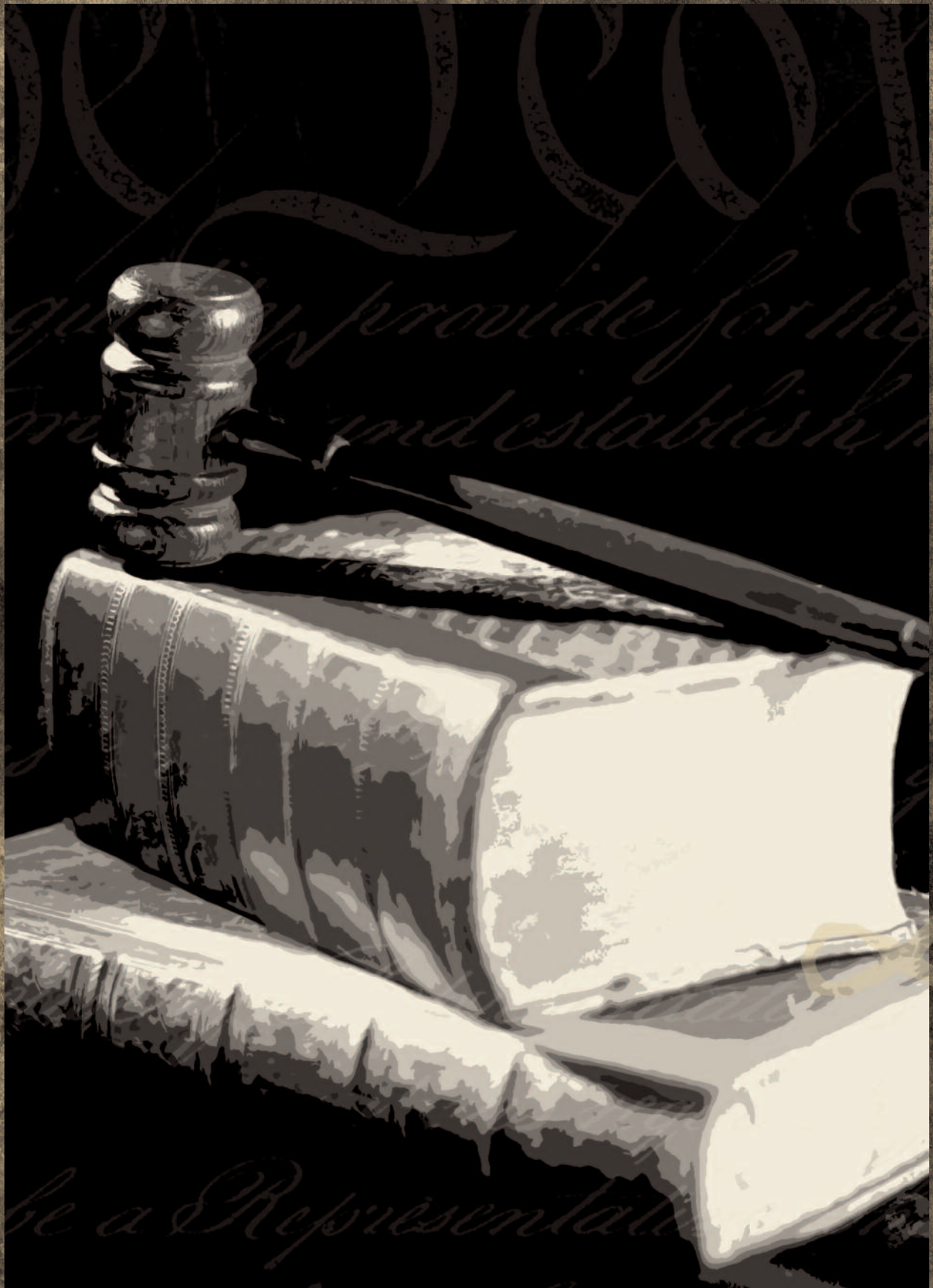
# M E N T 2 O 1 3



1. Senior speaker Catherine Stodola '13; 2. President Marjorie Hass; Commencement speaker Carolyn Hessler-Radelet, deputy director of the Peace Corps; and Helen Lowman '88, regional director for the Peace Corps Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia region, who introduced the speaker; 3. Baccalaureate speaker and honorary degree recipient Fred Morgan '67; 4. Chelsea Wylie, Aly Zachary, Sarah Younkman, and Joe Yoneda; 5. Senior Committee Co-Chairs Kelly McDaniel and Lauren Hill; 6. Dallas oilman Jerome Fullinwider, who received an honorary doctorate; 7. Emma Tren, Gabby Walker, Nadia Tawfiq, and Cierra Wieghat; 8. Posey Leadership Institute scholars with President Hass and the Commencement speaker.

Multiple images courtesy of Flash Photography.







THOUGH PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER DANIEL BAKER FOUNDED AUSTIN COLLEGE WITH THE AIM OF PRODUCING MINISTERS, THE COLLEGE'S 16 CHARTER TRUSTEES INCLUDED ONLY TWO MINISTERS. WHY? PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS WERE SCARCE IN TEXAS. LAWYERS MADE UP MUCH OF THE COLLEGE'S EARLY BOARDS.

BY 1854, MORE THAN A THIRD OF THE COLLEGE'S TRUSTEES WERE LAWYERS—AND HAD INCLUDED TWO OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS—AND THE BOARD DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE "THE PROPRIETY OF ERECTING A LAW DEPARTMENT," ACCORDING TO ROBERT LANDOLT'S AUSTIN COLLEGE HISTORY, *SEARCH FOR THE SUMMIT*. THE DEPARTMENT OPENED IN 1855.

IN 1856, FOUR MEN GRADUATED WITH THE BACHELOR OF LAW DEGREE, THE FIRST LAW DEGREES EARNED IN TEXAS. THE DEPARTMENT WAS SHORT-LIVED DUE TO DEATHS OF SEVERAL TRUSTEES AND A LACK OF FINANCES. PREPARATORY INSTRUCTION FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION WAS PHASED INTO THE REGULAR CURRICULUM. MORE THAN 25 PERCENT OF ALL THE GRADUATES OF THE FIRST FIVE DECADES OF AUSTIN COLLEGE ENTERED THE LAW PROFESSION—AND ONE-THIRD OF ALL GRADUATES UP TO 1900 PRACTICED LAW.

TODAY, SOME 16 DECADES AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT, UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION IS ALIVE AND WELL AT THE COLLEGE. FOR MANY YEARS, STUDENTS IN THE PRE-LAW SOCIETY HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ISSUES CONCERNING THEIR FUTURES IN LAW. **ROD GILBERT '60** RECALLS A SIMILAR GROUP, THE PRE-LAW FORUM, JUST GETTING STARTED IN 1960, WITH THE HELP OF FACULTY SPONSORS **CLYDE HALL '46**, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS WHO WAS ACTIVE ON THE FACULTY FROM 1950 THROUGH 1988, AND **ELMER FLACCUS**, FORMER PROFESSOR OF HISTORY. STUDENTS TODAY HAVE THE BENEFIT OF GUIDANCE FROM **FRANK ROHMER**, PRE-LAW ADVISOR AND JOHN D. MOSELEY CHAIR IN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY, AS WELL AS THE LEADERSHIP OF ALUMNI IN THE LAW PROFESSION, WHO FORMED THE ALUMNI "L" (LAW) ASSOCIATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

SOME MIGHT SAY THAT THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR OFFERED MORE LEGAL PREPARATION THAN EVER SINCE THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS AND THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS—THE STATE'S HIGHEST COURTS FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW—HEARD ORAL ARGUMENTS ON CAMPUS AND SPENT TIME INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS. THE COURTS VISITED CAMPUS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SESSIONS OF THE COLLEGE'S KENNETH W. STREET LAW SYMPOSIUM, ONE IN NOVEMBER AND ONE IN FEBRUARY. THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS FIRST HEARD ORAL ARGUMENTS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE IN 2007 AND HAS HELD OTHER TRAVELING COURT SESSIONS, OFTEN ON LAW SCHOOL CAMPUSES.

"HAVING THE STATE'S HIGHEST COURTS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE PROVIDED HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS," SAID ROHMER, ALSO RECOGNIZING THE "INSIDER" ASSISTANCE OF **BUCK FILES '60**, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS, AND **OSLER MCCARTHY '63**, STAFF ATTORNEY FOR THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS, IN ARRANGEMENTS. "BY HEARING ORAL ARGUMENTS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE, THE COURTS ACTED NOT ONLY AS THE HIGHEST JUDICIAL BODIES IN TEXAS BUT ALSO AS JUDICIAL EDUCATORS, PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE IN THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC," ROHMER SAID. "THE EVENTS PROVIDED STUDENTS CLEAR EXAMPLES OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION AS A VOCATION WITH ITS HIGHEST CALLING TO THE LAWYER-STATESMAN IDEAL."

THE KENNETH W. STREET LAW SYMPOSIUM ALSO BRINGS MANY ALUMNI AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS TO CAMPUS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION IN AREAS OF LAW AND ETHICS. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATIONS BY THE JUSTICES OF THESE TEXAS COURTS, LAW PROFESSIONALS OFFER A NUMBER OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

MORE THAN 1 MILLION LAWYERS ARE WORKING IN THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE 2012 DATA FROM THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. SEVERAL HUNDRED OF THOSE ARE AUSTIN COLLEGE GRADUATES—FOUND IN ALL MANNER OF OFFICES AND FIRMS AROUND THE COUNTRY. ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES WE SHARE A FEW STORIES OF AUSTIN COLLEGE ALUMNI IN THE PROFESSION.

**Pam Harnest Pierson** is a frequent contributor to National Public Radio and a regular commentator in national publications, such as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. She has testified before the United States Congress and written five books.

Her everyday mission, however, is preparing young men and woman for work in the world of law, specializing in areas of criminal law and procedure and white collar crime. As Bainbridge Mims Professor of Law at University of Alabama School of Law, Pam does that well. She has received the University of Alabama School of Law Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award as well as the school's annual award for scholarship, and has received the Student Bar Association's Outstanding Faculty Member Award six times.

The foundation for that impressive career began at Austin College. "I was privileged to attend Austin College, and am grateful every day for my experience there," Pam said. "I received an excellent education, of course. I learned a lot about political science and philosophy and all kinds of stuff. But I learned more. I learned how to learn, how fun it is to be curious, how to ask questions, think, and then ask more questions. I learned that being a good teacher means getting to know students as people, and caring about them. I learned these lessons from my Austin College professors because of the kind of people they were. I am a teacher now, and I love every day of teaching. I would not be where I am or do what I do without my Austin College professors and all they taught me."

Upon graduation from law school, Pam served as law clerk to the Honorable Theodore McMillian of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. From 1980 through May 1987, she was an assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Pam lives in Tuscaloosa with her husband, Larry, and has two children, Julie and Ben.



**PAMELA HARNEST BUCY PIERSON '75**  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
BAINBRIDGE MIMS PROFESSOR OF LAW  
AT UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

**ALFONSO CHARLES '82**

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL  
124TH DISTRICT COURT OF TEXAS



**Alfonso Charles** became judge of the 124th District Court of Texas in 2009 and was re-elected to the position in 2010. He delivered the keynote address, "Jurist's Perspective on Ethical Obligations Among Criminal Law Practitioners in the 21st Century," at Austin College for the November 2012 law symposium when the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals visited campus.

"We have to remember daily that we are dealing with people's lives," Alfonso told the lawyers, judges, and students who filled the room. "We are dealing with someone's liberty. These days, you hear too many stories where this goes wrong," referencing cases of prisoners exonerated by DNA evidence.

"Once you take that oath, take it seriously," the judge urged. "Administer justice fairly and ethically."

Alfonso began his career in the El Paso district attorney's office. He spent 11 years in the Gregg County district attorney's office and then was elected judge of the Gregg County Court. He is a member of the Texas Center for the Judiciary Board of Directors and past president of the Texas Association of County Court at Law Judges Association. He also is a member of the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense, and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial Education Committee.

Away from court, he is a member of the Longview Rotary Club and a board member and past president of Hearts Way Hospice. He and his wife, Melissa, have a daughter, Kaitlyn, 18, and a son, Preston, 10.

*Austin College continues to change my life because it ignites*



**CRAIG FLORENCE '84**

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL  
PARTNER, GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL



**Craig Florence**, a partner at Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP, in Dallas, Texas, is a trial lawyer with expertise in commercial, health care, and intellectual property litigation, handling cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States.

The Austin College education that laid the foundation for Craig's success is important to him. "It's commonplace to speak in terms of 'colleges that change lives,' but that's exactly what Austin College did for me," he said. "It was everything I needed at a time when I needed it the most. I was blessed to attend Austin College, and I'm blessed to continue that relationship almost 30 years later."

Community-minded, Craig has served on the boards of Preservation Dallas and Carter BloodCare, which he served as chairman. He is an honorary board member of the Briana Haley Foundation, a graduate of the Dallas Regional Chamber's Leadership Dallas, and a former member of Dallas Citizens Council. He also previously co-chaired the Jingle Bell Run and the Dallas Loft Tour. Craig recently served on the Executive Committee of the Austin College Alumni Board and is a member of the President's Visiting Council of the College.

Craig and his wife, Kristi, have two children, Erin, 18, and Caroline, 15.

After practicing trial and appellate law for 20 years in San Antonio, Texas, an appointment to the bench seemed a natural progression for **Rebecca Simmons**. She was appointed district judge of the Texas 408th District Court of Bexar County, and in 2005, was selected to serve on the Fourth Court of Appeals. Also that year, she was specially commissioned as a Supreme Court Justice to sit on a case before the Texas Supreme Court.

Earlier this year, her career took on another dimension as she joined Kinetic Concepts, Inc., as associate general counsel.

Rebecca said her time at Austin College opened her eyes to a world of knowledge and allowed her to develop the skills to succeed as a lawyer and a judge. She fondly remembers her Constitutional Law class with Dr. Ken Street at Austin College. "I learned legal analysis in that class that I used through law school and my practice," she said. "Austin College taught me not only to think but how to clearly and accurately express those thoughts. The ability to write clearly, to communicate ideas, is critical to a legal practice, and I have relied on the analytical and writing skills that I gained at Austin College throughout my career."

Not all of Rebecca's education at Austin College came in the classroom; she learned more lessons on the stage. "At Austin College, anyone could try out for the plays and, despite the fact I was not a drama major and never took a drama course, I performed in several productions, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Stella," she said. "I paid attention to the movement of the actors and their voice inflections, all of which were designed to keep the audience interested. Preparing a case for a jury is not too different from preparing a production for the stage except that your audience is 12 people and a judge."

Rebecca is married to Dr. **Richard Clemons '76**, and they have three children, Rachael, Sarah, and Patrick.



**REBECCA SIMMONS '78**

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL,  
KINETIC CONCEPTS, INC.

*d an intellectual curiosity that compels me to keep learning.*

- Rebecca Simmons



**JAMES W. WALKER '83**  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW  
FOUNDING PARTNER, WALKER SEWELL



A founding partner of Walker Sewell, LLP, in Dallas, Texas, **James Walker** represents Fortune 500 companies, insurance carriers, energy and utility companies, municipalities, and individuals throughout Texas and across the United States in complex commercial and insurance disputes.

Jim is active in his community, serving his second term as a member of the Coppell Economic Development Committee and president of the Coppell Economic Development Foundation. In recent years, he served as president of the Coppell ISD Education Foundation and was a member of the 2009 City of Coppell Bond Advisory Committee. For more than two decades, Jim served in a variety of capacities on the Board of Directors and Advisory Board of the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science. He has served as a faculty member for formal seminars sponsored by the University of Texas Law School, the University of Houston Law School, and the State Bar of Texas.

Immediate past president of the Austin College Alumni "L" (Law) Association, Jim regularly comes to campus to offer guidance to students in the College's Pre-Law Society.

He and his wife, **Cherie (Spears) '84**, have two daughters, Mary Beth and Margaret.

As an assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, **Shannon Bears Cozzoni** handles predominately Indian Country crimes. She previously was an assistant district attorney and first assistant attorney general of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

That's not the career plan she initially envisioned, thinking she would make her career in corporate law. "I believe my liberal arts education allowed me to explore new directions and played a part in my career path," she said.

That wasn't the only role for Austin College in her journey. "In law school, many of the students from large universities struggled with having to write essay answers for the first time," Shannon said. "I had the background to write and analyze and could focus on learning the material. Life isn't answered with 'True' or 'False' and multiple choice. My professors at Austin College showed me that."

Shannon, a Native American, studied Indian law as she worked toward her law degree because, she said, practicing law in Oklahoma means that at some point in your career, you will need to know some aspect of Indian law, whether criminal jurisdiction, land rights, or contracting with a sovereign nation. She also has had experience in another aspect of Indian law—gaming, which was "booming" during her practice. "I work with tribal, state, and federal agencies on various projects. Indian law is complex, but it's never boring!"

Away from the office, Shannon is a Girl Scout troop leader, a Boy Scout committee member, and active in her Presbyterian congregation. She met her husband, Phillip, also an attorney, at law school. The couple has two children, Clarissa, 12, and Joshua, 11.



**SHANNON BEARS COZZONI '93**  
UNIVERSITY OF TULSA COLLEGE OF LAW  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA



"Austin College prepared me for law school and for my professional life in more ways than I can enumerate," said **Catherine Moran**, corporate counsel for Harrington, Moran, Barksdale, Inc., in Arlington, Texas.

As a member of Austin College's Posey Leadership Institute, Catherine was a founder of the Rangel Leadership Program in Dallas, Texas. In her second year of law school, she used this experience to create the Ashaki Young Women's Program in Austin, Texas, at the Alternative Learning Center. "I worked with members of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society and the Black Grad Student Association to create weekly, hour-long leadership and empowerment programs for junior and senior high school women," she said. "After a successful first semester, we were asked to extend the program to include all age groups, and to train our male counterparts to mentor the young men." Ashaki is currently in its sixth year.

Other lessons learned at Austin College enable Catherine to effectively organize groups of any size. She put that to use during law school, elected president of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society, the largest Black Law Student Association in Texas. Having been a member of the Austin College Pre-Law Society in 2007 when it first brought the Supreme Court of Texas to campus, she was able to organize a similar symposium at UT Law, also offering panels on civil, criminal, and ethical issues.

Catherine said the small classes at Austin College helped her to succeed in law school. "As one of 10 students in a class at Austin College, I was expected to formulate my thoughts cohesively and confidently, orally and in writing," she said. "I was required to engage in thoughtful and rich discussions on a daily basis. Because of this, during my second and third years of law school, I entered and won back-to-back championships in the Rocky Mountain Regional Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition. I also applied for and was accepted as an articles editor for the *Texas Journal of Civil Liberties & Civil Rights*, and the University of Texas Chapter of the *National Black Law Journal*. I attribute my success in moot court and these journals to the learning environment fostered by my Austin College professors."



**CATHERINE MORAN '07**  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW  
CORPORATE COUNSEL,  
HARRINGTON, MORAN, BARKSDALE, INC.

**CLINT BUCK '07**  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
CURNEY, FARMER, HOUSE & OSUNA



**Clint Buck** took a position earlier this year at Curney, Farmer, House & Osuna, an insurance defense firm in San Antonio, Texas. But it took him a little time to decide law was for him.

"While at Austin College, I knew that I wanted to pursue post-graduate education, but I needed advice on what path to take," Clint said. "Without a clear plan, I turned to my professors and mentors at Austin College for assistance. They helped clarify my thought process and suggested that law school could be a good fit for me even though, as a music and sociology double major, I had not considered attending law school. They were right."

Since he had not made the decision to apply to law school until later than most, he waited until after he graduated from Austin College to complete the LSAT exam and his school applications, entering law school the next year.

In law school, Clint participated extensively in moot court as a member of four state and national teams. After taking the bar exam, he moved to Midland, Texas, and worked until January 2013 as a Social Security disability and consumer bankruptcy lawyer, then made the move to the San Antonio firm specializing in insurance, commercial, and professional defense representation.

"I have been ecstatic with my education and professional evolution to this point and look forward to what will hopefully be many more years of a rewarding career."

## More Law News

**Thomas Vick '77** and **Neal Spradlin '10** are adding new accomplishments and new faces to the legacy of Austin College law professionals. (See 'Roo Notes page 54.)



# DR. KENNETH

SPANNING  
5 DECADES  
IN LAW  
PREPARATION



*Dr. Street clearly loved being an instructor at AC, and there are multitudes of graduates who are better people, lawyers, and citizens as a result.*

— Kristie Wright '92, attorney, Haltom & Doan, Texarkana, Texas





# STREET

For more than 50 years, one name has been synonymous with law preparation at Austin College: Dr. **Kenneth Street**. An email sent to alumni in the field of law requesting comments about Street garnered responses from alumni far and wide—and many more notes than can be included here. Those alumni can be assured, however, that all their comments will be shared with the longtime professor. Street, professor emeritus of political science, joined the Austin College faculty in 1959 and retired in 1998. For many of those years, he served as the pre-law advisor and guided many students interested in careers in law and government.

The tall, dignified gentleman, known to many as “Dr. God,” inspired a good bit of awe in his students. His legendary Constitutional Law class—reported by some to be the hardest they EVER took also was often a favorite, and many times, the course that cemented an interest in the law profession. “We all strived for the coveted “A” in his Constitutional Law course; I only got a B+, but I am as proud of that as anything I’ve done since,” wrote **Michael Brown** ’66, an attorney in Midland, Texas. He offered Street the ultimate compliment as an educator: “I am not a scholar, nor did I graduate anywhere close to cum laude, but he turned on the light for me, and for that I am forever grateful.”

**Rod Hardie** ’76 describes himself as “a disaster” his first two years of college, with no goals, poor study habits, and a miserable GPA. In the spring of his sophomore year, he took a political science class with Street, though he admits he had no real interest in politics or anything else. He doesn’t remember the reason, but he definitely remembers being called to Street’s office one afternoon. Rod happened to carry a football with him. The meeting was short, but before Rod left, Street turned the conversation to sports (Rod thinks it was an attempt to put him at ease). “When our discussion ended, I was stunned when he asked me, politely, (he was one of the most polite people I have ever known), if I would mind going outside to play a little catch with the football,” Rod said. “Of course, I said ‘yes’ immediately and with great excitement. And so on that brisk afternoon in the spring term of 1974, Dr. Street and I played catch in front of the Administration Building. I distinctly remember that he wore his tie while we tossed the football. And he threw with a tight spiral.”

Over the next two years, Rod dramatically improved his grades and took as many courses with Dr. Street as he could, majoring in political science. He has been a successful attorney for the past 30 years and says his

career is far from over. Today, he is associate general counsel and chief compliance officer for Exterran Holdings, working at the corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas.

Rod doesn’t credit that game of catch with significant change in his life, though it seems to have had some effect. “But I can say that it is one of my many great memories of Austin College and of Dr. Street,” he said.

Many lessons, of course, came in the classroom. “Dr. Kenneth Street was the most influential teacher I ever had. He is the dominant influence in my perception of the world, and I owe much of what I have accomplished to my enrollment in his government class my sophomore year,” said Brown, the student for whom Street “turned on the light.” He said in that course and following government classes over the next two years, he learned much more than the course material. “Dr. Street taught me how to think in a rational manner,” Mike said. “He was never rude or critical or hyperbolic; he simply showed me how to approach and accept another point of view. He suggested that I read magazines and books I did not know existed. I still read *The New York Times* daily, something I had never heard of when this West Texas kid first arrived on campus.”

When students began to apply to law schools, they knew Dr. Street was giving sound advice and was respected by the law school personnel. “After graduating from Austin College, I was well down the waiting list for admission to SMU Law School,” said **Mike Allen** ’73. Mike was quite surprised when he got a call from the school’s admission office just before the start of the term asking if he could start classes the next week. Mike asked the caller how his name had moved up the list. Mike wrote, “She answered, ‘I talked to Ken Street, and he believes you will be a fine lawyer. His recommendation goes a long way.’”

An attorney in Tyler, Texas, Mike said he has thanked Street many times, and the response always is a smile that hints of the likelihood of behind-the-scenes maneuvering and ingenuity that led to a good outcome. “But I know many who have been touched by his discreet actions and who cherish that smile.”

Though many alumni responses indicated they had felt awestruck by Street as a student, most also recognized his true interest and concern. “He was someone who inspired a good deal of awe, but somehow managed to remain accessible to students. If I have succeeded in my law career, I owe a debt of gratitude to him for that,” said **Craig Deats** ’75 of Deats Durst Owen & Levy in Austin, Texas. “Truth be told, there wasn’t much reason to fear Dr. Street, although most of us didn’t really believe or discover this until after we had graduated, though he demonstrated his genuine concern for us while we were still students,” said **Kristie Wright** ’92, attorney at Haltom & Doan in Texarkana, Texas. “He wanted us to be good listeners, creative thinkers, and to engage in the world around us,” she said. “These were important lessons for any student—not just those headed to law school.” She remembers her class being invited to his home to watch presidential debates—something she fondly recalls every four years.

**Alex Denney, Jr.**, ’92 is a professor at Sangmyung University in Seoul, Korea. He said one of his fondest recollections of his Austin College years is his class being invited to have dinner at the Street home. “I remember it was a cold winter’s evening at the end of the term and how nice it felt to be welcomed into Dr. and Mrs. Street’s home. Now as a teacher, I also try to take time to share a meal with



my students on occasion and add that personal touch to the educational experience—as I received from caring professors like Dr. Street when I was at Austin College.”

Caring came in many forms. “Dr. Street was one of the rare professors who seemed to possess a passion both for teaching and for knowledge of practical, real-world applications for that teaching,” wrote **David Winters** ’91, an attorney in San Antonio, Texas. “Luckily, Dr. Street always had an open-door policy and you could usually find him in his office in the afternoons pouring over treatises, student papers, or consulting with another student or professor. When I was not accepted into law school, I sought out Dr. Street one afternoon. He expressed a small amount of regret that I had not consulted him personally before actually applying to law school, because he advised that you always need a back-up plan. That talk put me back on course and I even got a scholarship to the next law school I applied, one recommended by Dr. Street.”

**Charles Bondurant** ’69 changed his academic focus from pre-med to government at the end of his junior year. He has been an attorney in San Antonio, Texas, since 1974, but as a student at a crossroads, he was unsure about his future plans. Street’s counsel provided sound direction to his ultimate career. Thinking back to that encounter, Charles offers what is perhaps a summation of the perspective of so many alumni: “I know this: Dr. Street was always available; his advice was calm and reassuring; I enjoyed his classes ... and I benefited from his wisdom.”

These are just a few of the stories and memories alumni hold of Dr. Street’s guidance. They also remember trips that had particular impact on their coursework (an idea also emerged that perhaps Dr. Street liked to drive fast ...). **Mickey Bonesio** ’66 of the Law Offices of W. Michael Bonesio in Dallas, sent the photo below of an “awesome” government class trip arranged by Dr. Street during which students met President Harry S. Truman at the Truman Library in Missouri in 1965. Mickey recognized some of the individuals in the photo, like his classmates **John Virden**, **Bill Kirk**, **Mike Brown**, and **Mary Lou Cassidy**, and **Ruth Whiteside** ’64. He thought others might be **Chuck Carsner** ’66, **Mike Burkett** ’65, **Jeff Caswell** ’65, and **Scooter Merritt** ’66.

Dr. Street and students also traveled to Dallas to see President John F. Kennedy speak outside a Dallas hotel on November 22, 1963—and were still in their cars in Dallas when they heard the news that he had been shot. They were able to drive into the downtown area, and one of the students in the car lived just a few blocks away; the group went to his house to see the news on television. They watched as Walter Cronkite announce the president was dead.

Thankfully, many other trips ended more happily, but few could have been more pertinent to the study of government and law that Dr. Street has so long imparted to his students.



## REFLECTIONS ON DR. STREET

*Life-changing, profound impact, great teacher, and tremendous guidance—statements like these from alumni are as numerous in relating encounters with Dr. Street as kindness, enthusiasm, and wisdom are as descriptors of the man himself.*

“Dr. Street’s influence on my life and career has been nothing less than profound. When I began my freshman year at Austin College, I intended to become a history professor. That all changed when I took Dr. Street’s introductory course in government my sophomore year. Through that and other courses he taught, Dr. Street brought political theory, governmental institutions, and the world of politics and law alive in a way that fired in me—like so many of his students down through the years—a lifelong interest in government, politics, and the law. Dr. Street also taught his students to think, to be analytical, to question the conventional and superficial, and to work hard at whatever we do. I have directly benefitted from these lessons throughout my personal life and career as a lawyer.”

**Alan Holman** ’70, attorney, Locke Lord, Austin, Texas

“Dr. Street probed Constitutional Law with undergraduates, and it was a difficult but fascinating experience. During that semester, I knew that the law was where I was headed. At 19, to be learning analytical skills was quite an accomplishment. The respect for individual rights that permeates my law practice today was planted during that class. The textbook still sits proudly on my office bookshelf.”

**John Griffin** ’78, managing partner, Marek, Griffin & Knaupp, Victoria, Texas

“Dr. Street represents the Texas of Bill Moyers, Lloyd Bentsen, Ann Richards, and LBJ—a state where someone with a quick mind, a dedication to service, and a strong work ethic can come from the remote and dusty south plains to become a respected policy advisor and academic.”

**Monica Walters Crowley** ’90, executive director, Austin Fund for Quality Healthcare, Austin, Texas

“There may only be a few of us of my era who are in the legal profession and did not have Ken Street as a professor. However, like so many that had him as a professor, he developed a personal relationship to know me as a person. I know I am not unique in that regard, but he sure makes me feel unique and special each and every time I see him. He also is a wonderful mentor as a husband. I always love seeing his face light up when he talks about his wife.”

**Bill Crook** ’80 vice president and associate general counsel, Weingarten Realty, Houston, Texas



"Dr. Street has been one of the most influential people in my life. Among other things, I credit him with my decision to enter teaching. I am in my 26th year of teaching law school and have loved it every day. I think of Dr. Street often and try to be as great of a teacher as he was. ... By far, the most important reason Dr. Street was such a great teacher was that he cared deeply about us as people. He could be gruff and a little (well, maybe a lot) intimidating sometimes, but he got to know us and what we wanted out of life, and he helped us reach our goals. He helped me sort out which law schools to apply to, how to navigate financial aid, and how to pursue an academic career. He remained a wonderful mentor to me a good 35 years after I graduated. Having Dr. Street as a professor is one of the treasures of my life."

**Pam Harnest Pierson '75**, professor, University of Alabama School of Law

"Dr. Street gave me faith to believe I could do exceptional things, even when I didn't see it on my own."

**Margaret-Ann Splawn '88**

"Dr. Street was the single most important faculty influence in my four years of college and was an inspiration to me academically and personally. His teaching prepared me for law school, and his personal character influenced me for life. He is a great man and has influenced so many by his contributions over the years at the College."

**Brian Kilpatrick '89**, partner, Jackson Walker, Dallas, Texas

"All I ever wanted to be is a lawyer. I would not be a lawyer without Dr. Street; he paved the way and I am forever in his debt. He is my mentor, teacher, and friend."

**Tim Newsom '89**, partner, Lovell, Lovell, Newsom & Isern, Amarillo, Texas

"Having Ken Street as a mentor changed my life."

Charla Aldous started her college education at Grayson County College, hoping to become a legal secretary. She applied to Austin College and received a Summers Scholarship, and was very excited to be able to attend a four-year college and obtain a bachelor's degree.

"Then, I met Ken Street. I am so lucky that Dr. Street was my mentor and that I had the good fortune (although not so "good" at exam time) to take his Constitutional Law course. After a few weeks in his class, Dr. Street asked me about going to law school. In my wildest imagination I had never thought that I could actually be a lawyer, but Dr. Street encouraged me to apply to law school; I did, was accepted, and the rest is history.

I have now been practicing law for 27 years and am so grateful that I can do something that I love, help those in need, and make a living for my family. Ken Street changed my life and I will be eternally grateful. Thank you, Dr. Street."

**Charla Glass Aldous '82**,  
principal, Aldous Law Firm,  
Dallas, Texas



"Dr. Street is still 'Dr. God' to me. Like every kid who was privileged to attend Austin College in the '70s and thought about being in law, Dr. Street had an incredible impact on me and on hundreds of young men and women, in our education and our careers.

He is a man of the highest intellect, integrity, and compassion—and a wonderful mentor. He also was more than a little intimidating; I don't know if I was inspired or just afraid! Even so, he could personally connect with students.

As much as I loved and am proud of my Austin College experience, my sophomore year was one of great personal reflection and struggle with my own identity as a first-generation product of segregation. I decided to leave school.

Dr. Street intervened at a critical moment in my life and, since the Texas legislature was convening, helped me to arrange a directed study on the constitutional convention, acknowledging my personal issues but offering a way for me to remain at Austin College. That put me on a path, not just toward a career but for success in my life.

When you have the type of education you get at Austin College and also have faculty members that reach down and help, that's a great thing. Dr. Street is a great man; there is no question that he is a first-tier, top-of-the-list professor, but in that element of getting involved and guiding students, he is not the exception. That's what makes Austin College special."

**Ambassador Ron Kirk '76**, former U.S. Trade Ambassador; senior of counsel, Gibson Dunn, Dallas, Texas, and Washington, D.C.



## What is Pre-Law?

Austin College preparation for law school and careers in law comes not through a major or minor but a pre-law advising program. Professor **Frank Rohmer**, advisor for the past 10 years, said the program is designed to help students understand whether their interests and talents truly intersect with the legal profession. Students complete academic majors and minors in whatever discipline they like, he said, explaining that the legal world is interested in individuals from different backgrounds and areas of study, increasingly including sciences.

To be successful in law school, Rohmer said, students need training in reading and interpretation of great literature, writing and speaking, and in courses that give them an understanding of the context of law—business, economics, political science, and history.

The College's focus on law preparation comes from the pre-law advisor and Pre-Law Society, with leadership and insight from the Alumni "L" (Law) Association. Rohmer said his main responsibility is offering very focused one-on-one advising to students considering law school, something he develops through active involvement in regional and national pre-law advising organizations and awareness of the requirements and emphases of law schools around the country.

When Rohmer became pre-law advisor, his goal was to carry on the tradition he took over from Dr. **Ken Street**. Rohmer counts Street, as well as the late President Emeritus **John D. Moseley**, among his mentors, and their leadership inspired Rohmer to develop annual law symposiums and public administration symposiums so students could learn about the professions first-hand from leaders in the field.

Members of the Pre-Law Society helped Rohmer organize the first Kenneth W. Street Law Symposium approximately 10 years ago, and he said that students today have a great leadership opportunity in organizing these annual events with the "L" Association. The law alumni also regularly speak to the Pre-Law Society to provide guidance and insight on special topics of law and have made internships available to students, Rohmer said, particularly mentioning Judge **Jim Jordan '74** who has made summer internships possible for several students.

In speaking about law preparation at Austin College, Rohmer was quick to give credit to others. The four officers of the Pre-Law Society involved with creating the first law symposium unknowingly have had a great influence upon the experiences available to students today, he said. Those officers were **Sara Giddings '04**, **Sarah Russell Duff '04**, **Tracy Hale '04**, and **Cody Stapp '05**. They were quickly followed by **Megan Rutherford '06**, **Justin Almand '06**, and **Morgan Atkinson '07**.

Wanting alumni to receive proper credit, Rohmer began recalling names that are a bit of a "who's who" of Austin College alumni: those involved in creating the "L" Association, **Tom Hall '78**, **Gary Johnson '73**, **Keith Hopson '73**, **Mickey Bonesio '66**; some who have been most critical in symposium planning, **Fred Junkin '86**, **Shannon Hutcheson '93**, **Josh Imhoff '93**; and those who have taken the law symposium to new heights, **Osler McCarthy '73**, **Buck Files '60**, **Jim Walker '82**, and **Kevin White '96**. Those are just the names that positively couldn't be left out, he said, but that so many more have helped students to succeed.

"In recent years, I've seen Austin College law graduates go to Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Chicago, Michigan, Washington University in St. Louis, Vanderbilt, Duke, UCLA, Pennsylvania, Berkeley, Cornell, Tulane, NYU, and other nationally prominent law schools, as well as all the law schools in Texas and Oklahoma," Rohmer said. "And they're winning major scholarships to many of these. Austin College has a long tradition in successful law alumni—and I see that tradition continuing and growing even stronger."



When speaking to the Pre-Law Society last fall, **Kevin P. Delaney '84**, senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Quanex Building Products, told students the value he recognizes in the Austin College education:

- ❖ Ability to think analytically and use reason
- ❖ Ability to understand the human factor
- ❖ Ability to know thyself
- ❖ Ability to effectively communicate
- ❖ Ability to respect differences

Those abilities, he said, can take students through the demands of law school and practice—or successfully into any career path. "An Austin College education provides students opportunities to develop these strengths and to successfully navigate future preparation as well as their careers."

Kevin said he was fortunate to have Dr. Ken Street as his faculty mentor and also to benefit from his direction as the pre-law advisor. "His strong guidance that our actions in college would shape our future was critical in establishing a fundamental principle for success—personal accountability. His Socratic method of teaching Constitutional Law prepared many 'Roos for the realities of law school."

*In addition to providing legal guidance for Quanex, Kevin serves as the top human resource executive at the New York Stock Exchange company.*



# Making History: U.S. Supreme Court ... and More

by Nadia Tawfiq '13

*I could feel my neck being yanked backwards as I tried to free my ponytail from between two tightly squeezed arms. I looked at my friend **Cami Mavelian**, a freshman from Dallas, Texas, struggling for breath as the crowd pushed us forward.*

*"Nadia. ... Nadia. I can't breathe." I could tell from her gasps that she, indeed, was struggling to breathe in the crush of people. Still, we smiled and waited patiently. Three hours later, as the gates opened to reach the Washington Mall, Cami and I linked arms, determined not to lose one another. We were weak and tired, our faces pale, until a nice, large man was kind enough to make way for us to push past the crowd, through security, and into the open. We had made it to President Barack Obama's second inauguration! Sort of.*

*My ponytail was my own again, and Cami's breathing was regular. Cami, now charged with energy and determination, grabbed my hand as we ran toward the Mall to see finally—on a giant screen—President Obama inaugurated for his second term.*

*Cami and I, along with five other Austin College students, attended the inauguration during a January Term course on the U.S. Supreme Court that included two weeks in Washington, D.C.*

The course, "The U.S. Supreme Court: A Legal and Cultural Perspective," was taught by **Osler McCarthy** '73, staff attorney and public information officer for the Texas Supreme Court. Before students left for Washington, D.C., they received a "primer on the Court and constitutional law" from Kenneth Street, Austin College professor emeritus of political science and introductory information from others in the legal profession.

Once in D.C., students met with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, attended oral arguments on six cases before the Supreme Court, and met with several lawyers, law professors,

and high-profile media professionals who cover the Supreme Court. The class traveled to Gettysburg National Military Park, which McCarthy said was "my effort to show in real terms what happens when opposing sides in this country can't do what Americans do best, compromise." Following the inauguration, the group traveled to Austin, Texas, for a tour of the Supreme Court of Texas and a meeting with its Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, as well as a visit to the University of Texas School of Law.

"This Jan Term was one of the best experiences I have had at Austin College," said **Will Reynolds** '14. "I took this course because I wanted to gain a better understanding of the institution that has had such a monumental influence on our country's history. Getting to meet so many amazing people and sit down and discuss politics was such an engaging experience, especially considering we were able to speak with people from both sides of the political spectrum. One of the experiences that stood out to me the most was our meeting with Justice Thomas. Having gone in with the expectation of a 30-minute session in a formal setting, being invited back to

his office and spending a full hour and a half talking was a memory that will stay with me for a long time to come." Will plans to teach history and found the trip to Gettysburg particularly special, and expects to integrate everything he learned in D.C. into his classroom one day.

Students **James Taylor** '14 and **Robert Reiley** '14 took the course because of the interest in law, but found added meaning in other aspects of the trip. Robert, who plans to attend law school, considered it "one of the most intellectually stimulating months" he's had. All the students agreed it was an eye-opening and rare opportunity.

*But back on the Mall, on that bitterly cold January 21 morning, my friend Cami unable to breathe, was my favorite part of the trip. Even though we seemed near to death several times trying to squeeze our way into the crowd, the inauguration was worth spending eight freezing hours to see, next to thousands of strangers constantly commenting and opining—even watching on a stadium-sized screen when we could have seen more on television in our warm hotel room—that will be my treasured memory of Jan Term 2013.*





## Outstanding Athletes Named



Volleyball player **Adrienne Reynolds** '13 of Arlington, Texas, and men's soccer player **Andrew Johnson** '13 of Tulsa, Oklahoma, were recognized as the 2012-2013 outstanding athletes, receiving the Gene Day and Pete Cawthon Athlete of the Year awards at the spring athletics awards event. In selecting the top award recipients, the coaching staff considered athletic performance, general attitude, scholastic ability, leadership, and contribution to the total program.

Adrienne, a three-year letter winner and starter in volleyball, was among the national leaders in both total digs and digs-per-set. Her average of 6.14 digs-per-set led the SCAC by a wide margin, and helped her earn two SCAC Player of the Week awards as well as First Team All-SCAC recognition. She also was a SCAC Academic Honor Roll member.

Having graduated with majors in business administration and psychology, Adrienne has returned to Arlington, Texas, to work and "save up for grad school or just life in general." She said that though her Austin College experiences taught her many things, she remains uncertain about her career direction. She is considering graduate school with the aim of becoming a marriage counselor—or a career in event planning with hopes of one day owning her own business. Adrienne is a member of Psi Chi, national honor society in psychology.

"Continuing to play volleyball in my college career was definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made," Adrienne said. "It hasn't been an easy path, but the friends and experiences that I have from volleyball will be with me for the rest of my life. It was wonderful to be able to experience college and play the sport that I love at the same time."

Andrew, a four-year letter winner and starter, was a SCAC All-Sportsmanship Team honoree last fall in addition to being one of the top defenders in the league. Though playing a defensive position, he was third on the team with five goals scored this year for a total of 10 points. He also was a SCAC Academic Honor Roll member throughout his Austin College career.

Having graduated with a major in sociology and a minor in biology, Andrew will take the next year to prepare for and apply to dental school. He hopes to attend the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and become an orthodontist.

"Being a college athlete meant a lot to me," Andrew said. "I would not go back and change anything; some of my fondest memories stem from being a member of the Austin College men's soccer team, and I owe that to great group of teammates/brothers. Being an athlete has influenced my college life by teaching me dedication, commitment, hard work, responsibility, time managements skills, and to give my best effort no matter what."

*Adrienne Reynolds and Andy Johnson were supported with NOW Scholarship Funds.*

*The outstanding female athlete award honors the late Gene Day, who was instrumental in beginning the women's sports program at Austin College and who coached women's tennis, volleyball, and softball during her tenure on the physical education faculty at Austin College. The first woman inductee into the Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor, she also was a recipient of the College's Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching.*

*The men's outstanding athlete award honors the late Pete Cawthon, a legendary figure in Austin College athletics who served as head football and baseball coach from 1923 to 1927, in addition to coaching basketball and track and field. He eventually served as head football coach and athletic director at Texas Tech University, then coach of the NFL's Brooklyn Dodgers, associate coach for the Detroit Lions, and athletic director at the University of Alabama.*

Many of the awards presented at the Athletics Convocation are named for successful Kangaroo players and coaches or honor others connected to Austin College athletics. This spring, a new football honor was announced: the Chop Van Pelt Lineman of the Year Award, named for the 1954 alumnus and four-year letter winner on the Kangaroo team.

### Scholar-Athletes Recognized

The Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference announcement of its fall and spring Academic Honor Rolls included 117 Austin College scholar-athletes. Athletes who maintain a grade point average of 3.25 or higher in their semester of competition are named to the SCAC Honor Roll. Team representations for 2012-2013:

Football – 23	Baseball – 12
Volleyball – 12	Softball – 9
Men's Soccer – 7	Men's tennis – 5
Women's Soccer – 12	Women's tennis – 4
Women's Cross Country – 8	
Men's Basketball – 7	
Women's Basketball – 9	
Men's Swimming and Diving – 3	
Women's Swimming and Diving – 6	

Congratulations! Go 'Roos!





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[rbritt@austincollege.edu](mailto:rbritt@austincollege.edu)



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## Scholars and Athletes

The Charles "Bo" Miller Scholar/Athlete Award is presented at Honors Convocation to the male and female athlete with the highest GPA. The 2013 awardees were **Alen Michael** of the men's basketball team and **Chelsea Delaney** of the softball team. At the athletics awards convocation, Alen also received a Slats McCord Senior Perseverance and Improvement Award. Chelsea, who completed a major in communication studies and a minor in exercise and sport science, received the softball team's Choose to Commit Award. Alen, who completed a business administration major and a biology minor, is a 2013 Phi Beta Kappa inductee.

Alen Michael held the Hanschen Pre-Medical Studies Scholarship. Chelsea Delaney was a Hope Ridings Miller Scholar in Journalism.



## CONGRATULATIONS to the 2013 ATHLETIC HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES:

Nader Dabboussi '91  
Todd Elliott '87  
Kenneth Hern '60  
Leslie Day McGee '71  
Donald Parnell '83

## COACH JOE SPENCER AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN COACHING:

Joe Longino '74

## KEDRIC COUCH ALUMNI COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Michael Bardgett '03

# Legends

See this year's event photos at [www.austincollege.edu/legends](http://www.austincollege.edu/legends)

The Alumni "A" Athletics Association sponsored the first "Run for 'Roos" April 20 at Adriatica Village in McKinney, Texas. The event, which raised \$9,000 in support of Athletics Enrichment at Austin College, included 130 runners in 5K and 1-mile races.

**Rick Page '71**, president of the "A" Association, said that the run was a big success for the first event, and that the "A" Association plans to continue this and other efforts to support Austin College scholar-athletes.



## SCAC 2013-2014

Three schools join six current Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference members this fall in athletic rivalry.

Austin College, Sherman, Texas  
Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana  
Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Schreiner University, Kerrville, Texas  
Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas  
Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas  
Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas  
University of California-Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California  
University of Dallas, Irving, Texas





## New Women's Soccer Coach Named

**Kristina Corona** signed on as head women's soccer coach at Austin College in March and has been hard at work preparing for the fall season.

She previously served as the head coach at University of Dallas, where she was named Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) Coach of the Year last fall.

"Kristina has tremendous knowledge and experience from her time as an NCAA Division I student-athlete and as a head coach at the NCAA Division III level, as well as an outstanding understanding of the SCAC," said Austin College athletics director **David Norman '83**.

The coach is a 2009 graduate of University of Tulsa, where she was a member of the women's soccer team. In 2010, she took over the University of Dallas team and in three years at the helm, led the team to a record of 30-26-4, including 12 wins last season.

In addition to coaching at the University of Dallas, Kristina has worked various soccer camps around the nation. She also played for and served as an assistant coach for the Fort Worth Panthers of the Women's Premiere Soccer League in 2010 and 2011. She has been a member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America since 2010.

## 'Roo Athletes Committed to Service

Since NCAA Division III and Special Olympics launched an official partnership in August of 2011, the Austin College Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC) has coordinated involvement of 30 athletes per year as volunteers at the Special Olympics Texas Greater Dallas – Area 10 Spring Games Competition. Approximately 1,500 Special Olympic athletes compete. Special Olympics Texas program associate **Katy Williams '10** says the Austin College athletes are great volunteers.

"As athletes themselves, the Kangaroos know someone has to keep score, to shag a ball, to fill water cups—and there has to be a fan in the stands to help change the outcome of the game," Katy said. "They are able to take their own experiences as athletes and make the experience for our Special Olympics athletes that much better!"

In addition, the Austin College athletes presented a check for \$750 to Katy this spring for Special Olympics in a continuation of the partnership. The groups already are planning for next spring's involvement, which they hope to expand with the Sherman delegation.

### Other Efforts

Special Olympics is just one project in which Austin College athletes show their volunteer spirit. For many years, teams have raised money to support cancer research, continuing last fall with the women's soccer team's Give Cancer the Boot fundraiser. A free basketball clinic for area children offered by the women's team just before the 2012 holidays benefitted Toys for Tots; and the softball team spent time with residents at Preston Retirement Home during the holiday season. Additionally, teams have been involved in projects at area schools, with the men's

basketball team interacting with students at Fairview Elementary School, and members of the football team involved in a reading program with area elementary students. The SAAC is committed to maintaining a spirit of giving and giving back in Austin College scholar-athletes.



## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

When we graduated from Austin College, GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) events helped us stay connected to Austin College. But after 10 years, then what? Does networking mean speeding up on the highway to see if you know the driver of a car with an Austin College bumper sticker? Do you feel the only time you see fellow alumni is during Homecoming?

There are easier ways to network with alumni these days, and I'm not talking about social media (although there are plenty of Austin College Facebook pages and Twitter feeds). If you like networking face to face and you've not stayed in touch with what alumni are doing, let me tell you about some of the many opportunities to connect with other 'Roos these days.

Several of the letter associations host various events during the year. While tailored toward the interest of a particular group, the events are open to all 'Roos. What are letter associations, you ask? They are sub-boards of the Alumni Association Board and focus their efforts in areas such as athletics, law, choir, education, LGBT, and theatre. They host some traditional events like the "L" Association's Kenneth Street Law Symposium (which this year included oral arguments heard by prestigious Texas courts) and "A" Association's Legends weekend, which includes the Slaters McCord Golf Tournament and Athletic Hall of Honor induction ceremonies. This past April, the "A" Association offered a Run for 'Roos 5K Run in McKinney, Texas. As the more recently formed letter associations gain momentum, even more opportunities to connect with alumni will be available.

Networking events have appeared nationwide in several different forms: 'Roo Caravans, Women Get Connected, and AlumNights. GOLD events are for those alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years. 'Roo Caravan attendees are typically former athletes, but all are welcome. Women Get Connected events are hosted by women and usually include a speaker who shares knowledge of current events or

women's issues. By far the most popular and frequent events are AlumNights. Since begun approximately two years ago, more than 35 events have been held, many outside of Texas. From New York City to Seattle and San Francisco to Washington, D.C., 'Roos are connecting to socialize and network. A connection made at one such event even resulted in a job for a deserving alumnus!

Homecoming still remains a major networking opportunity and a wide variety of events are offered to capture the attention of most everyone. Homecoming 2012 was one of the most attended homecomings in decades, particularly the Party Tent and Tailgating. The Saturday evening Party Tent offered dancing, food, and fun for all alumni from all classes. Probably the most surprising venue was Tailgating at the football game. The function has been relocated to the south end of the football field along the end zone, allowing attendees to keep track of the game while spending time with friends. Food tents stretched the length of the area and so many attended that it was difficult at times to navigate through the crowd.

With so many more opportunities for alumni from all classes, we don't have to work as hard to network anymore (or do that risky rush up the highway to check out the bumper sticker!). If you'd like to help host an event in your area, please contact the Alumni Engagement Office. We hope to see you soon at an alumni event! Be sure to mark your calendar to attend Homecoming 2013 on campus, October 25-27.

– Sarah Gunderson '81  
President, Alumni Board



*AlumNights offer all graduates opportunities to visit friends, network, make connections, and catch up with faculty or other campus representatives.*

*During the next six months, AlumNights are scheduled in Texas in San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Houston, College Station, Fort Worth, Sherman, and Plano, as well as in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Los Angeles, California; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Santa Fe, New Mexico.*





# Golden 'Roos 2013



*Photos: Top – Class of 1963 50-year anniversary reunion group;*

*Middle – 55-year classmates Marvin Arnold and Marcus and Betty Tappan Payne;*

*Bottom – 60-year celebrants Jim and Hope Lawrence Sheppard, William Walker, and Robert Johnson*

The Austin College Golden 'Roo Society grew by more than 45 in May as members of the Class of 1963 were inducted into the society for all alumni who have reached the 50th anniversary of the graduation of their class.

Members of the Class of 1963 and their spouses and friends enjoyed a full weekend on campus, some arriving for lunch on Friday and staying through lunch on Sunday following Commencement exercises. They toured campus and shared stories from their Austin College days with one another in the annual "Walk Down Memory Lane," session facilitated by long-time faculty members **Jerry Lincecum** and **Peggy Redshaw**, who later write a summary of the alumni remembrances.

The 50-year graduates received anniversary medallions and certificates from President **Marjorie Hass** and Alumni Board President **Sarah Gunderson** '81. Alumni in the group celebrating their 55th and 60th graduation anniversaries also were honored. The Golden 'Roos also were provided special seating and recognition during the Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies.

See photos, including identification of the above group shot, and read the "Walk Down Memory Lane" summary: [www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos](http://www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos)

53

**Jerry Sims** was honored by the McKinney, Texas, Chamber of Commerce in February, receiving the Carey Cox Citizen of the Year Award at the chamber's awards celebration. The award recognizes an individual who significantly contributes to the community's well-being through resources, energy, and creativity over a sustained period of time. Sims has worked as a doctor in McKinney since 1965, serving as chief of staff at North Texas Medical Center for many years. He also was a board member and chair of the board for Heard Museum and served as president of the school board for McKinney. He also served as the team doctor for the football team. During the presentation, he was commended for contributions to his profession, through community service, through involvement at First Presbyterian Church, and as a family man. Presenters also noted that Jerry couldn't have achieved all he had without the support of his wife **Janet Guthrie Sims** '52.

62

Heard the Austin College Alma Mater lately? **Wm. Emory Glover** reports that he updated the original lyrics, which some felt were no longer politically correct, on a wakeful night during Golden 'Roo Weekend in May 2012, and led his classmates in singing his new version at their reunion luncheon the next day. President **Marjorie Hass**, who reportedly had been told on her inauguration four years prior that the College had no Alma Mater, was delighted at the news of the update, Emory said, and resolved to introduce the Alma Mater to entering freshmen last September at Opening Convocation. Emory drove up from Houston for the occasion, but no one had told him that the lyrics in the four-part harmonization the choir would perform would not be his but a previous revision by Austin College choral director **Wayne Crannell**, which already had received official approval some years earlier. Nonetheless, Emory was glad to see that at least the choir members now know the song he and his classmates from the '60s were required to learn in freshmen orientation and that the choir would sing it again on subsequent festive occasions.

63

Members of the Class of 1963 were on campus for induction to the Golden 'Roo Society at Commencement 2013. See the photo on page 43 and many more on the Austin College website. Also, see the news item on **Richard "Scooter" Merritt** on page 51.

66

See news of a professional honor for **Dan Brazeale** on page 56.

68

(4) **Natalie Bencowitz Eustace**, a long-time member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a professional honorary society of women educators, was awarded the Texas State Achievement Award, the Texas DKG's highest honor in 2012. Another surprise of the day was that her chapter flew her husband, **Tommie** '66 to the award ceremony in Los Colinas where some 2,000 DKG members cheered as the award was presented, and Tommie appeared (one of the few men in the room). The past state music chair, Natalie serves the Texas State DKG organization as Educational Excellence and Program chair. Other recent honors for Natalie include DKG Golden Gift International Leadership/Management Seminar participant, Midland County Teacher of the Year, and Abydos Learning International's Sue German Award for Excellence in Teaching. Natalie and Tommie live in Midland, Texas, where she operates a 50-student music studio for piano and music theory. A National Certified Teacher of Music, she also travels to judge for the National Piano Guild.

70

**Dennis McEntire**, superintendent at Presidio ISD, was named Region 18 Superintendent of the Year and one of the top five superintendents in the state by the Texas Association of School Boards in September 2012. During his tenure, Presidio ISD has been named a T-STEM Academy and Early College High School, one of only six districts in Texas with that dual distinction. The district has been recognized nationally for its Rocketry and Engineering Program with invitations to the White House and student presentations at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Two teams from Presidio were selected from across the nation and one was chosen to send an experiment aboard the SpaceX shuttle to the International Space Station.

71

**Robert Campbell** received the Distinguished Public Service Award in March from the LBJ School of Public Affairs of The University of Texas at Austin. The highest alumni honor presented by the school, the award is reserved for those "who go above and beyond in leadership and commitment to public service." Campbell earned a Master of Public Affairs degree in 1973. He recently retired from his position as vice chairman and U.S. public sector leader at Deloitte. While at Deloitte, he oversaw services to state, local, education, public healthcare, and nonprofit clients. He guided leading public policy research from Deloitte Research, the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, and the Deloitte Center for Cyber Innovation. Campbell is a frequent writer and speaker on government management issues. He recently coauthored the book *Letting Go of the Status Quo*, which addresses big issues facing today's governors and state legislators. He also edited *If We Can Put a Man on the Moon* and has been quoted in several leading business and trade publications. He serves on the executive committee of the board for the EastWest Institute and is the chair of the LBJ School Advisory Council.

76

**Al Hockaday** '76, below right, has been to camp more times as a 50-something-year-old than as a child. For the past eight years, he has served each summer as a counselor at Camp Discovery in Kerrville, Texas. He said he gets to play all day, enjoy a nap and an ice cream snack every day—and eat all the banana fudge bomb pops he wants, adding, "Who wouldn't do this?" When he's not going to camp, he is a self-employed manufacturer representative with Hockaday and Associates. The camp—for children with cancer and provided by the American Cancer Society High Plains Division—is a great way to give back, Al said, noting that he gets much out of the camp each year "and still gets teary-eyed at every closing ceremony." In 2011, Al went through 42 radiation treatments himself following a cancer diagnosis so understands some of what the campers have experienced. That summer he told the campers he pulled from the strength he witnessed in them. Pictured with Al is **Tim Kennedy** '98, who served as a cabin counselor at Camp Discovery. He was serving as a Clinical Pastoral Education Hospital Chaplain Intern at Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital in San Antonio for 10 weeks as part of his seminary training. He has just completed the second year of a three-year Master of Divinity program at Yale Divinity School. Tim also is completing an Anglican certificate at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and an educational leadership and ministry certificate.



#### Phi Beta Kappa Honors

**Charles Cameron** '76 is professor of politics and public affairs in the Department of Politics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He was one of two alumni inductees into Austin College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter and served as the speaker for the campus induction ceremony. **Paul A. Sabatier** '66, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of California at Davis, was inducted in absentia. Graduates of at least 10 years who have "given clear evidence of the possession of distinguished scholarly capacities" may be elected to alumni membership by chapter officers.





Photos correspond to class year entries as noted.

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# Helping Ethiopia Read

**Alicia Van Borssum '82** defended her dissertation in 2012 and “after five grueling years working full time, studying part time, and doing research in Ethiopia,” has earned a doctorate in education from the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester in New York. After graduating from Austin College with majors in French and art history, she completed a Montessori teaching degree in Perugia, Italy, and a master's degree in education, TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) at the State University of New York in 1991. In 2005, Alicia heard a presentation by author Jane Kurtz, who has written about her upbringing in Ethiopia and announced that she had begun an NGO in Ethiopia to establish children's libraries there and was looking for American teachers to help. Alicia was her first volunteer.

Alicia since has worked with Ethiopia Reads to assess and facilitate teacher training, as well as establishing better communication between the librarians in the country. What's next? She hopes to work full time in east Africa. “I envision work with an international education or humanitarian group, doing teacher training and perhaps some teacher coaching or mentoring,” she said. She also is interested in work in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, or Burma. Alicia announced one more accomplishment—becoming a grandmother known as Dr. Granny.



78

**Bennett Brier** has released his second CD of original music, *Scorpio and Me*. He said that if it must, his music can be classified as contemporary folk, AAA, Adult Contemporary, Americana, or folk-rock. He blends folk, blues, country, rock, pop, and bluegrass influences into his work. His songs have received airplay in over 50 countries, and the new album has received very positive reviews in the U.S. and Europe. Bennett's songwriting was featured recently in *The Alternate Root Magazine* and he was interviewed for the Austin, Texas, "The Singer and His Song" radio program. He cites his major musical influences as Bob Dylan, the Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Butch Hancock, and Nanci Griffith; the talented friends he's played with over the years and the sensational musicians he's seen perform in Austin, Texas. Bennett's music is available at [www.bennettsongs.com](http://www.bennettsongs.com).

86

**Heather McLaughlin** was elected to the vestry at Trinity Episcopal Church in Towson, Maryland, and re-elected to the board of directors for the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators. The NADDI is a non-profit organization that facilitates cooperation between law enforcement, healthcare professionals, state regulatory agencies, and pharmaceutical manufacturers in the prevention and investigation of prescription drug diversion. All members of the board are volunteers who have full-time jobs in law enforcement, regulatory boards, or related industry. Heather is an investigator for the Maryland Board of Physicians.

88

**Margaret-Ann Splawn** is one of the producers of a history-making production in London's West End: the first staging of *Great Expectations*. The show was staged in the Vaudeville Theatre and was broadcast in cinemas around the world beginning in March (See [www.greatexpectationstheplay.com](http://www.greatexpectationstheplay.com)). The theatre work is a labor of love for Margaret; her day job is in the world of finance, particularly energy and commodity trading currently.

95

**Robin Logan** married Edward "Woodie" Robinson November 12, 2010, at Green Pastures in Austin, Texas. **Abe Dashner**, **Amy Smuts**, **Erin Smuts Amjadi** '93, **Kevin Clifton** '93, and **Matt** and **Tami Walker Roberts** attended. Matt and Tami's daughters served as flower girls. The ceremony was officiated by **Carolina Trevino** '99.

97

**Melinda Massie** was named a 2013 featured contributor to "She Owns It," a website dedicated to celebrating, connecting, and supporting women entrepreneurs. She is the site's "A Life Less Cluttered" expert and writes monthly on debunking organizing myths and how to clear the clutter and emotional ties to it. She has operated her Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex-based company, *Organizing with a Side of Fabulous*, for three years.

99

**Brian Taylor** completed a Master of Fine Arts in Writing degree with a concentration in fiction at Pacific University Oregon in June 2012. His creative work has appeared in national and regional magazines and other specialty publications. ■ (5) **Paul Tu** has been named to the Texas Rising Stars list as one of the top up-and-coming attorneys in Texas for 2013. The list, compiled through a statewide survey of lawyers, independent research evaluation, and peer reviews by practice area, includes less than 2.5 percent of lawyers 40 years of age or younger and practicing fewer than 10 years. A founding partner of Arrington Tu and Burnett, Paul heads the Houston firm's criminal defense section. After graduating from Austin College, he worked for a multi-national oil drilling company before attending Thurgood Marshall School of Law, graduating in the top 10 in his class. He also earned a certification from the Institute of International and Immigration Law. Paul is a director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, member of the executive board of the Fort Bend Young Lawyers Association, the Asian American Bar Association, and Fort Bend Criminal Defense Bar Association.

04

(2) **Abbas Ravjani** and **Atiya Khan** were married October 13, 2012, in Miami, Florida. **Michael Bardgett** '03 was groomsman and **Brad** '02 and **Amy Abell Lawrence** '03 attended. The couple celebrated at a Dallas reception in February where Bardgett served as the Master of Ceremonies, with alumni **Jacob Davidson** '04, **Sarah Russell Duff** '04, and **Lindsay Arnott Macedo** '03 attending, as well as **Jim Lewis**, former Austin College vice president for Institutional Advancement. The newlyweds live in Washington, D.C., where Abbas is an attorney for the U.S. State Department and Atiya is an analyst for the Department of Agriculture.

06

(3) **Rachel Baumann** earned a master's degree in sustainability and sustainable development from Southern Methodist University in December 2012, completing courses in renewable energy, real estate, and energy modeling. Rachel lives in Dallas.

08

(1) **Sam McDonald** married Shannon Rehm on October 29, 2012. The wedding party included groomsmen **Nayan Patel** and **Bucky Brannen**; matron of honor **Katy Rehm Brannen** '06, and bridesmaid **Becca Webb Buell**. A fun side note—Sam and Bucky are best friends who married sisters. Guests pictured on page 49 with the bride and groom are, left to right, **Esteban Davila** and his 1 year old son, **Hayden**; **Jesse Travis Davila**, **Nayan Patel**, **Farzad Marzban**, **Emma Wilking**, **Ryan Buell**, **Becca Webb Buell**, **Mason Anders** '09, **Courtney Baker**, **Katy Rehm Brannen** '06, and **Bucky Brannen**.

Numbers in color within entries correspond with photos on page 49.



## 'Rooos on the Rhine

Four Sherman-area couples were pleased to discover a 'Roo contingent on their Viking Cruise down the Rhine River in November 2012. Though traveling separately on the 10-day trip arranged by a Sherman travel agent, finding themselves among so many Kangaroos seemed to call for a nightly Austin College caucus. During one such evening, someone snapped the photo at left.

Pictured, left to right, are **Wally** '70 and **Ann Sebastian Black** '71, **David** '75 and **Carleen Stone**, **Jerry** '63 and **Suzanne Jackson Chapman** '61, and **Honey (Altman)** '63 and **Robert Minshaw** '60. The group flew to Prague then cruised from Prague to Paris.



## A Legend in His Time

Richard “Scooter” Merritt ’66 has been named a 2013 Living Legend of Alexandria, Virginia. The honor is reserved for those who have made significant contributions, for 10 years or more, to the quality of life in Alexandria. The 2013 honorees were introduced at a “Meet the Legends” reception earlier this year and included in a Legends catalog available at the U.S. Library of Congress as well as a photographic exhibit of honorees that will appear at several community events over the next year.

Merritt, a Texas native, has lived in Alexandria for some 18 years, but his community service began far earlier. After graduating from Austin College, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in western India on the Arabian Sea, working in community development helping to find resources and improve crop yields. The experience changed his life. “You make of it what you will, and I tried to open myself up as much as I could,” he said. “I came out a much better person. It taught me so many values and traits: patience, tolerance, confidence, independence, empathy.”

Through the Peace Corps experience, he also embraced one of Gandhi’s guiding principles: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” The recent honor is testament to Merritt’s commitment to that ideal.

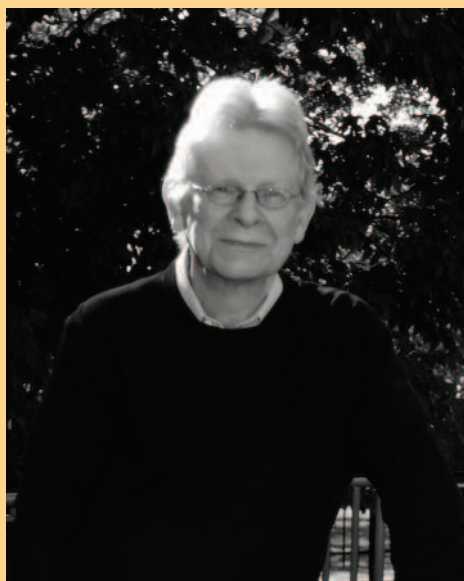
Returning to the U.S., he studied international relations at Tufts University, originally planning a career in foreign service but found his interests closer to home. Instead, he spent three years as a research associate at the National Legislative Conference, and from 1975 to 1980, was staff director for human resources at the National Conference of State Legislatures. From 1980 to 1996, Merritt was director of the Intergovernmental Health Policy Project at George Washington University. The next 10 years he served as director of the Forum for State Health Policy Leadership with the National Conference of State Legislatures.

For many of those working years, Merritt lived in Arlington, Virginia. Upon moving to Alexandria 18 years ago, his interest in his community continued. He has served on a number of boards, including the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern Virginia, Hospice of Northern Virginia, and Inova Health Systems. He is chair of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission and chair of the Clean and Smoke Free Air Coalition of Alexandria, part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.

His roles in community work are not just administrative. When it was time to post quit-smoking signs in playgrounds and parks, volunteers were scarce. Merritt was on the job. Another example or two here about his work, the hands-on experiences he has had, other ways in which he has benefitted his community through his service and involvement.

The City of Alexandria has been honored for the past five years as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in America. That city’s mayor wants to see Alexandria at number one. “That’s a terrific vision,” Scooter said, “and I’d like to play a role in making that come about.”

*Original story and photo courtesy of  
© Living Legends of Alexandria, written by  
Lou Cook. Photo by Steven Halperson.*



# [ 'roo news ]

## MAKE A GIFT TODAY TO CREATE A STRONGER TOMORROW

Today’s Austin College students rely on scholarship support—65 percent qualify for need-based financial aid. Without that help, the Austin College experience is out of reach for many families. A legacy gift can change that. You can impact the lives of talented students for generations to come through a planned gift to the endowment fund of Austin College.



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To discuss estate gifts and membership in the John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society, please contact Suzanne Crouch, CFRE, director of estate planning, at [scrouch@austincollege.edu](mailto:scrouch@austincollege.edu) or 903.813.2059.

[www.austincollege.edu/support](http://www.austincollege.edu/support)



## Joey's Corner

❶ Greta Blythe Gorman was born to **Tate '98** and **April Rife Gorman '97** on April 20, 2012. Greta was baptized at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas with **Joe Clifford**, 2010 honorary doctorate recipient, officiating and **Jay Evans '64**, longtime staff member and 2010 honorary doctorate recipient, serving as elder. Greta joins big brother John and big sister RoryCate. Greta is pictured with Evans.

❷ **David** and **Giselle Finne Gafford**, both '00, welcomed a son, Finn Edward, on October 22, 2012. The family, including big brothers Dean and Eirik, lives in Dallas, Texas.

❸ Son Jackson Jeremy was born to George and **Gina Shojaian Galloway '01** on November 8, 2012. The family lives in Keller, Texas, and the parents work in Southlake. Gina is a psychotherapist in private practice, and George is an attorney.

❹ Victoria "Tori" Jane was born to **Joseph** and **Leslie Moore Greenberg '04** on March 28, 2012. The family lives in Cypress, Texas.

❺ **Michael** and **Carrie Simpson Henry**, both '05, welcomed their daughter Lillian Marie on December 23, 2012. The family lives in Shreveport, Louisiana.



Send news of the birth your little Joey, marriages, new jobs, degrees earned, awards, retirements, and other updates for inclusion in 'Roo Notes.

Email [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu); submit the news online: [www.austincollege.edu/alumni/roo-notes](http://www.austincollege.edu/alumni/roo-notes); or mail your items to Vickie Kirby, Austin College Magazine, 900 N. Grand Ave., Suite 6G, Sherman, TX, 75090. Photos must be high quality and high resolution.

All items must be received by November 1 for inclusion in the Winter 2014 issue.



**Save the Date...**  
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**Highlights:**  
 Sweetheart Breakfast  
 IDEA Center Tours  
 An Evening of J.S. Bach with Friends  
 Big Tent Celebration  
 Reunions for the classes of 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988,  
 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008

**ALL ROADS LEAD TO 'ROO NATION**  
**AUSTIN COLLEGE**  
**HOMECOMING**  
**OCTOBER 25-27**  
**2013**

## [ 'roo news ]

### The Characters in Her House

**Laurie Coker '66** is an author, poet, illustrator, actor, and teacher. She and her husband live in Austin where she works as a substitute teacher. In October 2012, Laurie's book *Tattersall*, a collection of 10 short stories, was published and is available in soft cover, e-book, and large print through Amazon. In the book's introduction, Laurie writes, "Like a loosely woven Tattersall warming the backside of an old horse, this collection of fictionalized characters interwoven throughout my life form a kind of a mantle I wear wherever I go. I sometimes feel like an old house that has had many inhabitants over the years revealing their stories within my walls, our symbiotic relationships both good and bad, lingering and urging me to tell their truths as they saw them. I continue to be fascinated by people and what makes them 'tick,' their motivations, their passions, their strengths and weaknesses. In studying their uniqueness, I discover my own."

Although *Tattersall* is her first published collection of short stories, "The Chair" was published in *Stone Drum* literary magazine in 1986, and her poems have appeared in numerous publications including *The Signal*, *Stone Drum*, and *Periplum*.

Laurie is a retired health promotion specialist for the USDA Texas WIC program, which published two of her bilingual children's books, *Beans for Breakfast/Desayuno con Frijoles* and *Jump for Joy/Brinca con Blanca*. Laurie's film credits include *An Ordinary Family*, *Artois the Goat*, and *Tom's Wife*. She is the voice of Mrs. Dowager on the free-to-play online game Wizard 101.





## Small World for 'Roos

**Jason Brewster '94** wasn't aware of any Austin College alumni having attended Stanford Graduate School of Business when he applied for admission, but **Michael Dorsey '03** was a fellow student there. Both completed their degrees in 2010: Jason earning a master's degree in management and Mike completing an MBA.

Jason is working on a startup in the legal field, FairDocument.com, designed to improve affordability and efficiency for clients working with lawyers. The company recently launched a consumer site that allows users to receive free quotes to prepare a comprehensive estate plan with an attorney, often for half the cost of engaging with an attorney through traditional means. The firm works with attorneys in several states. Jason and his wife, Jennifer, live in Palo Alto, California, with their daughter and three sons, ages 4 to 13.

Michael is working on two major projects. By day, he works in mergers and acquisitions advising at a boutique investment bank that specializes in assisting startup technology companies to be acquired by larger tech companies. By night, he is building his third company, DataFox, which is a tool for venture capitalists to monitor their portfolio and research prospective investments. He also is a close advisor for FounderSoup, a program Michael founded at Stanford to help would-be entrepreneurs meet fellow students and alumni interested in co-founding companies. Michael's wife, **Joan Youngblood**, works at Stanford in a class called "Design for Extreme Affordability." Pictured left to right are **Cindy Smith Youngblood '81**, **Tom Youngblood '81**, Jason Brewster, Michael Dorsey, and **Joan Youngblood Dorsey '06**. Tom and Cindy are Joan's parents.

## [ A C C O L A D E S ]

### Great Legal Minds Making News

**G. Thomas Vick, Jr., '77** of Vick Carney & Smith L.L.P., in Weatherford, Texas, has been elected chair of the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. Vick took office in June 2013, and adds this honor to many other public service roles he has held during his law career: chair, State Bar of Texas Family Law Section; commissioner, Texas Access to Justice Commission; director, State Bar of Texas Board; and president of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and the Texas Chapter of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

In the Weatherford community, Vick served as mayor and as a trustee for the Weatherford Independent School District.

He received his law degree in 1981 from South Texas College of Law and joined his father, Gabe T. Vick, in practice.

The Texas Bar Foundation is the largest charitably-funded bar foundation in the country with an endowment of more than \$22,000,000.



**Neal Spradlin '10** graduated from the JD/MBA program at Texas Tech University in May and spent his summer preparing for the Texas Bar Exam. Though he says it's been a long journey, he expects it will be "finally worth it" when he passes the bar.

This spring, Neal was a member of the Texas Tech School of Law team that won the National Energy and Sustainability Moot Court Competition at West Virginia University College of Law. Neal and two teammates tested their brief-writing and oral advocacy skills against 23 other teams. "The final-round panel was one of the most distinguished I've ever seen at any moot court competition," said Robert Sherwin, adjunct professor and one of the Texas Tech team's coaches. "Most lawyers will go their entire careers without appearing before a group like that."

Neal said his Austin College education definitely prepared him for law school and Austin College alumni—**Hillary Luckett '09** and **Ceren Unal '07**—completing Tech Law ahead of him provided guidance. Neal particularly mentioned his gratitude for the ongoing insight and advice of his Austin College mentor **Bart Dredge**, professor of sociology, as well as political science faculty.

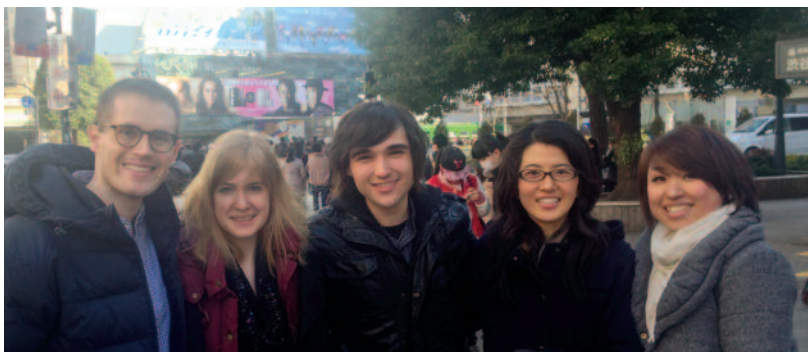




## 'Roos Getting Together

### Nothing Lost in Translation

Roos in Tokyo gathered for brunch and a walk around the city on February 24. They posed for a photo in front of Shibuya Station/Shibuya Crossing, which some may recognize from *Lost in Translation*. Pictured, left to right, are **Will Radke** '08, **Sarah Tangney** '08, **Brandon McInnis** '09, Mio Komatsu, Jordan Family Language House instructor 2008-2010, and Hyung-Hye Lee, JFLH instructor 2005-2006.



### A Family Celebration

**Andrew Harper** graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in December 2012. Pictured at the celebration with Andrew are his brother and sister-in-law **Daniel** '02 and **Jennifer Knapp Harper** '01 (MAT '02), his mother **Anne Caliga Harper** '75, Andrew, his fiancé **Meghan Froehlich** '10, his dad **Brian Harper** '74, and Andrew's brothers **Brock Harper** '01 and **Chris Harper** '99, plus Daniel and Jennifer's children, future 'Roos Avery, Blake, and Sean.



### 'Roos in Oregon

A group of 'Roos enjoying a summer reunion on the Oregon coast are pictured near the Heceta Head lighthouse. Left to right are:

**Holli Pryor-Baze** '94, an in-house litigation attorney for Shell Oil Company who lives in Katy, Texas, with her husband, David, and children Avery, 17; Caroline, 11; and Olivia, 9.

**Kimberly Stanton Bowe** '93, who lives in Dallas with her husband, David, and is a "stay-at-home-mom" to 4-year-old daughter, Vivienne. Kim and David adopted her from China and brought her into their home when she was 9 months old. Kim is involved with the Parents Club at Preston Royal Preschool and the North Dallas Early Childhood PTA.

**Paul Morse-Caruso** '93, who works as a Spanish teacher at Brookfield Academy in Brookfield, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Wendy, have two sons, ages 6 and 11.

**Karen Casco** '93, an administrative staff member with a small law firm in Manhattan. She recently received an award from the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault for 10 years of work with a Mt. Sinai Sexual Assault and VIOLENCE Intervention program.

**Todd Canon** '93, who moved to Austin, Texas, from Portland, Oregon, in 2010. He is a family physician and partner at South Austin Medical Clinic. In October, he became a member of the National Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign.

**Jennifer Martin** '93, campus minister for The Koinonia Center, the Presbyterian Church (USA) campus ministry at the University of Oregon. She has served in that position since fall 2006 and lives in Eugene, Oregon.



### Mentors in Business

Each year, in conjunction with the Williams Executive- in-Residence lecture, an alumni panel speaks to students about their experiences and individual journeys to careers in business. **Wes Moffett** '82, president of Avelo Mortgage, moderated during the panel and gathered with the group for a photo. Alumni panelists, left to right, are: **Beth Guinn** '03, sales and marketing manager, Pres-Flex Engineered Films, Presco; **Brandon Brown** '09, analyst, Avelo Mortgage; **Chris Pendergrass** '02, executive vice president, Presco; **Moffett**, president, Avelo Mortgage; **Geoff Wescott** '08, investment associate, Granite Properties; and **Jeff Duffey** '00, real estate broker, Duffey & Associates.



### Family Travels

**Rami Batrice** '08 was completing a fellowship in Edinburgh, Scotland, in early 2013, offering a perfect opportunity for his sister, **Rania** '03, to join him for a Scotland travel adventure—with a three-day trip to France thrown in! The alumni are pictured at Sacred Heart Basilica of Montmartre in Paris. Rami is completing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, and Rania works in communications for the Democratic Party in North Dakota.





## Running 'Roo

**Lisa Brown**, associate professor of psychology, joined alumni **Jodi Jordan '07**, **Eric Dean '01**, **Phil Deardorff '05**, **Emily Kennedy Deardorff '09**, **Jade Rutledge '09**, and **Kim Skidmore '08** in running the Hero-Thon Half-Marathon race sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in San Antonio, Texas, in January 2013. The group ran in memory of the late **Thomas Derricks '07**.

## Distinguished Service Professor



**Dan Brazeale '66**, professor of philosophy at the University of Kentucky, received his institution's highest award for faculty this spring, named a recipient of the Provost's Distinguished Service Award. The honorees, nominated by deans, are selected by the provost, who wrote in the announcement, "Among our faculty are many outstanding professionals whose contributions to the university's multiple missions are truly and consistently extraordinary. To recognize such outstanding faculty members, the university designates a few individuals each year as Provost's Distinguished Service Professor."

The award includes a three-year stipend and the honored title continues throughout the faculty member's tenure. Dan, who received an Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011, said this spring's honor came as "an utter unexpected surprise."

After graduating from Austin College in 1966, Dan earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at Yale University and joined the University of Kentucky faculty in 1971. He has received numerous teaching and research honors. Dan and his wife, **Vivianne Chabas**, live in Lexington, Kentucky.



## Global 'Roo: Alumni on Tour

A group of Austin College alumni and friends enjoyed an eight-day Alumni Campus Abroad educational and travel experience in Spain this spring, joining alumni from other colleges and universities. The group spent time in Barcelona, Zaragoza, Bilbao, Pamplona, and San Sebastian. Daily lectures and tours added dimension to private exploration.

Interested in other travel opportunities? See [www.austincollege.edu/alumni/global-roos](http://www.austincollege.edu/alumni/global-roos)



**Jeff Ward '83** had been a high school summer exchange student in Germany, so when he had the chance to participate in a study abroad program in Germany as an Austin College junior, he jumped at the chance. He lived in an international student dormitory and spent weekends selling cuckoo clocks in the Black Forest, which helped with his language fluency. He also traveled throughout Europe during the experience. He knew he wanted to spend more time in Germany so returned upon graduation and spent three years working for an IBM affiliate there.

Jeff returned to the U.S. and earned an MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 1989. Next, he joined the corporate team at American Airlines in Dallas/Fort Worth in a position that satisfied his love of travel.

Back in Texas, Jeff signed up for the Austin College Alumni LEADS (Letting Effective Alumni Direct Students) mentoring program, wanting to “pay forward” assistance he had received from a mentor. Meanwhile **Stephen Nelson '92** sought networking opportunities through the LEADS program. Passionate about airline travel and interested in international relations, Stephen was excited to speak with someone in marketing at American. The two men quickly learned that each had studied abroad, held interests in international relations, and were self-proclaimed airline enthusiasts. (Even as a child, one of Stephen’s goals was to work for American Airlines!)

Jeff said he received many calls from students in those days, but few followed up. Stephen did—which impressed Jeff. The two decided to meet in person. Jeff offered advice and encouragement as Stephen secured his first job—and when Stephen was offered an international position, Jeff encouraged him to “take a leap of faith” and move to Cairo, Egypt.

Eventually, it happened that Stephen and Jeff both were working at American Airlines. As the two men’s careers progressed, Jeff was pleased to remain a mentor to Stephen and felt it important to “teach him how to be a good citizen” along with sharing professional advice. “We both have the Austin College experience; we both love travel and have it as vocation and avocation,” Jeff said. “From that first meeting, a life-long relationship was born, and we became good friends in the process.”

In 2001, Jeff “was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug” and started Northward Leadership and Development, a professional coaching and leadership development company. He spent five years in that field until he “coached himself out of coaching” and returned to the travel industry, working with a group in Cape Town, South Africa, that did tour packages for him. Soon, along with South African investors, Jeff launched African Safari Consultants, a consumer-direct, customized photo-safari tour planning firm. Now, he operates the New York office and travels the world.

Stephen took a position with Lufthansa German Airlines in 2001, and this spring, he moved to Seattle to take a position with Federal Express.

“I see Austin College as a springboard for that student who has grown up in Texas but has aspirations for an international career and to be out there in the world,” said Jeff, who grew up in Seabrook, Texas, and saw the same desire in Stephen to get out and find his place in the world. “Austin College provided the foundation for me on a personal and professional level to get into a great graduate program and to embark on an international career.”

Stephen, too, tries to “pay forward” the help he received from Jeff. “I definitely realize the value of networking and it has taken me far in my sales work and in my personal and professional development. Austin College helped instill that in me by the sense of community that is fostered there through relationships with faculty and other students.”

*Alumni mentors can be instrumental in the lives of students today. Alumni who are willing to advise, meet, or speak with students about their professions—or those interested in offering internship opportunities—should contact **Margie Briscoe Norman '83**, director of Career Services, at 903.813.2447 or [mnorman@austincollege.edu](mailto:mnorman@austincollege.edu).*

*The interesting nature of Jeff’s current work with African Safaris is another story for another time. In the meantime, check out his website: [www.africansafaris.com](http://www.africansafaris.com).*

# Paying it Forward: Mentors and Friends



## Discovering New Passions

By Akshara Vivekananthan '13

Imagine finding a new passion several years after graduation from college. Perhaps the lesson in the life of **Eric Thompson** '79 is that passions sometimes find their ways to individuals, bringing the best surprises in life when least expected.

Erich graduated from Austin College with majors in philosophy and communication arts and set off to seminary. He became a Presbyterian minister, serving churches along the East Coast. A few years ago, a hobby led to another calling.

He took up woodworking purely for practical reasons, then started making ornamental boxes for his family and friends. As he developed his woodworking skills, his hobby grew into something much more and before long, Erich was building chancel furniture. In the late '90s, he was asked to build a font for Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. "Over the next few years I worked on designs for the pulpit and table to complete the suite for Montreat," Erich said.

To his delight, his work was greeted with immense appreciation and he was asked to take on a similar project for another congregation. Since then, Thompson has been displaying his works of art from Indianapolis to as far south as Brownsville, Texas, and all along the Eastern seaboard. He has more than 70 pieces in worship spaces around the country and has made pieces for family, friends, and clients.

"After I reached a certain level of accomplishment and saw the reaction to my work, I didn't doubt that the woodworking could be a success," he said. "Actually becoming one was another issue; the business portion, marketing, and management were new challenges."

Thompson said that Austin College develops in students the skills and experiences to guide them through life. However, he said, as today's graduates surely know—there are no lifetime jobs anymore.

"The rigor of learning should not be left on campus," Thompson said. "We need to be able to reinvent ourselves for each new season and to find the unique combination of skills and experiences we have accrued that can serve the world around us. In so doing we remain a valuable and marketable asset for everyone's sake."

Austin College has an amazing history of turning out graduates who take on some of the most important work in the country, Erich said. "But none of us is 'graduated full grown and armed for battle.' What Austin College does is provide a wonderfully broad foundation upon which to build the next answers for a developing world. Success comes in how we continue to build on that foundation—both in breadth and depth so that solutions draw from a wide pool of possibilities. As a nation, that's what we do best. As Austin College alumni, that's what we're trained to do."

*To read more from Erich about his work and see more of his art, see the Austin College Magazine website: [acmagazine.austincollege.edu](http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu)*



## Another Science Success Story

After graduating from Austin College with a degree in biology, **Caleb Roth** '00 became a research assistant at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He began graduate school and worked at the UT Health Science Center—San Antonio (UTHSCSA), and spent the next nine years as a research scientist for the Air Force Research Labs in the field of bio-electrics. He isn't comfortable calling himself a success in science—but said he had "been pretty lucky." One of his most memorable "lucky" moments was the opportunity to meet Dr. James Watson, who discovered the structure of DNA. That, Roth said, was a highlight of his career.

Now pursuing a Ph.D. in radiation biophysics at UTHSCSA, Roth works in the laboratory of Dr. Randolph Glickman in the Department of Radiology of the School of Medicine. In spring 2012, he received a prestigious SMART/ASEE scholarship and is sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory 711th HPW. He studies the biophysical properties of mammalian cells exposed to nanosecond-pulsed electrical fields. The crux of his work revolves around using radiofrequency-directed energy as a novel cancer therapy. He specializes in biophotonics and cancer biology.

The SMART program (Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation) was established by the Department of Defense (DoD) with a goal to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at DoD laboratories. The SMART program provides full tuition and education fees and a cash stipend, internships, and employment with DoD facilities after graduation.

Roth plans to work at a civil servant for the U.S. Air Force until retirement age—and then he has very specific goals. "I feel very fortunate to have been a student at Austin College, and I miss it tremendously," he said. "I would like to retire from my job in government life and become a professor of biology at Austin College. That has always been a dream of mine."





## Mendenhall Receives Award for Service to Church

**Laura Shelton Mendenhall** '69 received the Austin College James I. McCord Award during the Grace Presbytery meeting on campus last fall. The award, which honors alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the Presbyterian Church (USA) on a national level, was established by the College's Board of Trustees in 1999 in conjunction with the College Sesquicentennial.

Following her Austin College education, Laura earned graduate degrees at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a doctorate at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She then served as a Bible professor in Virginia, a Presbyterian missionary in Zaire, and held numerous posts at Presbyterian congregations in Florida and Texas. She also served nine years as president of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, retiring in 2009. She now serves as senior philanthropy advisor at Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Receiving the award, Laura thanked the Austin College community for "all the ways you have nurtured, encouraged, and challenged me and for the ways you have held me accountable for the education I received." She added, "I wear the ACTivator T-shirt that says, 'God gave us brains and expects us to use them.' Therefore, I am grateful to the Presbyterian Church (folks like you) for your willingness to receive the offering I wanted to make. I do not take it for granted that I have been allowed to serve the church. What a great adventure it is to be part of what God is doing to bring reconciliation and hope and justice and peace."



## College Mourns Loss of Former Board Chair

**Heywood Clemons**, 91, long-time Austin College Board of Trustees chair, died January 20. He served on the College's Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1999 and spent 16 years, 1983 to 1997, as chair of the board. As chair, he led a successful a \$34.6 million campaign that provided a new library center and renovation of seven campus buildings, as well as more than tripling the College's endowment.

A pillar of the Fort Worth community for many years, Clemons spent 50 years as chairman of Clemons Tractor Co. A past president of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, he was involved in leadership in numerous community organizations, including the Van Cliburn Foundation, Fort Worth Opera Association, North Fort Worth Rotary Club, Casa Manana Musical, Inc., and the Exchange Club of Fort Worth. He was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, where he served as ruling elder and member of the Board of Trustees. He graduated from Texas A & M University.

Clemons received the Austin College Board of Trustees' highest honor in 1991 when he received the Toddie Lee Wynne Award. He also received the Austin College Volunteer Service Award in 1997, when the award was permanently named the Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award to honor his history of service to the College. The Clemons Award now is presented each year to friends and alumni of the College in recognition of service to Austin College. Clemons also received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Austin College in 1998 for his support of higher education.

*Among their many financial contributions to Austin College, Heywood and his wife, Harriett, funded the installation of the 70-ton monolith, Solstice Calendar, created by artist John Van Alstine, near the entrance of Abell Library Center. They also created the John D. Moseley Chair of Government and Public Policy.*



## IN MEMORIAM: ALUMNI

'31	Lota Lee Selby Norrell	January 13, 2013
'35	Walter Bruce Thornton	February 8, 2013
'40	Sylvia Healey	June 11, 2013
'44	James W. Bassett	November 12, 2012
'48	Betty Scruggs Burnett	April 28, 2013
'49	W.E. "Bob" Burns	March 19, 2013
'50	Charlie Giarraputo	January 31, 2013
'55	Charles Baum	May 5, 2013
'59	William Aaron Cunningham, Jr.	October 6, 2012
'59	William Brearley Secor	December 27, 2012
'59	Billy A. Erwin	January 28, 2013
'61	Edward L. Wagoner	April 28, 2013
'66	Paul Sabatier	February 3, 2013
'66	Dan M. Thompson	March 6, 2012
'66	Billy Vier	November 13, 2012
'69	Richard Donald Aubrey	July 7, 2013
'69	Cynthia Woodward McLelland	March 30, 2013
'70	Michael Eugene Toon	February 5, 2013
'75	Randall Ray Moore	May 13, 2013
'82	John Thomas Houston	November 9, 2012
'83	Christopher Stephen Arthur	December 7, 2012
'83	Stanley Joe Smith	October 1, 2012
'08	Joshua Dalton Draper	December 9, 2012

## Other Friends We Will Miss

**AUSTIN COLLEGE RETIREES:** Jimmie Hale, who worked from 1976 to 2000, many of those years in the Business Office, died January 28. ■ Del Hall, secretary to the president from September 1986 through September 1995, died February 14. ■ Nelda Lambert, who worked for more than 30 years in Student Affairs before her retirement in 1998, died July 16. ■ Vivian Neeley, who worked in Word Processing from 1962 to 1984, died July 10. ■ Carol Underwood died November 7, 2012. She retired from the College in 2002, after working for more than 35 years as a librarian at the College.

**Louise Corrigan Jordan**, 93, died in November 2012. Mrs. Jordan and her late husband, Edwin, were tremendous friends to Austin College and have impacted the lives of many students through the Jordan Scholarship Program at the College. In addition, they and members of their family helped to fund the Jordan Family Language House to facilitate enhanced language fluency for students. Mrs. Jordan was involved in many organizations, including Dallas Women's Club, Dallas Symphony, Dallas Arboretum, Park Cities Presbyterian Church, and many ministries.

# THE AUSTIN COLLEGE IMPACT: STUDY ABROAD AND SERVICE

by Jake Pritchard '10

My name is Jake Pritchard. I live on less than five dollars a day and do not own a television, washing machine, or a refrigerator. To avoid malaria and dengue, I sleep under a mosquito net. I get by on about three gallons of water per day. For two years now, I have lived in a town that you have never heard of and probably can't even pronounce.

I am a Peace Corps Volunteer in Muelle de los Bueyes, Nicaragua, and I would not trade this experience for the world.

Many may think that the only things that Peace Corps Volunteers do is grow beards and dig ditches. The truth is that today's Peace Corps functions in vital emerging fields such as business development and informational technology. As the world has become more creative and high tech, so has life in the Peace Corps.

As a Small Business Development Volunteer in Nicaragua, my primary role is to train high school teachers in my community to teach an entrepreneurship course. On a larger scale, I am part of a team that works in coordination with the Ministry of Education to implement the entrepreneurship initiative for around 18,000 high school students nationwide. As part of the project, we use Twitter and Facebook to engage Nicaraguans and promote the program. The curriculum devotes entire classes to creativity and highlights "utilizing local resources" as well as "ways to improve quality of life" as tools for idea generation. For high school seniors, the course is two semesters long and concludes with the opportunity to present their very own small enterprise in a series of business plan competitions.

The global outlook and the emphasis on service at Austin College had an enormous impact on my decision to join the Peace Corps.

In fact, the first time I left the U.S. was my sophomore year at Austin College on a Jan Term to Costa Rica, in which our course consisted of Spanish language and culture classes. That trip inspired me so much that since graduating in 2010, I have been to over a dozen countries and been engulfed in a global mindset. In 2010, Austin College ranked as the top school in the nation for international study participation by the Institute of International Education.

My four years at Austin College not only inspired my pursuit of global agility but also provided me with numerous service opportunities. As a member of the Austin College football team and Phi Sigma Alpha, I found it important to get involved on campus and in the community. Supporting the Denison Boys and Girls Club, handing out Halloween candy at 'Roo Boo, and playing guitar at charity concerts all come to mind as great service events that I took part in. At the time I didn't realize that I would later dedicate more than two years of my life to service and the potential for personal and professional growth that comes with that.

Giving back is such an amazing thing.

By donating your time and skillset, you may completely change someone's life, or you may completely change your own.

As I approach the last few months of my service, I have a lot to look forward to. Although I can't say for sure what I will be doing in the future, it is reassuring to see that with the rise of social enterprises, companies are receiving serious credit for standing up for social change. The idea that a business should provide a solution to a problem may seem like Business 101, but if you embody that idea and put it into practice against some of society's toughest problems, success and change are inevitable. I have my Peace Corps experience to thank for that insight.

So get involved with service projects, and go study abroad. Maybe one day you will wake up underneath your mosquito net and think back to the reasons why you joined the Peace Corps.



*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; the U.S. government; or the Peace Corps.*





## Is there a way to support indigenous farmers who depend on rainforests of South America for their livelihood?

For the past four years, Michael Luk '13 has pursued studies in international finance and global economics, preparing to work in social-impact investment. This emerging financial field is mission-driven—seeking investment opportunities in funds, companies, and organizations that generate social and environmental impact. That means a thoughtful investment in the U.S. can create fair-wage jobs on a yerba tea farm in Argentina—and help restore the Atlantic Rainforest.

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### **Michael Luk**

**CLASS OF 2013**

**MAJOR:** International Economics and Finance

**MINOR:** Chinese Studies

**DREAM:** To join a social-impact investment firm



*Michael received a Dean's scholarship supported by the NOW Scholarship Fund.*

*His coursework included business seminars in the Morris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies—opening the world to business students.*



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