

# AUSTIN COLLEGE



Magazine Summer 2015

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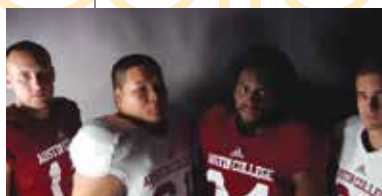
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# Austin College



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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**“ . . . I am brought to a tremendous sense of pride in our College and its ability to expand on its historical sense of who we serve, who we welcome, and who we are.”**



On my desk, as I write this letter, is a framed snapshot of three remarkable women: Dr. Kathleen Campbell (professor emerita, theatre), Dr. Carol Daeley (professor emerita, English), and Dr. Bernice Melvin (professor emerita, French). The photo is a reminder to me of the tremendous legacy our emeriti professors leave behind when they retire. But it is also a reminder to me of the ways that Austin College has embraced and supported women as leaders and scholars and the ways women have, in turn, shaped the College's history.

I am often asked what it means to me to be the first female president in Austin College's long history. Most of the time I don't think about it one way or another, striving only to lead with as much skill and energy as I can muster and not stopping to think about the ways my experiences as a woman shape my work. But when I do reflect on the symbolic nature of my appointment, I am brought to a tremendous sense of pride in our College and its ability to expand on its historical sense of who we serve, who we welcome, and who we are.

Even in our earliest stages, when our students were all white, and Presbyterian, and male, the College was opening its doors to students without the means or social connections to “head east.” And over time, the doors of entry continued to widen as students of all races, genders, ethnicities, orientations, religions, and economic positions have been welcomed into our community. Each of these steps has been accomplished through reflection on our mission and values and in the spirit of love rather than fear. As Chaplain John Williams likes to say, “it isn't that we are Presbyterian *but* we are diverse; it is that we are Presbyterian *and* so we are diverse.”

In 2018, we will mark our 100th anniversary of co-education—a century of educating women. Preparing for this milestone is a great opportunity to reflect as a community on the College's long history of offering opportunity and educational access to increasingly diverse students. And while we have much to celebrate, it is also an opportunity to consider what is next for us. What does it mean to create an inclusive campus culture—one in which reflection on diversity is not merely a social good but an intellectual necessity?

How can we move beyond measuring representation and toward fully embracing the advantages that diversity offers for deeper learning? How do we continue to model critical engagement across differences in ways that foster respect and mutual growth? How can we use the lessons learned at Austin College to repair a broken world? These are questions that will be on our minds in the coming year and beyond. I hope you will add your voice to our conversation.

If you have not yet read *Adding Value to a Changing World*, our current strategic plan, I encourage you to read it on the College's redesigned website: [www.austincollege.edu/strategicplan](http://www.austincollege.edu/strategicplan). One of our key goals is to adopt the best of current digital technology to enhance liberal arts learning. You will read beginning on page 24 about the ways our faculty are transforming the curriculum and thereby preparing students to lead and serve for the future. At a time when liberal arts colleges are increasingly being asked to account for themselves, I am pleased that we are finding the right balance between embracing change and maintaining our core sense of mission.

And I will end with a glimpse at my summer reading list with the hope that some of you will send me some equally good recommendations. I've been recently immersed in collections of essays written by novelists and poets: *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Claudia Rankine), *Bluets* (Maggie Nelson), *The Odd Woman and the City* (Vivian Gornick), *The Din in the Head* (Cynthia Ozick). And summer plane travel means time for long novels as well: *A Guide for the Perplexed: A Novel* (Dara Horn), *The Turner House* (Angela Flournoy), and *The Mathematician's Shiva* (Stuart Rojstaczer). May your summer be equally full of such intellectual pleasures!

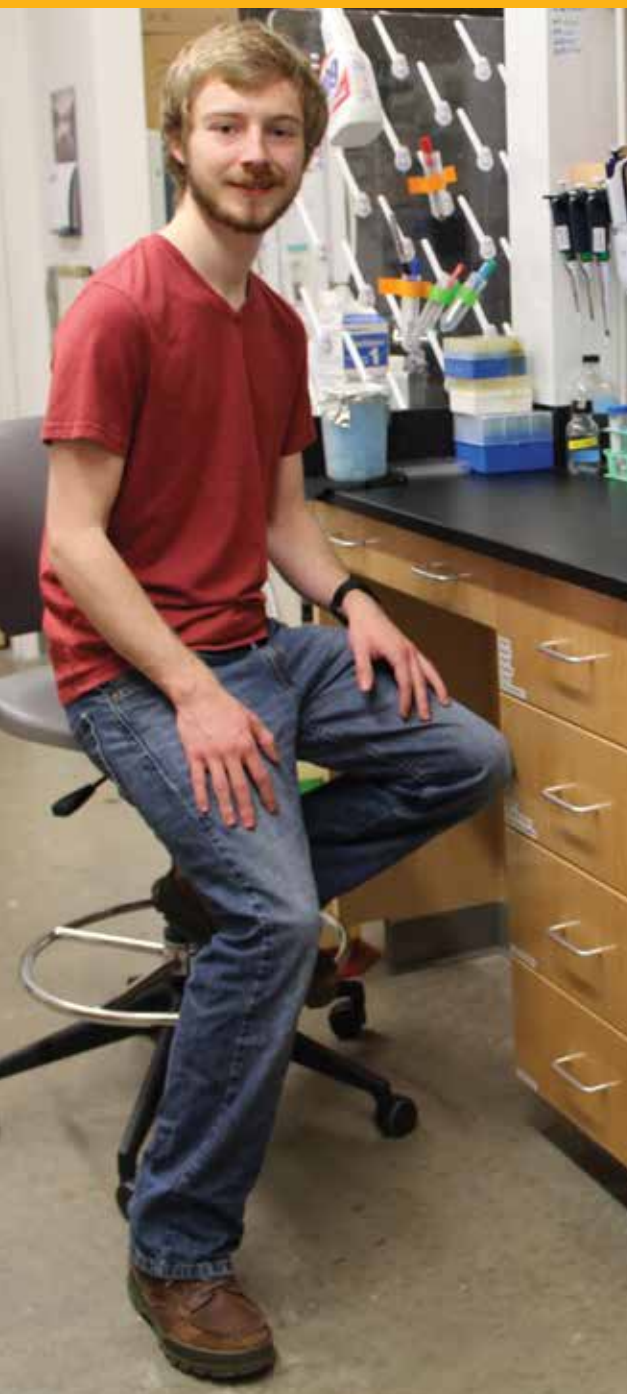
Warmly,

*Majoinne Hass*



# Transforming Lives through

# Scholarships



Scholarships can transform the lives of Austin College students—like **Spencer Nystrom** '15. Without scholarships, an Austin College education wouldn't have been possible for him.

Once on campus, he flourished—and soon discovered a passion for research. As a sophomore, he was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His interest grew with the challenge. After Commencement in May, the Phi Beta Kappa graduate set off for The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to complete a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences.

A life transformed.

When the Austin College Class of 2019 arrives on campus in August, some 350 transformations will begin—new passions to be discovered, new directions to be explored, and new dreams to be realized—because of scholarship opportunities from alumni and friends like you.



**TAKE PART IN A TRANSFORMATION**  
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# SNAPSHOT



## Fire and Ice

Faculty **David Baker**, physics, and **Michael Fairley**, communication, led 20 students in hiking, kayaking, volunteering, and standing in awe during the course “Iceland: Fire and Ice of the Vikings” this May. Nature itself was the classroom as the group experienced the volcanic and glacial processes that shape the dramatic landscape. Pictured here, students and faculty entered a small volcanic vent to descend 340 feet **INSIDE** a dormant volcano—via a platform regularly used for window cleaning. The chamber is one of the only places in the world people can be inside a volcano.

The trip also included, among other things, a farm stay, a visit to the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik during its famous Arts Festival, and environmental volunteer projects in which students planted more than 700 birch saplings in a barren area that was once densely forested. Almost all the forests have disappeared due to cutting for firewood and agriculture. Without vegetation to trap the soil, erosion by wind and water has devastated many regions. The group also volunteered in the small eco-village, Solheimar, where environmental sustainability is a main focus.

The trip is considered a January Term (in May); the brutally cold temperatures of the region in January made May a better travel option. **David Aiello**, biology, led a May course to Trinidad and Tobago that included study of Leatherback Sea Turtles and other species.

PHOTO BY DAVID BAKER

# 25 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP 25 YEARS OF DREAMS

BY: Vickie S. Kirby



**S**ome 300 Texas high school freshmen pour into Ida Green Theatre every June, banners waving, for the opening session of the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) Texas Great

Debate. Music is pounding, lights are flashing—and still the young people’s cheers, chants, and noisemakers overshadow all else. They represent eight regions—Houston, San Antonio, Tip of Texas-Brownsville, Austin,

Corpus Christi, El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, and Dallas/Fort Worth—and the teams are loud and proud in declaring their expectations of victory.

The Great Debate program, offered in two additional Texas locations as well as in Illinois and Pennsylvania,

allows students to test and improve written and verbal communication skills, gain confidence, develop leadership abilities, and learn about issues important to the Latino community. Austin College and NHI now have been partners in presenting the Texas Great Debate for 25 years, and that milestone was recognized with a gathering of Austin College faculty and staff plus members of the NHI staff and board.

Ernesto “Ernie” Nieto founded NHI in 1979 to further the educational development of young people, beginning with a pilot project in Austin, Texas. As NHI grew, his wife, Gloria de León, joined him in the effort, retiring only recently. Ernie was going strong at the 2015 event at Austin College; his adult children







Students past and present share their excitement at the Texas Great Debate. Left, Tim Millerick, Gloria de León, Jay Evans, and Ernesto Nieto pose at Commencement 2011.

also are committed to the work—and Ernie expects his grandchildren soon will become NHI participants. Today, NHI operates 15 national training sites that involve more than 3,000 students from 26 states and seven countries.

Austin College recognized the passionate dedication of Ernie and Gloria in 2011, presenting each with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. And, in June, Ernie had words of appreciation for the College's work with NHI; he spoke of the vision of President Emeritus **Oscar C. Page**; the graciousness and leadership of President **Marjorie Hass**; the friendship of **Tim Millerick**, vice president for Student Affairs; and the work of admission professionals **Nan Davis** and **Jay Evans '64** in recruiting NHI students. NHI staff also paid tribute to the late **Andy Williams '74**, Ida Green Theatre technical director, and his work with the group every summer until his death in 2012.

Ernie is proud that his honorary doctorate makes him a 'Roo—and he said that NHI and Austin College share a mission of work for the greater good, and seek that within communities that are like family. "When we come to the Great Debate, we are not just coming to another venue," Ernie said. "We are coming home."

One NHI board member spoke of coaching basketball and working with a 7-year-old who could not hit free throws. "I told him to close his eyes and 'see' himself hitting the basket," he said. "'You have to dream it. Close your eyes and watch yourself be great.' The Texas Great Debate is the same. I tell them, 'pretend to be who you want to become; close your eyes; reimagine yourself.' Austin College gives us the stage to close our eyes and dream about our future." ■

COLLEGE AND  
COMMUNITY  
CREATE  
THEATRICAL  
MAGIC

**“TO LOVE ANOTHER PERSON IS  
TO SEE THE FACE OF GOD.”**

— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

Pictured page 6, Kaitlyn Casmedes as Eponine; page 7 left, Katherine Ailshire as Madame Thénardier; right, Jacob Dowell as Marius; and bottom, staging at Finley Theater



National  
Endowment  
for the Arts  
arts.gov



# ALONG GRAND AVENUE

## DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?

Sing they certainly did in a *Les Misérables* production that came to life at Finley Theater throughout June in an original staging by Sherman Community Players and Austin College, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Austin College faculty had prominent roles: **Kirk Everist**, associate professor of theatre, guest-directed the production; **Liz Banks**, assistant professor of theatre, designed the sets; and **Wayne Crannell**, associate professor of music, was vocal director of the production in which nearly every word is delivered in song.

Austin College students and alumni held principal cast and ensemble roles. They joined actors and musicians from the local community to create a stirring production of the wildly popular musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, based on the 1862 French novel by Victor Hugo.

**Katherine Ailshire** '14 took on the role of the bawdy and greedy Madame Thénardier; **Jacob Dowell** '18 portrayed



street-wise girl who silently loves Marius even as she watches him fall in love with another.

Marius, the wealthy and idealistic student who falls in love on the eve of political rebellion; and **Kaitlyn Casmedes** '16 played Eponine, the

The ensemble included students **Marissa Brown** '18, **Clarice Davidchik** '16, and **Sarah Wilhelm** '15, along with faculty spouses **Laura Goodman Dominick** '98, Julie Crannell, and Kate Boessen, and faculty children Lily Boessen, Grant Dominick, and Sarah McGinn.



Student cast members were among 10 Summerstock Fellows funded through the NEA grant. Fellows **Caroline Hodge** '17, **Travis Kannarr** '16, **Tabatha Keton** '16, **Kelvin Lane** '17, and **Greyson Sanders** '16 were hands-on in creative preparation of sets and costumes and served on the crew for the show.

Anthony Nelson, artistic director of Sherman Community Players, produced the community collaboration that brought together a host of talent; "One Idea, One Community" advance events provided background for *Les Mis*, as the musical is known to fans. Speakers including **Hunt Tooley**, Austin College professor of history, and history student **Kaitlyn Casmedes** shared perspectives on the novel's themes and connected the story to its place in history.

An early Sneak Peek rehearsal was held on campus in May with the full Austin College A Cappella Choir joining the ensemble and a number of Austin

College musicians in the orchestra, led by **Ricky Duhaime**, Mosher Professor of Music.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH OLTMAN '12

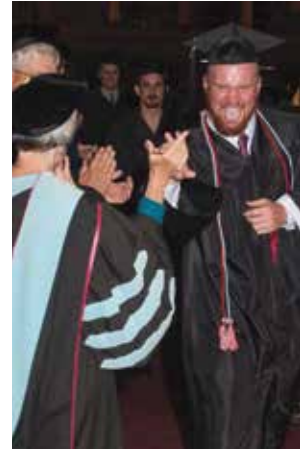
Jacob Dowell—NOW Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship; Kaitlyn Casmedes—Erwin E. Smith Research Fellows Program, Jayne C. Chamberlin Fellowship in Communication Arts, Mrs. Royce E. "Petey" Wisenbaker Presidential; Marissa Brown—AC Community Scholars; Clarice Davidchik—Ira T. Anderson Sr. Memorial Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship; Sarah Wilhelm—Kappa Gamma Chi Alumni Scholarship; Caroline Hodge—William R. McLeRoy Presidential Scholarship; Travis Kannarr—Elmer and Abbie Danner Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship; Tabatha Keton—Carolyn and Houston Harte Middle Income Assistance Endowed Grant, Satterwhite-Worden Independent Study Grant; Kelvin Lane—Austin College Grant; Greyson Sanders—Academic Excellence Scholarship

“  
Education  
means  
Emancipation  
”

## Class of 2015 Graduates Ready for the Future

The rain that devastated parts of Texas in May sent Austin College's Commencement ceremony inside for the first time in more than 20 years. Bagpipes and columns of faculty applause still ushered in the senior class, and the rain could not diminish the achievements of the Class of 2015 nor the immense satisfaction as some 300 seniors received diplomas from President **Marjorie Hass**. In addition, 20 graduates received Master of Arts in Teaching degrees.

President Hass also awarded honorary doctorates to the Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Commencement speaker, and to the Reverend Patrick McCoy, senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of McKinney and Baccalaureate speaker. Honorary doctorates also were awarded to **Catherine “Kiki” (Moore) McLean**, a Class of 1985 graduate who has made her mark as one of the top public affairs strategists in the country, and two legends of Austin College academia; Dr. **Clyde L. Hall '46**, professor emeritus of economics and business administration and a 1946 graduate of the College; and Dr. **Kenneth W. Street**, professor emeritus of political science.



Wallace Jefferson



Patrick McCoy



Kiki McLean



Clyde Hall



Kenneth Street

Each year, the faculty selects two outstanding scholars in the graduating class for special recognition at Commencement, with no distinction between them, as recipients of the J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Medals.

The Kidd Medal was presented to **Bliss Froehlich** of McKinney, Texas, who completed a major in communication studies and a minor in educational psychology. She is pursuing a Master of Art in Teaching degree through the Austin Teacher Program; this fall, she will begin a job as kindergarten teacher at Riddle Elementary in Frisco ISD.

The Robinson Medal was awarded to **Christopher Burke** of Denton, Texas, who completed majors in German and political science and a minor in environmental studies. This fall, he will travel to Rostock, Germany, for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Later, he is considering graduate school but unsure of the specifics. He said that a highlight of his Austin College experience was January Term, particularly a course in prairie restoration that influenced his decision to minor in environmental studies. He continued that study with an internship in Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve. He also interned with Judge Jim Jordan in the 160th Civil District Court in Dallas.

The Kidd Medal is made possible through the generous gift of a Houston resident in memory of his friend J.C. Kidd and was first presented in 1940. The Robinson Medal, first presented in 1935, is given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Robinson of McKinney, Texas.

*Bliss Froehlich—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, Paul W. Beardsley Memorial Fellowship in Communication Arts, Temple Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Christopher Burke—Carolyn and Houston Harte Middle Income Assistance Sponsored Grant, Clara Zauk Binkley and James Binkley Scholarship in Foreign Languages, Hatton W. Sumners Scholarships in Political Science, Hayden Hartnett Endowed Scholarship, The Morris Foundation Sponsored Scholarship*



Bliss Froehlich



Christopher Burke

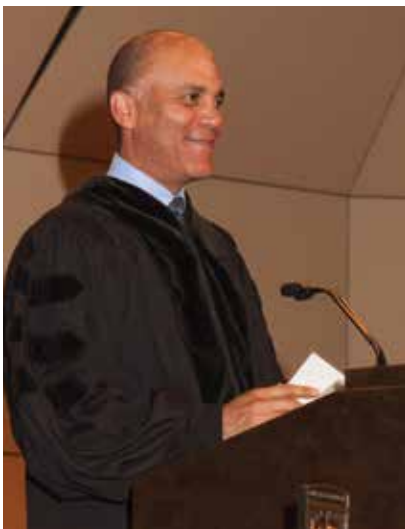


**Taylor Crouch** of Round Rock, Texas, spoke on behalf of his fellow graduates, asking “What’s next?” and encouraging his classmates that they have a responsibility to impact the lives around them. “Now,” he said, “we make this place a bit better than the way we found it.” In closing, he offered a traditional Presbyterian blessing: “Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering. Honor all people.’ That is what’s next.”



**Taylor Crouch**

Senior speaker Taylor Crouch took a photo of his classmates from the stage to commemorate the moment of his speech.



In his address, “A Consequential Life,” Justice Jefferson looked to the writing of Frederick Douglass for inspiration for graduates, quoting: “Education means emancipation. It means light and liberty. It means the uplifting of the soul of man into the glorious light of truth, the light only by which men can be free.”

“A liberal education is not an end in itself,” Jefferson told the graduates. “It must be deployed to combat ignorance and oppression. It will be your foundation to build a life of consequence.”

He encouraged his audience to consider how they will devote their achievements to the good of others, adding that in addition to light, sometimes fire and storm are needed to create change in situations. “You are superbly educated and now going out into the world. You will witness in your lives a discord between the ideal of liberty and justice for all and the reality that we as a society fall short.” Jefferson said that in these failings is opportunity for service. “Help your city, your state, and our country to extend the blessings of liberty to all. Use the fire of your education to expand the rights of everyone you touch. A gentle rain will help replenish those rights, but a storm will fill the reservoirs of justice for decades to come.”

President Hass sent the alumni out with her own challenge: “Keep this place and its people close to your hearts. You are bound to us—and we to you—by strong ties of commitment to knowledge in the service of justice, to community that celebrates differences, and to the blending of a local and global vision.”

In closing, the A Cappella Choir performed what has become the traditional Austin College benediction: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” sending the new alumni forth to take on the world.



*Taylor Crouch—Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, Dr. Frank Rohmer Sponsored Study Abroad Scholarship, Dr. W.M. Elliott Sr. Memorial Scholarship, Harry T. Adamson Endowed Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, Kenneth and Caroline Elbert Taylor Endowed International Scholarship, Reverend David A. Sharp Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding Student in Music, Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship*

Commencement photos, courtesy of Flash Photography

## Corrigan Will Lead Board of Trustees



The Austin College Board of Trustees elected **David Corrigan** '81 in May as the next chair to succeed current chair **Todd Williams** '82 when he completes his board term this October.

Corrigan, who has been a member of the board since 2012, is president and chief executive officer of Corrigan Investments, a commercial and real estate development and investment firm based in Dallas. He has an enduring family legacy at Austin College; his grandmother Clara Corrigan served as a member of the College's Board of Trustees and, among other gifts, established the Clara R. and Leo Sr. Corrigan Chair in Economics and Business Administration. David's family also has a long tradition of community service, which he continues through service on multiple boards and organizations devoted to community needs, including Perot Museum of Nature and Science and The Lamplighter School. He is a previous chair of the Dallas Regional Chamber.

David and his wife, Emily, have three children, including **Allen**, a member of the Austin College Class of 2017. Emily's grandfather Eric Jonsson also was a member of the Austin College Board of Trustees; he and his wife, Margaret, provided gifts to create the Margaret Jonsson Plaza and Fountains at Austin College.

Three trustees began new terms in May 2015:

- **Holly Mace Massingill** '94 is a residential realtor with Keller Williams Realty and proprietor of Lone Star Legacies gift boutique in Austin, Texas. She also is an active community leader.
- **Ron Kirk** '76, who served as the 16th U.S. Trade Representative, is senior of counsel with Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher in Dallas. He served on the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1999.
- **Ann Ross** '66 of Dallas is a devoted community volunteer and former president of Dallas Women's Foundation, among other organizations. Ann served on the Austin College board from 2001 to 2013.



**Holly Mace Massingill**



**Ron Kirk**



**Ann Ross**

## Board Honors Service to Campus

The Homer P. Rainey Award, the Board of Trustees' highest recognition of faculty or staff for outstanding service, was a shared honor in 2015, with awards presented to **Karen Spore**, administrative assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs since 1993, and to **Carol Daeley**, The Henry L. and Laura H. Shoap Professor of English, who has been a member of the faculty since 1973.



**Karen Spore**



**Carol Daeley**



The website has been updated!  
See the new look >  
[www.austincollege.edu](http://www.austincollege.edu)



## Faculty Honored with Endowed Chairs, Professorships

Eleven faculty members were installed in endowed faculty chairs or professorships during Honors Convocation in April, effective beginning the 2015-2016 academic year.

- **Nathan Simons Bigelow**, the Shelton L. Williams Professorship of Comparative and International Politics
- **Kerry Gail Brock**, the Ray C. Fish Professorship in Mathematics
- **Robert Wayne Cape Jr.**, the Chase Professorship of Classical Languages
- **Andrew J. Carr**, the Michael A. Imhoff Endowed Professorship in Chemistry
- **Victoria Hennessey Cummins**, the A.M. Pate Jr. Endowed Chair of History
- **John Patrick Duffey**, the Margaret Root Brown Chair in Foreign Languages and Literatures
- **Steven Kurt Goldsmith**, the Monroe D. "Bud" Bryant and Howard McCarley Endowed Professorship in Biology
- **Michael A. Higgs**, the J.N. Chadwick Endowed Chair in Mathematics
- **Karla S. McCain**, the Rupert B. Lowe Endowed Chair in Chemistry
- **Roger S. Platizky**, the Henry L. and Laura H. Shoap Endowed Professorship of English Literature
- **Stephen L. Ramsey**, the Clyde Hall Endowed Professorship in Business and Economics

## Faculty Tenure and Promotions

*Effective Fall 2015*

### GRANTED TENURE

**David Aiello**

Associate Professor of Biology

### PROMOTION

*(already tenured)*

**Kelly Reed**

Professor of Biology

## In Recognition of Leadership

Outstanding Senior Man **Omar Husayni**, who completed an international relations major and leadership studies minor, is working for Apple but within the next year will apply for Officer Candidate School for the U.S. Army. He hopes eventually to work with national defense and security, possibly with the State Department or similar group.

Altrusa Outstanding Senior Woman **Libby Wise** completed majors in history and religious studies and minors in anthropology and non-profit business and policy. The magna cum laude graduate is spending the summer as a Christian education intern at First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine, Texas, and this fall will enter Texas Tech School of Law, with plans to pursue a focus in social justice law. She wants to use her career in law to help those with inadequate legal representation.

Both students were active in numerous areas of campus life, from Greek organizations to ACTivators to Amnesty International to Student Assembly.



*Omar Husayni—Austin College Grant; Elizabeth "Libby" Wise—Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, Dorcas Sheffield Wills Memorial Award, Dorcas Sheffield Wills Memorial Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship, Reverend Paul W. Chapin and Mary R. Chapin King Sponsored Moseley Scholarship, Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship, Stephen F. Austin Fellowship*

## Fond Farewells

### Faculty Retirements

Three longtime faculty members who have had significant influence in the educational climate of Austin College were granted professor emerita status in May as they retired from teaching. “I couldn’t begin to take the time to tell you about their professional accomplishments or their contributions to Austin College,” **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty, said at a year-end event. “They have been integral in our learning community and in setting the level of faculty involvement and mentoring that are Austin College hallmarks.”



**Jane White**, associate professor of education in the Austin Teacher Program, joined the faculty in 1994 for the important work of preparing tomorrow’s teachers. In retirement, Jane will stay in Sherman, joining husband **John White**, who retired from the faculty last May. Jane’s retirement plans: “Anything I want!” She added that she doubts that is really true, but she is eager to experience life without the pressure of a busy daily schedule. The Whites have planned road trips for the summer and a trip to Maine and Nova Scotia in the fall. “Did you get that—a vacation in the fall? Heavenly.”

**Bernice Melvin**, professor of French, joined the faculty in 1980 and has served as dean of Humanities and as director of the Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching. She has moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to be close to her daughter and her family. Bernice plans to sleep, read, travel, “never write another memo, and explore the myriad ways one can construct a post-work life.”



**Carol Daeley**, professor of English, joined the faculty in 1973. In addition to teaching, Carol organized several conferences that offered insights on various topics for her students. She has moved to Santa Rosa, California, to be near her sister and family members.

Like the other women, she will miss her Austin College colleagues and students, but looks forward to activities and interests that had been set aside in the busyness of teaching.



### On to Foreign Service

**Jacqueline “Jackie” Moore**, professor of history, has accepted a position in the United States Foreign Service as part of the professional diplomatic corps. In June, she reported to Washington, D.C., for training; she expects to spend her first few years stamping passports, as she said all Foreign Service officers do, but does not know where she will be assigned. Eventually, she would like to serve in Southeast Asia but expects an interesting experience wherever she goes.

While a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong a few years ago, Moore met several Foreign Service officers and began to consider a career change. Though she’s embarking on a totally new journey and said she hates to leave the College, she expects great adventures and is excited about the prospects of spreading knowledge about American history and culture around the world.



## Prestigious Honors

### 15 Years, 31 Fulbright Awards

Since 2000, Austin College students have been awarded 31 Fulbright grants for assignments around the globe. That number includes three English Teaching Assistantship awards for 2015-2016, presented to **Christopher Burke '15** in Germany; **Brittney Connor '14** in Columbia; and **Sameen Wajid '13** in Malaysia.



**Christopher Burke '15**



**Brittney Connor '14**



**Sameen Wajid '13**

**Christopher Burke '15** developed a love of German language and culture in high school, and he continued that study at Austin College, highlighted by a study abroad semester in Berlin. His positive experience there prompted him to apply for a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Germany, having discovered how interacting with individuals from other countries can cause people to “learn about and bond with one another, despite their differences, thus challenging ignorance and intolerance through education,” he said. “We as individuals and as societies can stand to learn from each other when we tear down the boundaries that separate us. This award will provide me with the exciting opportunity to continue studying a language and country for which I have developed a passion, and to share my love of learning languages with others” as he shares his own language and culture. He takes inspiration from the high school teacher who taught him to love language learning.

Christopher plans to seek out opportunities to engage with the local community, focusing on learning about local government and politics, in keeping with his academic interests in foreign relations and social and environmental policy.

**Brittney Connor '14** will teach at the Universidad de Valle in Cali, Colombia. Since graduating last year, she worked as a regional site coordinator for Reading Partners in Dallas ISD, a one-to-one reading intervention program for elementary school students. She also volunteered for Friends of Wednesday's Child, a non-profit that provides educational opportunities for children in foster care. Having been in foster care herself, she delivered a poignant speech at the group's spring banquet, nearly upstaging keynote speaker former first lady Laura Bush, by one media report.

During a semester abroad in Chile while at Austin College, Brittney found a home she is happy to return to through the Fulbright program. “I stepped off the plane in a foreign country

where they spoke a different language yet I felt brave and empowered, and I realized that I looked like everyone else,” she said. “Most Chileans assumed that I was Latina without asking; they skipped the awkward questions about my parents and my background. Instead, they readily accepted me.”

“Teaching is the other way that I define myself,” Brittney said. “I am Mexican, a Latina, and a teacher. I love spending my day making learning fun, interesting, and filled with moments of discovery for my students. Even more so, I love giving my students the power to educate themselves, so that no one can take that away from them.”

**Sameen Wajid '13** will teach English in Malaysia from January through November 2016. “As a second-generation Pakistani-American, I know firsthand how learning a second language expands one's ability to communicate ideas, realities, dreams, and expectations,” she wrote in her application materials. “Combined with knowing how difficult it can be to learn English, I'm pursuing the opportunity because I want to make a difference in students' lives by helping provide the gift of language, which was generously given to me. I'm also drawn to this opportunity because of what my students and the community in Malaysia would teach me through their culture and traditions.” Sameen plans to combine her passions for education, service, and cultural immersion by volunteering with the Child Information, Learning, and Development Centre to focus on combatting the increasing school dropout rate in the country.

Since graduating from Austin College, Sameen has worked as a marketing associate at the Commit! Partnership, a Dallas-based education nonprofit. “I believe students can be the greatest teachers in respect to cultural awareness and understanding, and I am looking forward not only to be a teacher in Malaysia but also to be an active learner.”

## Giving Thanks

Austin College students, faculty, and staff recognized STOP Day during the spring term, with the message “Starting Today, Others Pay.”

Members of the student ambassador program STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow) handed out business-card-sized messages that explained that students’ tuition dollars paid for their Austin College education only through the 11th day of Spring Term 2015, February 17. The remainder of the College’s operating budget for the academic year came from donations from alumni, friends, parents, foundations, staff, and faculty, STAT students explained. And, to relay the message in a way that college students



would take notice, the group handed out cookies decorated to show the 40 percent of the budget made up by donations.

A few weeks later, STAT hosted Philanthropy Week, in which they share with their fellow students the tremendous impact of others’ generosity upon their education, as well as the place of philanthropy and volunteerism in an engaged life. During the week, alumni and friends offered input on their own work with nonprofits and why generosity is important in their lives.



## Applause for Staff Accomplishments

**Victoria Hughes**, Austin College associate director of alumni communications in the Institutional Advancement Division, received the CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) Southwest District IV Rising Star Award at the district conference in Austin this spring.



The Rising Star Award recognizes the accomplishments of advancement professionals in the field for five years or less whose early success promises future leadership and development and who exhibit enthusiasm for advancement and volunteer service through involvement in CASE. Victoria has served on several CASE conference planning committees and as a member of the CASE Board of Directors. She is beginning her second two-year term as director for website and new media on the board. Victoria has been a member of the Austin College Institutional Advancement staff since 2006.

Austin College’s Institutional Advancement team also received three awards in the CASE District IV competition: Gold Award, *Student-Produced Video: Football Uniform Reveal* (see page 23); Silver Award, *Alumni Programming: ‘Roos Who Write alumni writers conference*, and Bronze Award, *Fundraising Campaign: “The Journey Continues,”* social media and email campaign in June 2014.

**Dr. Dawn Remmers**, Austin College executive director of institutional research and college registrar, is one of 28



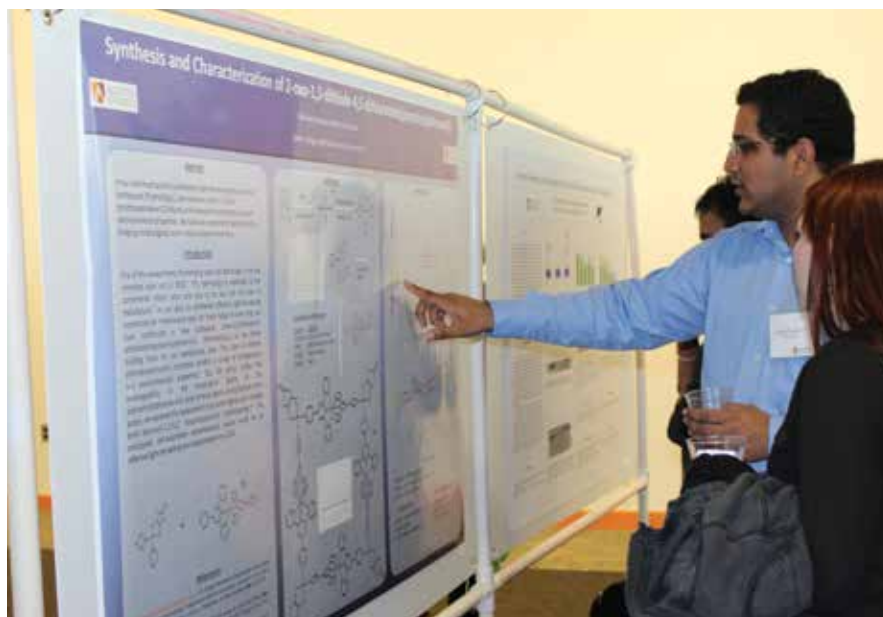
administrators in higher education across the country selected by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) to participate in a year-long Senior Leadership Academy. The academy, co-sponsored by CIC and the American Academic Leadership Institute, is designed to prepare prospective mid-level leaders in any division of independent higher education to assume chief officer positions. Remmers joined the Austin College staff in February 2014.

Austin College **Chaplain John Williams** ’84 was honored by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in February with the Austin Seminary Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Church. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the seminary in 1987. See more details on John’s career in alumni news on page 36.





## Student Scholarship Conference



The third annual Austin College Student Scholarship Conference this February included the academic work of nearly 200 students. Sponsored by the Robert and Joyce Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching, the conference brought together “in the spirit of the liberal arts, the intellectual stimulation of academic pursuit with the thrill of creative expression,” said conference coordinator **Lance Barton**, associate professor of biology.

The conference included poster symposia; performance from theatre playwrights; an improvisation troupe performance; media studies productions; bilingual stage readings; presentations from business startup entrepreneurial groups; chamber music performances; a reading of student-written pieces; and individual research presentations.

Barton said the conference helps to develop a more vibrant intellectual community, particularly as students engage with their peers about the work they do and the research process, and supports the campus focus on learning through discovery. The 2015 conference, he said, was nearly 50 percent larger than the previous year, and he estimated that attendance for all events also doubled, with some 800 audience members. More than 40 faculty sponsored at least one presentation. Joining Barton on the ACSC Faculty Committee were **Nathan Bigelow**, political science; **Aaron Block**, computer science and mathematics; **Renee Countryman**, psychology; **Carol Daeley**, English; **Ricky Duhaime**, music; **Kirk Everist**, theatre; **Mark Monroe**, art; and **John Richardson**, chemistry. **Jeesoo Lee** '15 was a student intern for the conference.

The 2015 conference also recognized the 50th year of honors research at Austin College. The Austin College Honors Program was created in 1965 to challenge superior students in their final year of study to delve deeper into a topic of interest within their majors. Candidates are invited by a faculty committee to

complete undergraduate honors theses, which they then defend in oral examinations by their theses committees. Since 1965, more than 600 Austin College students, including 14 in 2015, have completed honors theses; the bound works are located in Abell Library.

Austin College is an enhanced institutional member of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

Research presentations were not limited to campus. Students offered their work at the Texas Academy of Science meeting, the Joint Mathematics Meeting (American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America), and the Southwestern Psychological Association.



Jurassic Park at Austin College? Students in one January Term course reconstructed “Big Nibbles,” a life-size *Deinonychus antirrhopus*, using original fossil description and measurements—and shared their work at the conference. They sculpted, molded, assembled, painted, and feathered for weeks, combining art and science in all aspects of the creation. For more photos of the process, see this story in [acmagazine.austincollege.edu](http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu).



## In Development: Wall Street Ninja

Interested in investment but need some help figuring it all out? An app is in the works for that.

Through the Austin College Entrepreneur Pitch Competition, 2015 graduates **Mitchell Camp**, **Joshua Stowers**, and **David Smith**, pictured left to right, have co-founded the company Wall Street Ninja, providing a web-based stock simulator and financial education tool for both students and professors in finance and investment courses, as well as general finance enthusiasts. Through the stock simulator, users will be able to create portfolios of different stocks without spending or risking any real money. The website also will contain educational tools to create better understanding and use of investment strategy.

Stowers is the lead developer, and continues work on the project with Camp, Ninja's director of marketing and business development, this summer at the Dallas Entrepreneur Center (DEC). The graduates, through the Pitch Competition, received \$5,000 for startup costs, which will support software development. Financing for the competition and startup company was provided by the Morris Foundation of Fort Worth, Texas, which helps fund several programs at Austin College.

In addition to the project being in incubation at the DEC, Camp was chosen for the DEC Ambassador Program, a volunteer network created both to provide assistance and networking connections for those working with startups and to offer leadership opportunities for those who want to help support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Dallas. Ambassadors assist with promoting and educating the public about programs and offerings in the startup community and share the DEC



mission of creating a collaborative ecosystem by supporting talent and innovation in the area.

Smith is the director of finance for Wall Street Ninja and works part time on the project from Houston, where he accepted a position with Credit Suisse upon graduation.

Stowers and Camp have many more irons in the fire than Wall Street Ninja. Stowers also works as a developer with a startup called Hipstu, a fundraising tool for college students; Camp is vice president of communications with Divergence Academy, a technical school in Addison specializing in data science, which offers training in programming fields and placement into companies within DFW's technology industry. Camp also is a city coordinator with 1 Million Cups, an extension of the Kauffman Foundation program designed to connect and educate entrepreneurs through weekly events in which companies present their business concepts to the local entrepreneurial community. Camp also is a contributing writer with the local newsletter "Launch DFW."

To learn more about Wall Street Ninja's progress, see <http://wallstreet.ninja>.

## Prestigious Scholarships Create Global Ambassadors

Sharing U.S. language and culture and soaking up the history and norms of other countries are the main responsibilities of several students over the next months, thanks to international scholarships and awards.

The awards went to students in the East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) program, plus one in the French Department.

Highly competitive Boren Scholarships were awarded to **Brittany Dimock** '17 to study in China during 2015-2016 and **Brittany Subialdea** '17 to study in Japan in Spring 2016.

Boren Scholarships, sponsored by the National Security Education Program, focus on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security, including not only traditional concerns of protecting American well-being but also the challenges of global society. In exchange for the scholarships, Boren recipients agree to work in the federal government for at least one year. In 2015, 172 awards were offered from a pool of 750 applications.

**Kati Hart** '16 received a Taiwan-U.S. Sister Relations Alliance Ambassador Scholarship for summer study.

One-year Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) positions were awarded to **Kenna Scamardo** '15, **Shelby Turner** '15, and **Priscilla Wolfe** '15. Wolfe was offered a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship, but had to decline it due to scheduling conflicts with the JET position.

**Brigitte Wolf** '15 received an English Teaching Assistantship at the Academy of Aix-Marseille through the French Ministry for National Education.

"A list like this would be impressive at an institution five times our size," said **Jennifer Johnson-Cooper**, assistant professor of Chinese and campus Boren representative. She and **Scott Langton**, associate professor of Japanese, worked extensively in the fall with EALC students on applications and processes, and are delighted at their students' successes.

Mitchell Camp—Edward Stettinius and Elizabeth Houston Harte Scholarship; Joshua Stowers—Academic Honors Scholarship; David Smith—Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship; Brittany Dimock—Jesse H. Jones and Mary Gibbs Jones Endowed Scholarship, Rebecca L. Jordan '74 Memorial Sponsored Scholarship; Brittany Subialdea—Jack G. Berry Sponsored Scholarship; Katherine Hart—Clyde Hall Presidential Scholarship, Wilkes Family Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship; Kenna Scamardo—Academic Excellence Scholarship; Shelby Turner—Carolyn and Houston Harte Middle Income Assistance Endowed Grant, Charles F. Richardson III International Studies Scholarship; Priscilla Wolfe—Folbre History Prize, Goldia Ann Hester Endowed Medallion Scholarship, Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship; Brigitte Wolf—Hope Ridings Miller Scholarship in Journalism

## Austin College Center for Community and Regional Development

*Developing collaboration to improve quality of life and strengthen a shared future*

With Austin College's "corporate headquarters" located in the North Texas/Southern Oklahoma region since 1876, the concerns of the region are certainly concerns for the College. The 2015-2020 Austin College Strategic Plan, *Adding Value to a Changing World*, calls for the College to serve as an accelerator for the cultural and economic growth of the region and to cultivate the unique opportunities that its location provides for learning, service, and scholarship.

Austin College leadership recognizes that campus and community collaboration can be a powerful means to "move the needle" on issues of regional importance. Seeking to build



upon the success of the College's nationally-recognized Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) program—developed in

collaboration with the Texoma Council of Governments—plans for further interaction are in development. Through the SEPA program, more than 43 nonprofit organizations have had training and intern assistance with grant writing that has resulted in more than \$230,000 dollars in funding.

This April, during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Sherman Hall's dedication—built with funding from the citizens of Sherman—the plan to enhance regional collaboration was furthered with announcement of the **Center for Community and Regional Development (CCRD)**. The center establishes a framework for action in four key areas, now in development:

- **The Community Learning Lab** supports paid internships for students in grant writing, responds to identified needs, and creates regional networks;
- **Outreach & Facilitation**, through which Austin College will host regional lectures and symposia, develop business relationships, and pursue regional funding opportunities;
- **Regional Innovation Initiatives** will produce robust regional data, facilitate the newly launched Texoma Innovation Collaborative for entrepreneurship, and develop global connections;
- **Leadership Education** will support the College's nonprofit and public service curriculum and develop professional education options for community leaders and businesses.



The Grantmakers Panel brought nonprofit representatives, Austin College SEPA students, and foundations together.

Each initiative of the CCRD is structured to have positive impact on the social and economic health of the region and provide replicable, scalable solutions for community leaders while preparing graduates of Austin College for leadership and service in a changing world.

This spring, the center hosted a Grantmakers Panel on campus, inviting non-profit organization staff and board members and other interested parties to interact with



area foundation representatives. In two panels, individuals from 12 foundations offered insights on what they look for in proposals, best practices, funding trends, and more.

One participant was overheard saying that he believed he could have paid several hundred dollars to go to a similar conference in Dallas but that the information wouldn't have been as helpful as what he received in that setting (at no cost).

Partners in the event were Austin College, Texoma Council of Governments, Texoma Health Foundation, and United Way of Grayson County.

**Cary Wacker** of Austin College is **director of the CCRD**. To learn more about opportunities to engage with the center, contact her at [cwacker@austincollege.edu](mailto:cwacker@austincollege.edu) or 903.813.2042.

# OF GRATITUDE AND WONDER: A STORY OF SUCCESS

BY: Vickie S. Kirby



The Ayala family on graduation weekend: Top row, Proud parents Mario Sr. and Esthela Ayala pose with their four children, all Austin College graduates and the fulfillment of a dream. Bottom row, left to right, are Mario Jr., Estela, Nicolas, and Santiago.

A college graduation always calls for a celebration of goals attained. When **Mario Ayala Jr.** of Dallas received his Austin College diploma in May, what once seemed impossible became sweet reality.

Mario's brother, **Santiago**, graduated from Austin College in 2006; brother, **Nicolas**, in 2008; and sister, **Estela**, in 2009. Four siblings graduating from Austin College is an impressive family achievement. The feat is especially remarkable considering their parents did not attend school beyond sixth grade and that, not too many years ago, none of those siblings spoke English. Though their mother loved learning, she was not allowed to continue her schooling; she promised herself that if she had children, she would encourage them to study. And she did.

In high school, Santiago told his college guidance counselor he wanted to become a doctor. In that case, she said, he needed to go to Austin College. He didn't apply anywhere else. Nicolas followed his lead, applying only to Austin College; since it had been a good choice for his brother, that was enough for him. Nicolas liked the small community and competed in soccer.

Estela followed Santiago and Nicolas to Austin College. After all, she knew no one else who had gone to college.

Mario, too, completed only one college application. "My brothers and sister had come here and though each chose

different paths, the College met their needs; each traveled and did amazing things," Mario said. "They did what our parents taught us: to work hard. And they were successful, so I headed to Austin College too."

Jay Evans '64 was the Austin College admission connection for each of the siblings—and the family said his role was definitely part of their story. Though he had officially retired as associate vice president of Institutional Enrollment by the time Mario Jr. enrolled, Jay guided him through the admission process just as he assisted Mario's siblings.

Sitting down with the four graduates and their father before Mario's graduation was an opportunity to be treasured. The conversation included basic facts: who majored in what, various Austin College activities and involvements, career moves since graduation, and plans for the future. The time also included moments when words would not come, when tears flowed, when remembered struggles overwhelmed.

The story they told had its beginning many years ago in Mexico. Their father, Mario Sr., quit school after sixth grade and seeing no opportunities, ran away to work in California. Immigration sent him back to Mexico twice. Later, he made it to Chicago, where he learned English while working as a busboy for five years. He returned to Mexico in 1981 and married





Clockwise, Nicolas and his parents in Spain after he completed his MBA; Santiago and his family in Le Castellet in the south of France on a recent trip; and Estela in Paris, the city that captured her imagination.



Esthela, a “beauty queen,” in his words. They obtained green cards and moved to Houston, where Mario Sr. worked and Esthela cared for their growing family. They moved back to Mexico while the children were small, and Mario Jr. was born there. A few years later, when they wanted to return to the U.S., Mario Sr. had appropriate papers, and the three older children were U.S. citizens. Esthela and 4-year-old Mario Jr. could not legally enter the U.S. and were smuggled across the border.

“I remember the day so clearly, going on ahead with just a few belongings, the smell of the room, the fear and uncertainty, not knowing when we would hear from our mother or where she and Mario were,” Estela said through tears. As her words faded into silent remembrance, her brother spoke up. “Nobody knows the struggle more than the family,” Nicolas said. “This was not a movie; this was the real world.”

The family reunited safely to face new challenges. The children did not speak English and struggled to keep up with their school classmates. Despite early difficulties, Mario Sr. was determined to provide his family with a life he didn’t have. “I became an adult at 13,” he said, “and I didn’t want that life for my children.”

Mario Sr. began painting and remodeling houses and built his own business. Esthela raised the children, who always knew

they had one obligation: to stay in school. Their dad was intent on seeing that obligation fulfilled. His children worked with him each summer; he paid them, but hoped they also took lessons from the experiences. “We were putting on a roof,” Mario Sr. said. “I told them, ‘if you don’t go to school, you will do this kind of work. If you go to school, you can own a house like this, own a business, and buy clothes and food.’”

Mario Jr. and his father became U.S. citizens in 2002; Esthela is a legal permanent resident. But none in the family forgets the journey that brought them to this point. Santiago, Nicolas, and Estela struggled with English even after entering Austin College. Santiago recalled a poor score on an Austin College test and the accompanying humiliation. A member of Pi Alpha Psi fraternity on campus, Santiago said that in that group he was able to break through a personal barrier and share the story of his family. “I wasn’t ashamed to tell my fraternity brothers about our lives,” he said. “We were able to talk about immigration and what that means in the lives of real people.”

All the Ayala siblings worked on campus to help pay for their educations—which would not have been possible without scholarships—and some are still paying off loans. None, though, doubts the value of their education and experiences like study abroad. “I never would have imagined we could do that,” said



Left: Mario playing the violin in a College concert.  
Center: President Hass congratulates Mario at Commencement.  
Right: Mario with his art.

**“For our family, receiving an education goes far beyond obtaining a decent-paying job. To us, as my sister once said, an education is a way to empower ourselves so that we can contribute to our family, our community, and our future. Studying at Austin College opened my mind to the world—and my place in it.”**

**MARIO AYALA JR. '15**

*Mario Ayala—Founders Scholarship, Austin College Grant*

Estela, who fell in love with Paris during a January Term and found a way to return there for an internship. Nicolas spent a study-abroad semester in Costa Rica; Santiago took part in the January Term Medical Experience in Mexico, working alongside a doctor in a rural clinic.

Mario, who would complete majors in art and business, came to the College aware of the travels of his siblings and knew he too “needed” to see the world. He spent his junior year in Florence, where he explored art in the cradle of the Renaissance and discovered his own purpose in art. He also spent a January Term in Mexico pursuing an interest in photography.

The entire family proudly arrived on campus in May to applaud Mario’s accomplishments. Many recollections included gratitude and amazement. Santiago recalled skiing in the French Alps and stopping, stunned because the realization of where he was and what he was doing was so surreal. That feeling continued as he was accepted to UT Southwestern Medical School where he began to fulfill his dream of becoming a family doctor—incredible because he grew up without insurance and had never visited a doctor for preventative medical care. This year, he and his wife and children moved to New Mexico where he was named medical director of a family medicine practice in Rio Rancho. “I have much to give because I have been given so much,” Santiago said.

After graduation, Nicolas attended the European University of Madrid and earned an MBA in sports management. When he graduated, his parents traveled to Spain and he took them to one of the world’s most famous soccer arenas. “Never in my life could I imagine that moment,” he said, adding his gratitude at sharing it with his parents. Returning to Texas, Nicolas worked for FC Dallas for a few years before founding and serving as president of Dallas City FC.

Upon graduation, Estela longed to return to Paris and was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship in France. Returning to the U.S. after three years, she earned a teaching certificate and taught at Skyline High School in Dallas. She just finished her second year teaching at Ursuline Academy in the World Languages Department.

Mario’s first love is art, and he plans to continue sharing that even as he joins his father in business. He described himself as

an entrepreneur and artist and plans to explore the world of art in Dallas and further develop his father’s business.

“The education I received at Austin College gives me tremendous confidence for whatever I undertake,” he said. “For our family, receiving an education goes far beyond obtaining a decent-paying job. To us, as my sister once said, an education is a way to empower ourselves so that we can contribute to our family, our community, and our future. Studying at Austin College opened my mind to the world—and my place in it.”

Mario believes his place in the world comes with responsibilities. “I very much believe that changes need to be made in society so that the opportunities I have received can be given to more people,” he said. “I am eager to begin my career, knowing the lessons I have learned from my family and at Austin College will enable me to be a part of the change that is so very needed. My success will mean nothing if I cannot extend opportunities to others in need. Though I do not yet know exactly how I will achieve this, I know that with the education I have received, I will meet people along the way to help me attain this. Nothing up to this point has shown me that it will be otherwise.”

After Commencement, Estela wrote on Facebook of the tremendous blessing it had been to witness Mario’s graduation, the courage and laughter she sees in her family, and the tremendous sacrifice her parents made to provide better lives for her and her siblings. She offered thanks to “every teacher and every professor that pushed us,” adding, “I’m so proud to say ... we’ve made it.”

“My siblings and I always were aware of the importance of staying in school and living by the pillars of character that my parents lived before us,” Mario said. “We will never, ever forget what we’ve been through and the opportunities we’ve been given when many other people didn’t get this chance.” ■





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## LARRY KRAMER OUTBACK

**SUPPORT YOUR 'ROO TEAMS!  
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**FALL 2015 FOOTBALL  
SEPT 5 | HENDRIX**

**SEPT 12 | SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES**

**OCT 3 | SOUTHWESTERN**

**NOV 14 | TRINITY (HOMECOMING)**

**OUTBACK ON THE ROAD  
OCT 17 | TRINITY**

**ROOS FOR ROOS**





## KANGAROO HONORS



Andrew Celio

### For the Record

Two long-standing Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) records were broken by Austin College student-athletes during 2014-2015.

**Andrew Celio** '15, a three-year starter at goalkeeper on the 'Roo soccer team, set a new single-game record with 22 saves during a game against Trinity University. His teammates selected him to receive the team's Clayton Hustle Award and the Outstanding Player Award. The coaching staff selected him as the male recipient of the 2015 Robert T. Mason Sportsmanship Award.

**Brett Moody** '17 set a new SCAC single-season record by finishing the year with an earned-run-average of 0.97, becoming the first starting pitcher with an ERA under 1.00 for the season. The previous record was 1.13. Moody's teammates voted him the 2015 Cecil Grigg Outstanding Baseball Player.

The women's basketball team added two names to the record books in 2014-2015 as **Erin Riley** '14, Austin Teacher Program graduate student, and **Christina Kime** '15 each surpassed 1,000 career points. This mark last was met in the 2009-2010 season by Katy Williams '10. Kime, pictured with Coach Michelle Filander, was voted the 2015 Pat E. Hooks Outstanding Player by her teammates and earned a Slat's McCord Senior Perseverance and Improvement Award from the coaches.



Brett Moody



Erin Riley



Christina Kime

### Classroom Honors

**Tre Stewart** '15 was inducted into the National Football Foundation's prestigious Honor Society this spring, adding to a long list of honors, including First Team All-SCAC selection and SCAC Academic Honor Roll. He was selected by his teammates to receive the Gene "Duke" Babb Award for Outstanding Football Player for 2015. A communication studies major with a minor in leadership studies, Tre is pursuing his Master of Arts in Teaching degree through the Austin Teacher Program. He received The Virginia Love and Bill Freeman Creativity in Teaching Award to support that effort.



Tre Stewart

Andrew Celio—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship  
Brett Moody—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship  
Erin Riley—Charles Curtis Sponsored Academic Honors Scholarship, Morris Foundation Sponsored Scholarship, Brittany Danielle Simpson Endowed Scholarship  
Christina Kime—Robert H. Trost Middle-Income Scholarship, Brittany Danielle Simpson Endowed Scholarship



See all schedules and results: [www.acroos.com](http://www.acroos.com)

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



## EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS

### Outstanding Athletes

Football player **Madison Ross** '16 and swimmer **Lauren Wheeler** '16 are the 2015 Pete Cawthon Outstanding Male Athlete and Gene Day Outstanding Female Athlete. The awards confirm the coaching staff's decision in 2013 when the two athletes received the Tim Jubela Outstanding Freshman Awards.

Ross, a three-year starting running back, earned numerous accolades in the 2014 season, including First-Team All-SCAC honors after finishing the season second in the conference in rushing yards, averaging 6.2 yards-per-carry. He also excelled off the field and was selected to the Capital One Academic All-America First Team, making him just the third player in Austin College football history to earn that honor (joining **Gene Branum** '82 in 1981 and **Joe Fox** '00 in 1999.) Ross is one of only 25 players in NCAA Division III to earn First-Team honors for the 2014 season, and one of seven juniors on the First Team. Ross also was selected by his teammates for the 2015 William B. Traylor Award for hard work and dedication. His 965 rushing yards in 2014 are the most of any Austin College player since **Aaron Kernek** '01 in the 2000 season.

Wheeler has earned All-SCAC honors in each of her three seasons with the 'Roos. This year, she became the first swimmer in Austin College history to win an individual conference championship, taking the gold at the SCAC Championship Meet in the 100-yard backstroke. Her time of 57.99 in the event broke her own school record. She also received the 2015 Hannah Award for Outstanding Female Swimmer, an honor she has now received in all three years of competition at Austin College.



*Madison Ross with President Hass*



*Lauren Wheeler*

### Top Newcomers

**Erin Eckart** of women's soccer and **Collin Vu** of the men's swim team are the 2015 Tim Jubela Outstanding Freshman Award recipients. Eckart was an All-SCAC selection, and Vu broke seven school records in his first season, also earning Austin College's Hannah Award for Outstanding Male Swimmer.

*Lauren Wheeler—Mary Wright Presidential Scholarship  
Madison Ross—Austin College Campus Club Scholarship, Emily A. Coe Memorial Scholarship,  
John B. Hunt Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship, Marjorie Stempel Memorial  
Scholarship, Will Mann Richardson Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and Service  
Erin Eckart—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship  
Collin Vu—Founders Scholarship*



*Erin Eckart*

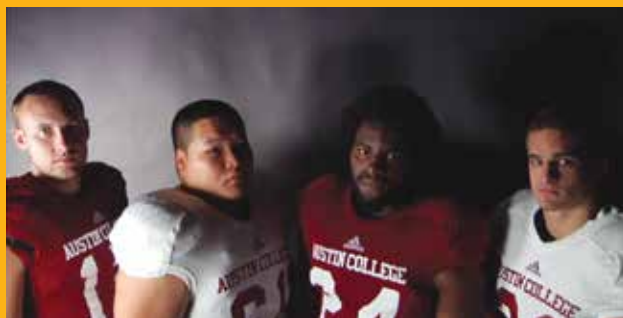


*Collin Vu*

### ► Greenwalt Creates Award-Winning Video

**Taylor Greenwalt** '15 created videos for each of the 'Roo sports teams, unveiling new Adidas uniforms for the 2014-2015 academic year. His football video received a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Gold Award in the student video category. Taylor graduated with a major in media studies and a minor in German. See his winning video—and other team reveals—under Athletics on the Austin College YouTube channel: [www.YouTube.com/austincollege](http://www.YouTube.com/austincollege).

*Taylor Greenwalt—Austin College Grant*



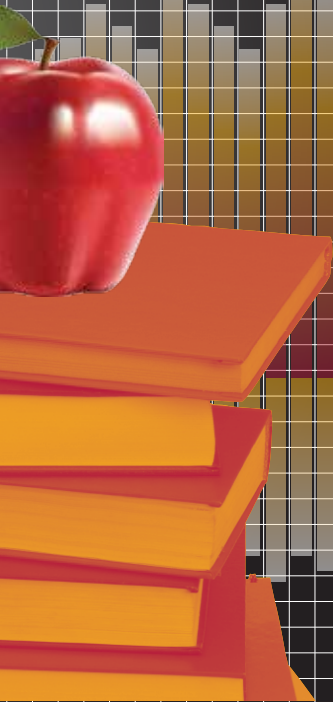
# Reimagining Liberal Arts in a Digital Age

BY: Leigh-Ellen Romm





# gining the Arts igital Age



Nearly six hundred years ago, Johannes Gutenberg invented mechanical, movable type. Printed words broadened the portals of learning, leading to the explosion of books, the Age of Enlightenment, the Scientific Revolution, and widespread access to knowledge. Early pedagogy for the masses depended on the books people could get their hands on.

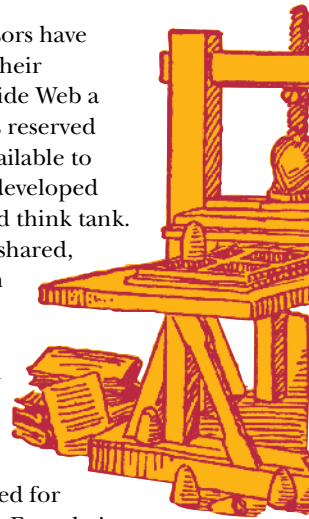
In today's Digital Age, students and professors have instant access to the world's knowledge at their fingertips. With the advent of the World Wide Web a mere 20 years ago, a network that once was reserved for researchers and the military became available to everyone. The digital network rapidly has developed into the world's classroom, playground, and think tank. Digital content readily can be created and shared, allowing interaction and collaboration with experts and peers around the world.

Austin College faculty members have used those resources to enhance classroom learning for years. To explore additional possibilities for students and faculty to more fully integrate technology into the liberal arts classroom, Austin College applied for and received a \$500,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant in spring 2014 to support "Collaborative Pedagogies in the Digital Age."

The investment enables Austin College to take a significant step forward in one area of its strategic plan: expanded access to traditional and new communication technologies. "We must better harness today's students' familiarity with technology for pedagogical purposes and equip them to serve and lead in a digitally connected, globally linked, and rapidly changing world," said Austin College President **Marjorie Hass**. "This Mellon grant gives our faculty and students the training and tools to collaborate more effectively with each other and with local and global partners."

One year into the Mellon grant period, the digital pedagogy initiative is yielding positive results for the first round of grant recipients. Fifteen faculty grantees—representing the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences—proposed projects to enhance their courses. The grant provides funding for hardware, software, training, and faculty stipends.

**Patrick Duffey**, professor of Spanish and director of the Mellon initiative, said that before the College received the grant, several individual faculty had incorporated digital resources into their courses, but "we knew many more options were possible," he said. "The grant strengthens our foundation for teaching and learning in the 21st century."





**"It's important to note that our focus is not on technology itself. The focus is the deeper learning that can happen *because of* technology—and that can be transformational for a school like Austin College, where students are partners in the learning process."**

**DR. MORRIS "MO" PELZEL**  
*Austin College Digital Pedagogy Designer*

A key component of the College's Mellon grant was the hiring of a full-time digital pedagogy designer. In this role, Dr. **Morris "Mo" Pelzel** consults with faculty members, advises them about digital tools and applications, and helps them implement new teaching strategies and practices. A professor of religious studies for many years, he increasingly used digital technologies in his own teaching, and subsequently earned a master's degree in instructional technology in 2013. Thus, he is well-suited for the new position at Austin College, in which he serves the entire faculty while also teaching on a part-time basis.

**Brett Boessen**, associate professor of media studies at Austin College, has encouraged digital pedagogy projects for several years. As one example, he has helped many students returning from study-abroad experiences to share their journeys through digital stories.

"We taught students the basics of digital story production, such as how to shape personal experience into a narrative form, how to think visually about the photos (and later videos) they took during their time abroad, and how to pull those elements together concretely in a video editor," Boessen said. "By doing this, they could actively experiment and deepen their understanding, both of themselves and of the cultures in which they had spent time abroad."

For the purposes of the Mellon grant, Boessen is designated as the "Digital Learning Fellow," a faculty member with significant experience in practices of digital pedagogy. In that role, he complements Pelzel's work with the faculty. "Austin College faculty members have always had an entrepreneurial spirit when it comes to developing new ways to deepen student learning," Boessen said. "My colleagues are some of the most creative minds in the country when it comes to helping students learn, so for them, digital pedagogy is less a revolutionary break with the past than a new turn within a distinguished tradition of undergraduate teaching."

"It's important to note that our focus is not on technology itself," Pelzel said. "The focus is the deeper learning that can happen *because of* technology—and that can be transformational for a school like Austin College, where

students are partners in the learning process." Classes now can include digital content that once would have been available only by traveling to museums and libraries around the world. Students become producers of knowledge as they publish blogs, essays, videos, and other forms of digital media.

"We are enhancing our high-touch learning environment with these technological resources," Pelzel said. "The College is not trading class time for screen time, and that's an important difference in digital pedagogy here as compared to an online-learning or distance-learning institution. At Austin College, digital pedagogy is a way to extend the personal connection necessary for a rich education. Faculty members are still present and available during class time, during office hours, and by online forms of communication."

One example of the extended availability of faculty is the "flipped classroom." In this model, lectures are recorded and available online for students to view and review before and after class as needed. Then, during class time, students come together for discussion, questions, and hands-on activities that supplement the lectures. Students spend more time in active learning with the professor and their peers in the classroom.

### Preparing for a Digital Life

The fundamentals of a liberal arts education provide Austin College students the tools for lifelong learning, wherever they go and whatever circumstances arise. Students equipped with the abilities to make connections across disciplines, problem solve creatively, think critically, communicate well, and navigate technology are prepared for rapidly changing career options in the future. "We want to prepare students to live, work, and learn in a completely networked world," Pelzel said.

A generation that learned keyboarding in kindergarten, today's Austin College students arrive on campus familiar with digital media creation and social networking. "What the faculty provides them is an informed and critical perspective on how to produce digital media *well*," Boessen said.

Boessen's "New Media and Cultural Change" course asks students to consider the impact of some of the major cultural



**“As we reimagine the liberal arts so that study remains relevant and exciting, these efforts are significant to our future. We are equally concerned with the traditional communication skills of students. The Writing Skills Task Force, led by Greg Kinzer of the English faculty, has just begun to examine best practices and study the research in writing pedagogy.”**

**DR. MARJORIE HASS**  
*Austin College President*

shifts that have occurred in the West around new media: print, motion pictures, broadcasting, and now digital-networked media. He said it will serve as a valuable complement to Pelzel’s new summer course, “How the Web Works: Building Your Digital Identity, Literacy, and Network,” which teaches his students to build and manage their own space on the web. They learn to develop technical and cultural fluency for online knowledge creation.

Those courses support the College’s Strategic Plan goal that, by 2020, every graduating student is prepared to create a strong professional online presence. Programs that enhance writing, communication, and digital skills will help them develop an e-portfolio that demonstrates their accomplishments and scholarship.

### Taking the Conversation to Another Level

The Mellon grantees and other faculty members regularly discuss their projects and exchange ideas. For example, in March, faculty participated in the first Austin College Mellon Grant Workshop in the newly renovated Digital Commons of Abell Library, which provides spaces and technology that support collaborative learning.

Several faculty presented short demonstrations of their projects, followed by general discussion. Faculty then selected three breakout sessions, facilitated by Pelzel and Boessen,



covering topics that included video/text annotation; flipped classrooms; student-produced video; open digital spaces such as blogs and webpages; closed digital spaces such as wikis; and databases and encyclopedias.

“It was great to hear about the amazing projects,” Duffey said. “I think we all benefited from sharing across disciplines and divisions. Some high-impact, innovative teaching is going on because of the grant and the work of these faculty members; clearly, there is even more to come.”

In addition to these in-person opportunities to share ideas, all faculty members can engage on the digital pedagogy website: <http://acdigitalpedagogy.org>, which includes information about the grantee projects, resources for digital pedagogy, and a regularly updated blog. The conversation continues on a Facebook group, Digital Pedagogy@Austin College, and on Twitter, @ACdipped.

### Next Steps

The 2014-2015 faculty grantees have completed only the first year of their grant commitment. Each grantee will teach the Mellon-enhanced course at least three times over a seven-year period. (Some courses are taught only every other year.) Likely, modifications and adjustments will be part of each iteration.

Eight faculty have received grants for the 2015-2016 academic year and look to bring additional innovations to campus. By the project’s conclusion, a considerable percentage of the faculty will have been directly involved in digital pedagogy programs, and the plan is that the entire faculty will have been influenced through them. All faculty of the College can benefit from accessing the resources of the digital pedagogy team of Pelzel, Boessen, and Duffey.

The work represents a long-term commitment to digital pedagogy and literacy. “As we reimagine the liberal arts so that study remains relevant and exciting, these efforts are significant to our future,” said President Hass. “We are equally concerned with the traditional communication skills of students. The Writing Skills Task Force, led by **Greg Kinzer** of the English faculty, has just begun to examine best practices and study the research in writing pedagogy. They will make recommendations to keep this instruction current at the College.”

Creation of a new medium of communication—whether stone tablets, the printing press, or the World Wide Web—also creates new opportunities to know and understand, Boessen said. “We are in the midst of such change at this very moment, and Austin College has the opportunity to propel its students onto the leading edge of that change.”

The next pages offer details about four Mellon-enhanced courses. ►



**Jennifer Johnson-Cooper**

Assistant Professor of Chinese

**BEGINNING CHINESE I**

The Austin College student learning Chinese is generally on a mission. They have to *want* to learn Chinese.

Many plan to pursue careers in government, science, or business and need the language proficiency. Others are of Chinese heritage—some adopted from China, others whose parents and extended family may speak and write Chinese, but the student has little or no knowledge—who want to gain understanding of the language and culture. Students of Chinese language all have a plan, and surely no one would think it could be an easy “A” on a transcript.

For starters, there are tens of thousands of Chinese characters. The first of two typical routes to learning Chinese is writing characters over and over but learning only a limited vocabulary. The practice of orthography by hand is slow and meticulous. The second route is to focus on learning to pronounce the words, using a Romanization system called pinyin, and to recognize characters and later, master writing.



When Dr. **Jennifer Johnson-Cooper**, now assistant professor of Chinese at Austin College, was an international relations major at Smith College, she included Chinese in her degree plan to have an advantage in the world market. While learning through traditional methods and seeing success, she changed her plans and her major. She fully immersed in Chinese language and culture while studying in Beijing and later on a Fulbright experience. Immersion takes away the safety net and requires any language student to embrace or be left behind.

At home, Johnson-Cooper's own young son is busy learning language for the first time. She observes his great joy as he soaks up words and communicates ideas.

She wants to see that same joy as her Chinese students advance in their learning. She hopes to create delight, play even, through the introduction of digital tools that will support success and its accompanying satisfaction as students master new levels of the very difficult language.

Languages are learned through speaking, hearing, writing, and reading. The textbook *Chinese for Tomorrow* has added a fifth element: typing, and uses computer input to allow beginning students to acquire vocabulary earlier in the process.

In Johnson-Cooper's class, students learn a Chinese word by pronouncing it phonetically, such as *ni-hao* for hello. Then, they type a Romanized spelling of the pronunciation. Software translates the Romanization to Chinese character options, and the students choose the correct one. Johnson-Cooper quizzes by this process daily through Moodle, a course management system. If students' choices are incorrect, they immediately know it is time for review.

Johnson-Cooper also uses a flipped classroom model in which students listen to some of her recorded lectures outside the classroom and then convene during scheduled class time for practice and questions. Through her video lectures and with input from advanced Chinese-language students, Johnson-Cooper is creating a hybrid online curriculum and textbook for Chinese language instruction.

## MUSIC HISTORY II AND CLASSROOM SALON

When **Daniel Dominick**, associate professor of music, teaches Music History II, he makes the assignment: “Listen to 1.5 hours of music per week relating to what is presented in class. Make annotations.” The results a few semesters ago: A stack of notebooks with lists of music and vague references to moments in each piece: “About 2 minutes in ...” or “After the refrain ...” That was really the best that could be done with paper and pen.

Now, the assignment includes instructions for Classroom Salon, a teaching platform that allows students to precisely annotate impressions and ideas at exact moments in the music. Each student sets up a Salon and uploads their chosen pieces. **Dylan Guthrie** ’17 said the system is very organized. “You could put all of the pieces you listened to in the same place and make specific comments at exact points in the music,” he said. “It was especially helpful when we were listening to pieces in the Classical period and could talk about form.”

The first run with Classroom Salon has had some clear advantages. The faculty member quickly can tell by a student’s annotations if learning is taking place. “Professor Dominick easily was able to point out where we made mistakes and also when we made correct comments,” Guthrie said. “It reinforced the learning from the classroom.”

In previous terms, Dominick may not have been familiar with a student’s particular chosen piece—now, he hears the specific piece and exactly the same performance of it. He finds that students tend to be more thorough in their annotations because they comment in “real time” rather than retrospectively. “Classroom Salon improved the time I spent on my required listening journal because not only was I able to comment at the relevant point in the music, but the music would stop so that I had time to complete my thought,” **Megan Daugherty** ’16 said. “As soon as I completed that comment and pressed enter, the music resumed. Now that I have worked with Salon, I cannot imagine doing the listening journal any other way; it is very user-friendly.”

With all new things, however, a learning curve exists. That 1.5 hours of music per week multiplied by several students adds up to hours and hours of music for Dominick to review as he assesses student notations. He is confident, however, that this will work out as he and students learn to better organize the music within Salon. And, the new system has other benefits. “Classroom Salon also allows you to get precise feedback from the professor,” Guthrie said.

During class time, Dominick uses multi-media presentations to put music in context with history, architecture, and literature. “When I was a student, the professor stood at the front of class in a jacket with a pipe and lectured,” Dominick said. “There were no other choices, but it fit my learning style well enough. And I already loved music history.”

Now, with so much supporting multi-media material available, he said professors can make the experience even richer by providing images, related clips, recordings, and expanded material. Through the Mellon grant, Dominick added a higher quality projection system and screen to his classroom to make this possible on a larger scale. No longer must students imagine the interior of an important opera house; they practically “go there” from the classroom. They can see the faces of composers, scan the pages of original scores—and soak up all that music has to offer.

**Daniel Dominick**

Associate Professor of Music



*Dylan Guthrie—Dean's Scholarship, Music Scholarship*

*Megan Daugherty—Patricia H. Florence Sponsored Scholarship, Opal Carlton Sponsored Scholarship*

**Ian MacFarlane**

Assistant Professor of Psychology

**PSYCHOLOGY 101**

Dr. **Ian MacFarlane** loves teaching General Psychology. The assistant professor tells his students the class is somewhat like ordering the hors d'oeuvres menu at a restaurant: they will get a taste of many things but likely won't get "full." He is able to introduce studies with counterintuitive results that start his students thinking about the complexity of human behavior. He thinks the quick pace of the broad course makes it one of the most challenging in the department, so he sought a way for students to interact with material outside the classroom, which helps them remember better and reflect more clearly on a personal level.

In an early attempt to generate interaction, MacFarlane set up an online discussion board where students watched an assigned video or read a passage, then posted responses, commenting back and forth. The end-of-class survey comments indicated the exercise was not very popular. It was a valiant start, but MacFarlane wanted to provide additional relevance for students.

Now on the first days of class, MacFarlane explains how to set up a blog and use WordPress online. For class credit, each student establishes, cares for, and posts to his or her own blog. The required eight posts during the 14-week term offer a good lesson in pacing and discipline. Online material is assigned; students then write and upload their blog responses to what they've read. Many are inspired and driven to work harder by the idea that the world could be watching. **Quincy Ferrill '18** appreciates the freedom that being a blogger gives her when preparing work for the class. "We get to generally react and also present ideas to society here at Austin College," she said.

Although MacFarlane reads entries for basic grammar, he is more interested in creativity and accountability. Students seem to like it; on Ferrill's blog site, "I'mafreudnot," she does not stress about outlines and format, but enjoys having her space on the web.

MacFarlane likes the change. "This lets me gauge students' writing skills while also making my students engage with the material in a different way. The blogs allow them to express themselves creatively and help students develop transferrable skills that can be useful regardless of whether they stick with psychology," he said. The next step for MacFarlane is to get people outside the class to engage with the blogs. "I'd love for my students to interact with introductory psychology students as well as people interested in psychology around the globe."

For privacy and security, MacFarlane serves as an administrator on each student's blog. He receives email alerts when posts are updated and monitors content. "Students today are generally savvy," he said. He directs them to YouTube videos for further explanation of the blogging process. Students have the option to open the blog just to their classmates and MacFarlane, or to make it public.

Digital pedagogy advances right along with psychology classes; MacFarlane uses video in his 300-level "Foundations of Clinical Practice." Classroom Salon, a learning platform that allows comments within a text, excerpt, or video, helps students collaborate while learning. Simulated clinical sessions are recorded for review by the professor and peers. Comments are annotated at exact points in the video and not in retrospect or as part of a general conversation. Criticism and praise are more specific and undeniable as students learn and improve.

"Through peer review, we can see contrasting style and learn from one another," MacFarlane said. "It's specific, saves time, and is a powerful tool."

*Quincy Ferrill—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholarship*





## ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

While on sabbatical in spring 2014, Dr. **Andrew Carr**, Austin College associate professor of chemistry, attended the American Chemistry Society meeting and set a new pedagogical goal for himself. He saw that the flipped-classroom model could be especially beneficial to his students in “Organic Chemistry,” notorious for its high-challenge level (and often, high withdrawal rate).

“Honestly, if not for sabbatical, I would not have had time to let this soak in and consider how to do it,” Carr said. The Mellon grant funded a camcorder, tripod and related tools, wireless microphone, and a robust external hard drive for the project. Carr himself is armed with inside-and-out knowledge of his subject, so he recorded lectures in his office with relative ease. He learned to edit and compress the videos to post to Moodle, an Austin College course management tool.

In the flipped-classroom model, students watch lecture videos at their own pace outside of class—as many times as they wish or need. **Jeremy Swisher** '17 found the new model very helpful. “Being able to watch the lectures as much as I wanted allowed me to be diligent and persistent in learning the material,” he said. “This made it easy to work hard and truly allowed me to ‘get out what I put in.’ Also, taking notes was much easier because I was able to pause the lectures as I wrote something down. This made it perfect to follow along on lectures.”

Students come to class prepared for a brief quiz over the material for the sake of accountability. Then, they experience the greatest benefit of the flipped classroom: in-class dialogue with Carr and other students about the material and guided practice in working on related chemistry problems. “The group dynamic was very question-oriented,” Swisher said. “Students would ask questions about what they did not understand from the previous online lectures, and that allowed for clarification. If no one had questions, Dr. Carr would put practice questions on the board for extra review.” From the beginning, all students had the opportunity to practice their calculations correctly and reinforce their learning.

The videos also help students who miss class due to illness or sports travel. Available on all platforms, the lectures are available on-the-go for those who need them. “It’s possible to catch up in the event a student falls behind,” Carr said. “If students want to succeed, they can.”

Carr said that more than 70 percent of the students in his section in Fall Term 2014 reported they believe they learned more than they would have in a traditional lecture course. Students preferred viewing lectures and repeating as necessary over madly taking notes during class time. Using this model, Carr has had the lowest drop, fail, and withdrawal rates of his career, and the grade book shows students completing with above-average grades. Of the 27 students who took Organic Chemistry in fall 2014, 23 enrolled in Organic Chemistry II. Students are learning and staying. “This flipped classroom absolutely allowed me to achieve more,” Swisher said. “I would not have learned organic chemistry as well if it were not for the flipped-classroom method.”

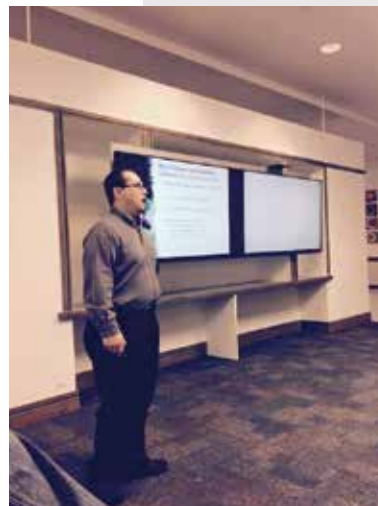
As Carr continues to use this model, he expects to recoup significant time, as most lectures will not need to be re-recorded. This will further free up his time to investigate additional digital tools to enhance students’ learning experience.

As Fall Term 2014 progressed, students from other sections began asking for access to Carr’s lectures. With support from his colleagues, he made the lectures available to all Austin College students wanting to deepen their understanding of the subject. He continues to tape new lectures for subsequent courses of chemistry and expects to make the flipped classroom the norm for his students. ■

*Jeremy Swisher—Brad and Amanda Hammel Sponsored Scholarship*

**Andrew Carr**

Associate Professor of Chemistry



# MEDICAL EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO

BY: Christine Garner '15



One of my favorite quotes is by Desmond Tutu:

**“Do your little bit of good where you are.  
It's those little bits of good put together  
that overwhelm the world.”**

The people I met in the small town of Piste taught me just how important these little bits of good are. “El Jefe,” aka Dr. Perez, is known by most individuals as one of the best doctors in the area. Six days a week, he works at a free clinic and owns his own 24-hour private clinic, Clinica Promesa, where he stays, along with his nurses, Gloria and Rosy. The nurses and Dr. Perez taught us many medical skills that we normally would not be able to learn until medical school and were patient with us when our Spanish was not as good as they had hoped.

They taught me to cook real, authentic Mexican food and how to turn a clinic into a nightclub to learn *cumbia* and *bachata* (music and dance). However, the most important lessons they taught me were not about tangible things but about the importance of appreciating the little things in life and finding humor and happiness in every situation.

Dr. Perez cares deeply about every one of his patients and always made it a point to make them laugh before they left his office. Almost every night, he was awakened by a patient at approximately 2 a.m., and he never complained once about his lack of sleep.

He told us that being a doctor gives us the opportunity to save lives, and for him, the work is not about the money but about true joy and deep satisfaction it brings him by giving to others. He is a huge inspiration for me to work in free clinics across the globe, and I hope to be half the physician's assistant that he is a doctor.

I think I can speak for all of the individuals who have experienced this internship over the years when I say it was an experience I will treasure throughout my entire life. If the world had more doctors and nurses like the wonderful individuals I met in Piste, it would be a better place. All it takes is a little bit of good humor and deep care for the individuals you know, and those you don't know, and we can overwhelm the world.





*Christine learned early in life the joy of serving others; she also has had a long interest in medicine and biology. In high school, she decided that becoming a physician's assistant would fulfill her passion to provide healthcare where it is most needed—and still have time to enjoy a family of her own one day. She has shadowed PAs, surgeons, and a neurologist; during other JanTerms, she volunteered at a clinic in El Salvador and at a non-profit public health organization in Brownsville, Texas. She also was a 2014 Global Outreach Fellow at an HIV/AIDS clinic in Uganda. All those experiences confirmed her career choice; she plans to work for a year before applying to physician assistant schools. When she wasn't doing medical work at Austin College, she was a Sallie Majors Intern, an ACTivator, and a youth director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sherman. She also was a co-captain of the cross country team and a member of Omega Zeta sorority.*

*Christine Garner—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program*

## A 30-Year Partnership: Austin College • Clinica Promesa • The Trull Foundation



According to **Jack Pierce**, McGaw Chair of Health Sciences at Austin College, the Medical Experience in Mexico January Term began in 1985—supported by the Trull Foundation of Palacios, Texas, that year—and every year since. Four Austin College pre-medical students who have good Spanish-speaking skills are selected each year to travel to the rural clinic in Piste, Yucatan. Most have become doctors; a few, like Christine, have pursued physician assistant or physical therapy programs.



Some 120 Austin College students have been welcomed by Dr. Perez. The doctor himself had not been out of Mexico until Austin College brought him to campus in October 2005 to celebrate the 20th year of the JanTerm program. Through that partnership, Dr. Perez and his tiny clinic have helped launch the medical careers of many alumni. ■

# 'ROO NOTES

62

**Emory Glover** welcomed family friend **Nathan Hodgin '13** home to Houston, Texas, in January after Nathan's semester teaching English as a Second Language to children at Princesa de España in Villarcayo, Spain. Emory arranged a job interview at the Berlitz Language Center (where Emory has taught since 2003) and a trial rehearsal with the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church, where both men now sing second bass.

65

Members of the Class of 1965 returned to campus during Commencement 2015 in celebration of the 50-year anniversary of their graduation. They were inducted into the Golden 'Roo Society, those alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago. A good time certainly was had by all. See the photo on page 45.

66



**Laurie Coker** has written *That Little Coker Boy*, a new collection of autobiographical story-poems told from the viewpoint of a child growing up in a small town and rural community in Texas during the 1940s through 1960s.

67

**Anna Grønne Bruun** hadn't been on campus for 50 years; she remedied that this spring, coming all the way from Denmark. She attended Austin College in a one-year exchange program in 1964-1965 from Copenhagen. Though she knew she would stay only one year, saying goodbye was hard and she was pleased to visit in March. Things had changed quite a lot since

## [ ACCOLADES ]



### AT THE HELM: ALUMNUS IS NEW TRINITY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



**Danny Anderson '80** was elected to serve as Trinity University's 19th president in December 2014 in a unanimous decision of the university's board of trustees. He assumed the presidency in May 2015. He had served as the dean of The University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 2010 and had been a member of that university's Spanish faculty since 1988. He served in several leadership roles for his department as well as associate dean in the College for Interdisciplinary Programs, vice provost for Academic Affairs, and interim provost and executive vice chancellor.

A native Texan, Anderson was born in Houston and lived many years in Rusk, Texas. After earning a degree in Spanish at Austin College, he earned master's and doctoral degrees in Spanish at The University of Kansas. An award-winning teacher, he began his academic career at The University of Texas at Austin in the late 1980s, teaching Spanish and Portuguese, before returning to Kansas in his faculty role.

In early visits with students at Trinity, the new president shared that international education experiences while at Austin College helped him realize that "any one of us, no matter where we come from, can become connected to events in the world, and we can come to see how we are already connected to them."

she last saw campus, but she found friends nonetheless. A member of Kappa Gamma Chi sorority, she met a few current Kappas on her visit. Anna and her husband were in Texas to visit Nancy Woodward John '66, Anna's Austin College roommate, in Dallas.

After graduation, Nancy studied French at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and spent Christmas vacation with Anna and her family; but the friends hadn't seen each other since. Nancy said the emphasis on international culture at Austin College



nourished them. "The gateways to the world were marked for us, and we took every opportunity to happily walk through," she said. Ironically, a Texas snowstorm welcomed Anna.

72

**Kay Layton Sisk** (MA '74) continues to write and publish contemporary romantic fiction. Her six-novel *Bone Cold-Alive* book series is set mainly at Lake Texoma. Kay lives in Bonham, Texas, with her husband, **Dana Sisk** '72.

**Carmen Tafolla** was named the 2015 Poet Laureate of Texas in May by the Texas Legislature. Author of more than 20 books, she also is an educator and accomplished performer who has shared dramatic glimpses into her life and her culture around the world. She earned her Austin College degree, then a master's degree and a Ph.D. from The University of Texas. She has held faculty and administrative



positions at universities throughout the Southwest and has been honored widely for her work, which includes five books of poetry, eight children's picture books, seven television screenplays, several

nonfiction volumes, and a collection of short stories, *The Holy Tortilla and a Pot of Beans*. In addition, she co-authored, with filmmaker Sylvia Morales, a feature-length comedy entitled *REAL MEN ... and other miracles*. She is an associate professor for Transformative Children's Literature at The University of Texas at San Antonio and is at work on the biography of noted 1930s civil rights organizer Emma Tenayuca. "Many, many people, places, and events go into making any honor," Carmen said. "I am grateful to so many ... but I owe a special debt to Austin College and the incredible faculty there, like Virginia Love and Myron Lowe and others too numerous to mention who helped me dare to reach for my dreams and who modeled understanding, wisdom, and service to others. The two years I spent there were filled with a special kind of education. Those memories will never leave me."

## 'Roo News



### WARM HEARTS AMIDST THE COLD

While 24 below zero may seem too cold for some, **Karel Anne Berry Tieszen** '83 found warm Austin College hearts while in Alaska for the Iditarod, "The Last Great Race." She volunteered at the event, serving as a 'Certified Dog Handler' at the ceremonial start in Anchorage. She and five other handlers had an additional leash attached to the team of 16 dogs, and ran with them about five blocks from the staging area up to the starting chute.



Due to a lack of snow, the official timed re-start of the Iditarod was moved from its traditional spot near Anchorage to Fairbanks, six hours north. The morning of the race was a brisk minus 7 before wind chill. Karel Anne was stationed about 300 yards past the starting chute to regulate people crossing the race path as they prepared to cheer on mushers. Her day began about 7:30 a.m., and the last musher left the gate and cleared her station about 12:50 p.m. When they passed by, she could see the dogs and musher had found their stride, with big happy smiles as they went whizzing past.

When Karel Anne knew she would travel to Alaska, she perused the online alumni directory to see what alumni might live there and sent postcards and emails to some. A cheery answer came from **Greg** '74 and **Clare (Thurmond) Hill** '75, pictured, left, with Karel Anne, who live just outside Fairbanks. Greg



shared that he was involved in getting the soccer program at the College organized, but graduated before getting to play more than a club sport. Karel Anne delivered a College jersey courtesy of Athletics and shared a warm evening with the couple. "The 'Austin College effect' of feeling you know someone even before you meet them is such a solid part of our alumni base," Karel Anne said. "That instant connection and shared history are some of my favorite things about Austin College. You just never know where you will find a 'Roo!"



73

**Charles Templeton** has been named a board member at the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, a residency program for writers and artists in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Charles is a retired school administrator from Texas who served in the Marine Corps from 1967 until 1971. After a tour in Vietnam and service in the presidential helicopter squadron, he received his B.A. in history and psychology from Austin College and his M. Ed. in public school administration from North Texas State University.



## What's your legacy?

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

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

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

75

**Pamela Harnest Pierson** was named an alumna inductee of Phi Beta Kappa and the Iota of Texas chapter at Austin College this spring. She also served as the speaker for Austin College's induction ceremony for 25 members of the Class of 2015. (Alumni of the College who graduated at least 10 years ago may be elected to



membership based upon distinction in their professional or scholarly attainments and contributions to community life.) The Bainbridge Mims Professor of Law at University of Alabama School of Law, Pam is a respected educator (selected seven times as Outstanding Faculty Member by her students) as well as a sought-after legal expert. She was named to the Distinguished Alumni of Austin College in 1998.

78

**Robert Lewis** (aka Stikmanz) shared a photo at Homecoming 2014 that he had unearthed, showing the founding editors

of *Suspension*. He was involved with the third edition, so the publication founding appears to have been circa 1976. Pictured are **Lewis**, **Michael Ditmore '79**, **Ken Pardue '80**, **Neill Morgan '81**, and **Gale Woliver '82**.



80

**Danny Anderson** became the 19th president of Trinity University in May. See the ACCOLADE on page 34.

82

**Judy Ratcliff Fullylove** received the 2014 Clare Rothmeyer Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Alliance of Information and Referral Systems in December 2014. Judy is program manager for 2-1-1 Texas at Texoma Council of Governments in Sherman, Texas.

## [ ACCOLADES ]



### A CAREER OF SERVICE



**John Williams '84** was recognized in February by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with the Austin Seminary Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Church. One of three alumni honored, he earned a Master of Divinity degree at the seminary in 1987.

Austin College chaplain, director of church relations, and the William E. Elliot Jr. Chair in Christian Ministry since 2004, John joined the Austin College staff in 1993 as associate chaplain and director of church relations. In 1995, he developed what has become the Austin College ACTivators youth ministry, college students leading Presbyterian youth and adult programs throughout the Southwest. Since its founding, the ACTivators program has involved 520 Austin College students who have traveled over 161,000 miles to plan and lead 604 local, regional, and national ministry events involving more than 48,000 children, youth, college students, adults, and senior citizens.

Williams earned a Ph.D. in religious studies from Southern Methodist University in May 2004, with a dissertation topic of "Between the Labyrinth and the Abyss: Presbyterians and Schism, 1837-1861." Before joining the Austin College staff, he served five years as parish associate at North Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. John is married to Linnea, a Head Start teacher and former PCUSA children's curriculum writer; they are the parents of Emily and Joseph.

87

**Jeffrey Vrielink** has had many experiences since leaving Austin College. He graduated from medical school then served in the



U.S. Navy as a General Medical Officer and as a Flight Surgeon in Japan and Florida. In 2002, he completed his training in Biblical counseling and spiritual warfare. He worked for seven years at a Christian

psychiatric hospital in Michigan prior to a 14-month sabbatical in which he traveled to New Zealand and Fiji to work with UN refugees, Maoris, Kiwis, and Pacific Islanders. Two years after returning to Michigan, Jeff started Veritas Integrated Psychiatric Care and enjoys the freedoms of private practice. Using his seven years of primary care experience in the Navy, along with his training in psychiatry and Biblical counseling, he addresses mind, body, and spirit in his work and enjoys ministering to military veterans and to his Mennonite and Amish clientele. He also enjoys making maple syrup with his family, teaching medical students, and preaching in jail and at the local mission. He has a vision to use tele-psychiatry to reach people at home and to someday bring spiritual issues to the forefront of mental health.

88

**Michael Kingan** became vice president for development and alumni relations at The University of Texas at Arlington in February. A



former senior vice president and chief development officer for The University of New Mexico Foundation, he has more than two decades of success in advancement

positions, including work at The University of Iowa, the University of Washington School of Law, The University of Michigan Law School, and Singapore American School. In his new position, he leads the university's fundraising and alumni relations efforts.

**Felipe Martinez** became the transitional general presbyter and stated clerk at the Presbytery of Great Rivers, based in Peoria, Illinois, in November 2014. He had spent nine years as associate executive presbyter in Whitewater Valley Presbytery (Central and East Central Indiana). From 1992 to 2003, he was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in St. Anna, Illinois. After earning his Austin College degree with majors in economics and French,

## TEXAS RISING STARS

Many Austin College alumni are named to Texas Super Lawyers listings each year. For 2015, three representatives of those alumni are listed as "Rising Stars" in the profession. For consideration as Rising Stars, individuals must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for 10 years or less. While up to 5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to Rising Stars. The selection process includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations.



**Brandy Baxter-Thompson** '98, also in the 2014 list, joined the law firm of Calloway, Norris, Burdette, and Weber in 2012 and was board-certified in estate planning and probate. She has written articles and made presentations for various continuing education programs, including "To Probate or Not to Probate," presented at the Intermediate Estate Planning and Probate Seminar in Houston, Texas, and at the Tarrant County Probate Bar Association Nuts and Bolts Seminar in 2013. She also wrote and presented "Standing Issues in Probate and Guardianship" at the Tarrant County Probate Litigation Seminar in September 2014.



**Jack Skaggs** '98, also a 2014 honoree, is a partner in the Austin, Texas, office of Jackson Walker law firm. He practices general commercial litigation, with an emphasis on insurance defense, real estate litigation, administrative law, creditor rights, and health care law. He earned his law degree, with honors, from Baylor Law School, where he was technical editor on the *Baylor Law Review* and was a member of the mock trial team.



**Lindley Bain** '02, honored for five consecutive years, joined the GoransonBain family law firm in 2007. She also was included in The 2015 Best Lawyers in America listing in the field of family law. Board certified in family law, Lindsey opened the firm's Austin office, which she heads, in 2013. She received an MBA and her law degree from Southern Methodist University in 2007. She is a member of the Austin Bar Association, Austin Young Lawyers Association, Collaborative Professionals of Dallas, Annette Stewart Inn of Court, Mac Taylor Inn of Court, State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section Dallas Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Collin County Bar Association, and the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas.

Felipe earned a master's degree in ministry in 1992 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2005, both from McCormick Theological



Seminary in Chicago. He and his wife, Tracy Heaton, are pictured with their sons: Michael, 12, and Montez, 14, on a recent vacation.

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

92

**Jenny King** has been named chief development officer for VolunteerNOW (**VOLY.org**), formerly Volunteer Center of North Texas, where she works with corporations, nonprofits, and volunteers to assist communities and strengthen nonprofits through volunteerism. An active volunteer herself for Austin College and other nonprofits, including The Dallas Summit Greater Dallas Business Ethics Award and her local PTA, Jenny just completed a two-year term as board president for Head Start of Greater Dallas and continues to be a passionate advocate for early childhood education.

**Elon Werner**, who directs publicity and communications for drag-racing star John Force and Force's championship team, won the 2014 Jim Chapman Award for excellence in motorsports public relations. The Chapman Award is considered by many as the highest honor in racing public relations. Werner works directly with the 16-time NHRA Funny Car champion and with Force's rising-star driver daughters. Elon worked



for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks before joining the Texas Motorplex in 1993 as PR manager. He eventually became that track's general manager. After positions with several Dallas-based sports agencies and coordinating media for a number of motorsports clients, he became John Force Racing's PR director in 2007.

95



**Kathryn Nordick** has been promoted to partner with Reed Smith International law firm in its Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, office. Kathryn is a member of the firm's financial industry group. She has represented publicly traded corporations and other entities as borrowers, and private equity funds as sponsors in a variety of financing, acquisition, and restructuring transactions. She earned her J.D. from University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2005.

99

**Justin Miller** recently was named city administrator for the City of Lakeville in Minnesota. A suburb of Minneapolis,



Lakeville has a population of 58,000 and is the fastest-growing city in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Justin and his wife, Dianne, live in the Twin Cities with their four daughters.

02

**Christina Welch Marshall** has been promoted to partner in the Haynes and Boone law firm. She is a member of the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions Practice Group in Richardson, Texas. She focuses on the representation of technology-based companies in a broad range of transactional matters. She is also a member of the advisory board to the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas and a member of the board of directors of Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of TeXchange, which promotes the entrepreneurial environment in Texas. She earned her juris doctorate at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She and her husband, Christopher, have three children, Lincoln, 5; Kensi, 2; and Jacob, 1.



## [ACCOLADES]



### TAKING THE LEAD AT LIVESTRONG



**Chandini Kumar Portteus '00** was named president and chief executive officer of the **LIVESTRONG** Foundation in April. She previously served nearly 10 years with Susan G. Komen, where she was chief mission officer, responsible for strategy and programming around research, community health, public policy, and global programs.

"I am excited by the opportunity to lead such an iconic, dynamic organization, whose mission is clear and direct—helping those affected by cancer now," Chandini said in a foundation announcement of her position. "**LIVESTRONG** has always been the voice of the survivor, and I am energized by the team's focus on innovation and patient-centered cancer care. I am honored to help shape the Foundation's next chapter with the **LIVESTRONG** Cancer Institutes and look forward to working with such a committed and creative community of survivors, supporters, and advocates."

Chandini's background also includes work in sales for Knoll Pharmaceutical and in clinical research at UT Southwestern Medical School, Children's Medical Center, UT Houston School of Public Health, and Parkland Hospital. She and her husband, Andrew, a psychiatrist, have four children.

03

**Jennifer Randles**, a member of the sociology faculty at California State University-Fresno, received two national awards from the American Sociology Association (ASA). The Community Action Research Initiative Grant Award from the Sydney S. Spivack Program in Applied Social Research and Social Policy will support her research on engaged and positive paternal involvement among low-income fathers in Fresno. She also received the Article of the Year Award for 2014 from the ASA Sociology of the Family section for her article "Repackaging the 'Package Deal': Promoting Marriage for Low-Income Families by Targeting Paternal Identity and Reframing Marital Masculinity," published in *Gender & Society*. Jennifer, who earned a doctorate in 2011 from the University of California, Berkeley, taught at Austin College prior to joining the Fresno State faculty in 2013.

**Additions to the  
'Roo family:  
see Joeys on page 41**



# 'ROO-MATES

97

**Dana Baker** and **Leonard Wolf** '96 were married in San Francisco City Hall on December 26, 2014.



06



**Rachel Baumann** and **Hunter Kennedy** '04 were married August 2, 2014, at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. The wedding party included **Carrie Tibbals Rios** '06, **Ashley Snyder Gannon** '06, **Audrey Burnett** '08, **Daniel Harper** '02, **JP Goldsmith** '04, **David Meacham** '04, **Chris Dixon** '04, and **Ryan O'Connor** '04. Guests included **Michael** '05 and **Carrie Simpson**



**Henry** '05, **Sarah McIver** '04, **Allison Harris** '05, **Ellen Currie** '05, **Ross Worden** '06, **Priya Singhvi** '06, **Sam Shropshire** '06, **Stephanie Flores** '03, **Kathryn Goldsmith** '04, **Robert Quiring** '06, and **Brittany Bjoraker Saller** '06. Their specially designed 'Roo cake was a great conversation piece at the reception—before it was eaten!

08

**Danielle Clements** and **Shivum Agarwal** were married in May 2013 in a blended Hindu/Christian wedding. Danielle is a mathematics teacher in Dallas, working on a private tutoring startup. See news of a family addition in the Joey section.



09

**Leeta Faye Britton** and **Logan Batlle**, a graduate of UT-Arlington, were married in Rosemary Beach, Florida, on May 3, 2014. Festivities began with a beach barbecue the evening before,



including pictured alumni **Ebby Arias** '09, **Doan Vuong** '09, **Chelsea Chappell-Cox** '08, **Shannon Graves** '08, **Lenora Hendley** '07, **Liz Varner Strathman** '08, **Cari Hubbard**

**Solano** '08, **Courtney Baker Anders** '08, **Mason Anders** '09, **Lance Frank** '08, bride **Leeta Faye** '08, and **Kyle Clayton** '08. The couple lives in Grapevine, Texas, where Leeta Faye is an eighth-grade, U.S.-history teacher for Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and Logan is a commercial insurance manager at McKamie Insurance. This information was included in the Fall 2014 issue of *Austin College Magazine* but the photo was not included.

**DJ Hardy** passed the Texas Bar Exam and married **Rachel DeWitt** in November 2013. The wedding party included **Wesley Johnston**, **Colin Renner**, **Robert Likarish**, **Britain Bruner**, and **Elizabeth Elliot**, all '09; **Sean Simpson** '12, and **Gabe Vasquez**



'11. This information was included in the Fall 2014 issue of *Austin College Magazine* but the photo was not with the entry.

10

**Kayla Redden** and **Samuel Pittman** were married October 19, 2014, at Aldredge House in Dallas, Texas. Bridesmaids included **Tamara Eskue** '06, **Elizabeth Preas** '09, and **Courtney Pettenger** '10. The new couple lives in Dallas, where Kayla



works at the Cooper Clinic as an exercise physiologist for Drs. Kenneth and Tyler Cooper. Samuel is completing

his graduate work at UT Southwestern, preparing to become a physician assistant. Kayla hopes to enter graduate school next spring to become a speech language pathologist.

12

**Katie Hendrickson** and **Blake Doughty** were married March 7 in Wynne Chapel. Participating in the wedding were **Cierra Wieghat** '13, **Emmie Osburn** '13 (MAT '14), **Heather Farquhar** '13, **Samantha Matulis** '13, **Ethan Tanner** '12, **Austin Sherman**



'11, **Tim Smith** '13, **Madison Parkhill** '15, **Ryan Simons** '13, **Jordan Schell** '12, and **Austin College chaplain John Williams** '84. Attendees included

**Haley Freeland** '15, **Braydon Maquar** '12, **Kenneth Eneh** '12, **Lauren Hill Rose** '13, and **Jordan Rose** '11. The new couple lives in Riesel, Texas, where Blake is the head baseball coach at Riesel High School and Katie is the middle school math teacher.

13



**Jessica Carlson** and **PJ Fuller** were married December 21, 2013, and lived in Dallas, where PJ just completed his master's degree in occupational therapy at Texas Woman's University and Jessica was an elementary music teacher. They moved to Corpus Christi in June. Their wedding party included **Monty Chambers** '11, **Bridgette Deem** '12, **Jennie Tucker** '13, **Lacy Price** '14, **Jordan Schell** '12, **Stephen Young** '14, **Scott Loy** '14, **Chris Harrison** '14, and **Clay Harrison** '14.

## 03

**Katherine Roberto** earned a Ph.D. in business management (organizational behavior) from The University of Texas at Arlington, and will start a new job as assistant professor at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi this fall.

## 04



**Sarah Beatty Snyder** shared a photo from the Dallas ½ Marathon in December 2014. Pictured are Stephanie “Stevie” Demarest ‘08, Tracy Orwif ‘04, and Sarah.

## 05

**Frank Chisholm** became vice president for sales strategy and operations in January at a San Francisco startup called Fuze, that looks to change the collaboration and video-conferencing software industry. After graduating from Austin College, Frank worked for American Airlines for five years in a variety of roles ranging from sales/marketing strategy to airport operations, securing his first job there as a result of networking with **Mary McKee** ‘84. After earning his MBA from Harvard Business School, Frank moved to New York City to work in management consulting. In January 2014, he moved to San Francisco to work for Salesforce.com in sales strategy and operations. He welcomes alumni networking discussion; contact him at [frank.chisholm@gmail.com](mailto:frank.chisholm@gmail.com).

**Gregory Wohead** is a U.K.-based American artist whose one-on-one theatre piece, *Hurtling*, was included in the article “10 Shows We Loved at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.” This spring, he toured *The Ted Bundy Project*, a solo performance that he wrote, in Athens, Greece, as well as nine sites in the U.K.

## 06

**James Kowalewski** (MAT ‘07) was named the head football coach and campus



athletic coordinator at Aldine High School in Houston, Texas, in February. He previously served as the defensive coordinator at Fort Bend Ridge Point and brings seven years of coaching experience

into his first head-coaching job. He was part of a staff that earned three straight playoff berths at Ridge Point in its first three years as a varsity program.

## 'ROOS WORKING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT—AND THE FUTURE

A 2011 discussion of how to use the Great Trinity Forest for environmental education for children morphed into a vision for an environmentally focused charter school—and Trinity Environmental Academy was born. The school's five-member board of directors went to work, developing a strong partnership with Paul Quinn College—and ultimately being awarded one of five 19th Generation charters by the Texas Education Agency.

The president and secretary of the board of directors were primed to take on ambitious challenges—using their Austin College educations. However, **Jennifer Hoag Maylee** '03, president, and secretary **Dhriti Pandya Stocks** '09 didn't know of their 'Roo connection until long after the initial meetings.



Both women are committed to improving educational outcomes in North Texas, especially in the highest-need areas, and both were drawn to Trinity Environmental Academy's vision because of the hands-on, interdisciplinary focus. Jennifer's decade-long career as an educator, instructional coach,

and charter school administrator and Dhriti's strong track record in fundraising for important local nonprofits were valuable as they began working with their fellow board members to ready Trinity Environmental Academy for its first day with students on August 6, 2015.

Jennifer left the board to serve as chief academic officer for the school, which will be housed at Paul Quinn College, with access to the forest and room to grow from the initial 228 kindergarten- through sixth-grade scholars to a K-12 school. The school's supporters hope to achieve recognition as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Designated School by the 2019-2020 school year.

The board seeks volunteers, students, donors, and teachers, and Jennifer and Dhriti would love to see other 'Roos join the effort. See [www.dallasgreenlearning.org](http://www.dallasgreenlearning.org) for information.

## 07

See news from Dr. **Anita Carleo Jones** on page 42 and from **John Warren** on page 43.

## 08

**Thomas Rhodes** became director of institutional giving at Opera Philadelphia in January 2015. He had secured several national grants in his previous position of development manager of advancement at Fort Worth Opera. When he is not hard at work raising money, he spends his spare hours publishing research with Carnegie Mellon University's Arts Management and Technology Laboratory



on wearable technology's potential impact on the performing arts. He has presented on this topic at national and international conferences and continues to explore new intersections of technology and art. After graduating from Austin College, he studied as a countertenor at the Prayner Conservatory for Music in Vienna. He then was a double-degree student at both Carnegie Mellon University's Master of Arts Management program and the University of Bologna's Graduate Degree in Innovation and Organization of Culture and the Arts program. In addition to his studies, Thomas has held internships at The Santa Fe Opera, Vienna State Opera, and Pittsburgh Opera. He has worked at Opera Mauritius and has held seasonal contracts with the Heigetz International Music Institute and the Greenwich Music Festival.





02



**Brianna Burnett** and Shaun Foreman welcomed Graeme Alexander to their family October 17, 2014. Brianna is a professor at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh Online, teaching photography, and

Shaun is a graduate student in Mechanical Engineering at Texas Tech University.

Ben and **Amanda Hollander Newport** welcomed Madison Jean to their family July 20, 2014. Mandy moved to New Zealand in 2011. The couple married in Fort



Worth, Texas, on October 19, 2012, and the family lives in Napier, New Zealand, where Mandy is an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay New Zealand.

**James Quick** and his wife, Mandy, announce the birth of their second daughter, Palmer, in January 2014. Big sister Campbell, 3, welcomed her home.



The family moved this spring from Dallas, Texas, to Little Rock, Arkansas, where James continues to

work as senior vice president for Academic Partnerships. He has been with the company for the past eight years.

03

Daughter Ada Kate was born August 22, 2014, to **Charlie and Kristin Orsak Robinson**. Ada is the couple's second child, joining proud sister Tessa. The family lives in Lewisville, Texas.



04

**Joseph and Olivia Carleo Eklund** announced the birth of their daughter, Lucia Lorraine, on September 1, 2014. See



'Roo News on page 42 for information on Olivia's new business.

Justin and **Melissa Johnston McKenzie**, announce the arrival of Mason Michael on February 27, 2015. The happy family lives in San Antonio, Texas. Melissa is the region campaign director for The Leukemia



& Lymphoma Society, and Justin is the region implementation project manager for Aerotek Staffing. **Michael Johnston '01** (MAT '02) is a proud uncle of the new family addition.

06

Meghan and **Matt Ellington** announce the birth of Brynn Elizabeth on November 23, 2014. The family lives in Temple, Texas,



where Matt is finishing his residency in orthopedic surgery at Scott and White. Godparents are Karen and Taylor Adams '08. Pictured are godmother Karen Adams, mom Meghan with the baby, dad Matt, and godfather Taylor.

Jonathan and **Carrie Tibbals Rios** welcomed the arrival of their son,



William Glen, on October 15, 2014. The family lives in Lucas, Texas. (Carrie found the 'Roo outfit on Etsy.)

07



**Shane and Sarah Vaal Webb** welcomed their son, Daniel Kermit, on July, 9, 2014. The family lives in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

08



Shivum and **Danielle Clements Agarwal** announce the birth of their son, Krishan Yogi, on January 29, 2014.

Mio and **Will Radke** announce the March 12 birth of Matteo Frederick Komatsu Radke (ラドキ 万天旺, which represented his Japanese and Italian heritages) in Tokyo,



Japan. In Japan, parents choose a first name that represents their aspiration for the child. Matteo means to prosper or flourish in the world. Will and Mio aspire for him to do well

in the world and be a global citizen. In Japan, nicknames also are important; usually adding "kun" to the end of male names. The baby is called "Teo-kun." His full English name (no middle names are allowed in Japan) celebrates his background: Matteo represents his mother's Japanese heritage and Will's Italian roots. Frederick includes Will's German heritage and a historical family name; Komatsu is Mio's family name. Mio is a former Austin College Jordan Language House native speaker.



09

**Dhriti Pandya Stocks** is working with a new project in Dallas. See 'Roo News on page 40.

**Jacquie Welsh** was named to the *Library Journal* list of 2015 Movers and Shakers, "the people shaping the future of libraries." One of 50 individuals around the country



to make the list, Jacquie is a librarian at Los Angeles Public Library. From the *Library Journal's* website: "She spent most of 2014 as an embedded librarian connecting probationers and parolees with resources from the

Los Angeles Public Library. 'They call them offenders; we call them participants,' said Welsh, who until February 2015 served as a librarian-in-residence with the Innovation Leadership Program. Inspired by the Freedom Ticket program in Hennepin County, Minnesota, she worked with courts, probation officers, and drug rehabilitation programs to create the Pathways program, which helps former prisoners reenter society."

11



**Stefanie Faith** became the head softball coach at the 6-A Sachse High School in August 2014. She graduated from the high school in 2007 and was

on its first varsity softball team. She teaches physical education and also is the freshman volleyball coach.

12

**Alexander Clark** fulfilled a longtime goal when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in May 2014. He was in a delayed entry program, Development and Training Flight, until



beginning Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in December 2014. He was selected as the War Skills Military Studies Monitor for his flight and earned "Honor Graduate"

distinction in February for performing in the top 10 percent of trainees. He completed the "Fundamentals in Operations Intelligence" and will complete "Operations Intelligence Apprenticeship" in July. He is in the Airman Leader program, having been selected by his peers and supervisors to gain additional

## 'Roo News



Left to right, Olivia and Anita are ready for business.

### SISTERS WITH A VISION

Dr. **Olivia Carleo Eklund** '04 and Dr. **Anita Carleo Jones** '07 opened their private practice optometry clinic, Vision Veritas, in December 2014. They explained that *veritas* is Latin for truth and that through clear vision, they believe their patients can see the "truth of what our inspiring world has to offer." Both sisters studied biology at Austin College, furthering their love of optics and the medical aspects of optometry—and both graduated from the University of Houston College of Optometry. They chose optometry because that healthcare field allows continuing interaction with patients and the ability to make a true difference in patient lives, but also offers the sisters the flexibility to enjoy careers and families. After working for other optometrists, Olivia and Anita decided to go into business together; they built their practice from the ground up, literally. They purchased the land and created plans for the building, a process that took almost two years. For Anita and Olivia, the appeal of optometry is its blend of science—treating and managing diseases of the eye as well as vision correction—and fashion. Vision Veritas functions as both a medical office and a source for frames of many shapes and styles. It's amazing, Olivia said, that a single pair of glasses can change a person's whole life. Vision Veritas occupies a single suite of the building, providing space for a small medical complex in the future, and is located on Prestonwood Boulevard in Dallas. Olivia and her husband, **Joseph Eklund** '04 have a baby daughter, Lucia. Anita lives with her husband **Brad Jones** '08.

By Mike Sinclair '16

skills and learn practical leadership skills within the squadron. Since graduation, Alex and his wife spent two years in San Antonio, Texas, working with Teach For America. He then worked for Battleground Texas and the Wendy Davis for Governor Campaign as the campus organizer for UT-San Antonio, where he trained and managed a team of 12 full-time fellows and their interns to register thousands of students (the most of any single campus organizer in Texas history from either party). He stayed in that position until beginning Basic Military Training. After his regular service, Alexander plans to stay in the Air Force Reserve and work in intelligence, public affairs, or education. He plans later to

attend the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas. His wife plans to attend law school. Read more: [alexandermclark.com](http://alexandermclark.com).



**Benjamin Wallace Elbertson** was awarded Best Poster and Best Presentation among all Ph.D. candidates at the Texas Tech University

Health Sciences Center 2015 Graduate Poster Competition this spring. He also presented the research at a competition at Purdue University in May. Ben is in the M.D./Ph.D. program at Texas Tech and has completed two years of medical school and his first year of research in molecular biophysics. He will complete his final years of medical school after he completes the Ph.D. He and his wife, Jill (Murphy) '13, live in Lubbock, Texas.

## 13

**Jill Murphy Elbertson** begins studies this fall at Texas Tech University Graduate School toward a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and poetry. She was awarded an



assistantship with partial tuition, waived fees, a stipend, and the direction of a Texas Tech professor. This past year, she was a full-time lead teacher at Covenant Child Development Center in Lubbock.

She wrote that the Austin College English major with creative writing emphasis didn't exist when she enrolled, but she changed her major when it was added. She had known for only a few years that she would teach, she said, but had always known she must write. She believes that no greater joy exists than to create and inspire creation. She hopes to encourage others to seek out new and unknown art as she grows in her ability to create art worth sharing. "To study the evolution of poetry is to study the evolution of humanity," she said. "Creating or inspiring enduring creations of poetic art could change a person. And changing people changes the world."



**Nathan Hodgin** returned to Houston, Texas, in January after spending a semester teaching English as a Second Language to children at Princesa de España in Villarcayo, Spain. Thanks to Emory Glover '62, a former colleague of Nathan's dad, Nathan was welcomed home with a job interview at the Berlitz Language Center and a trial rehearsal with the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Houston. Emory teaches at Berlitz and is a member of the Chancel Choir, where Nathan now joins him in the second bass section. 🐾



## IN THE GAME

**John Warren '07** is the CEO of Minicore Studios, a small, independent video game production company. Initially, John considered a career in psychology but internships in the field led him to rethink his career path. Too, he was encouraged by his professors to strive for his passion: game design. After graduating from Austin College, John completed his master's degree in digital media management at St. Edward's University. He then worked for several media companies, but found that most of the creative input—the aspect of game design that most inspired him—came from those in higher positions. Eventually, John decided to start his own company, Minicore Studios, in Austin.

Minicore Studios produces games that are "platform agnostic," meaning that the games can be for computers, video game consoles, and even mobile phones. Every game idea at Minicore Studios is internal; ideas are created by employees rather than being outsourced as at some companies. All Minicore Studios games are made from start to finish, and almost every part of the company is located in Texas. Finally, games from Minicore Studios have story-driven experiences with rich characters and settings. To John, a powerful story in a game is important. He said many people neglect to appreciate stories in games, but he feels that a good story can increase a person's sense of self in a game and cause the player to care about characters he or she controls. "When a player is more engaged in the story, that player will be more engaged in the game," John said, adding that a story in a game can be just as valuable an experience as watching a movie or reading a book, and allows the player to see the characters from different perspectives. John lives in Austin, Texas.

By Mike Sinclair '16

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

Write [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu) to be included in the next 'Roo Notes



## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



I had the honor of welcoming our new graduates to the Alumni Association at Commencement in May. It was a moving ceremony, and the accomplishments of our current students are really remarkable. The ceremony was moved inside this year to Sid Richardson due to inclement weather. Of course, my graduation 30 years ago also was in Sid Richardson; it was an odd experience to remember that event 30 years ago and to realize that in only 20 more years, I hopefully will be back celebrating my 50th reunion as a Golden 'Roo!

We just had our summer Alumni Board meeting and spent much of it working on a great schedule for Homecoming 2015. Building on the success of 'Roos Who Write, we will focus on 'Roos Who Serve this year. The 20th anniversary of the ACTivators, led by our alumna and college chaplain **John Williams '84**, will be highlighted along with other 'Roos in ministry. We also will highlight some 'Roos in public service in a variety of sectors, including environmental and political arenas. Look for your Homecoming brochure in the fall and make plans now to attend November 12-15, 2015.

I hope you read your #impactThursday emails from Austin College last month—including wonderful stories about current students and how your support plays a critical role in student life. One committee of the Alumni Board focuses on Alumni Giving. You may not know it but the percentage of alumni who give to a school is taken into consideration by numerous foundations considering gifts, as well as the college-ranking publications. And, more importantly, your annual giving provides operating dollars to give students access to real-world experiences and to develop critical-thinking skills needed regardless of specific life path.

Join fellow alumni and friends in perpetuating the Austin College education as the unique, impactful experience we all had. **Make a gift—of any size—before the end of the calendar year.** I hope to see many of you at AlumNights or other events, and please do make plans now to attend Homecoming 2015. You won't want to miss it.

**Kirsten Brandt James '85**  
Alumni Board President



## HOMECOMING • 2015

# IT'S A 'ROO NATION *State OF Mind*

**NOVEMBER 12-15**

Reconnect with friends;  
enjoy the usual festivities and  
these special events:

- Alumni College: 'Roos Who Serve
- Brunch with Alumni and Faculty
- All-Alumni Celebration Saturday night at Hilton Garden Inn
- "An Evening in Old Vienna"—Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert Concert



## Congratulations, 2015 Legends Honorees!

### Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees

**Diana Gonzalez '06**

*Volleyball* | Recruiter, Service First Mortgage | Frisco, Texas

**Cory Hailey '01**

*Football* | Associate Principal, Lake Dallas High School | Lantana, Texas

**Dennis Kelly '06**

*Baseball* | Junior Varsity Coach, St. Mark's School of Texas | Plano, Texas

**Matthew Kyle '88**

*Football* | Attorney, Kyle Law Firm | New Braunfels, Texas

**Rick Page '71**

*Football* | Retired Athletic Director | Bryan, Texas

### Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year

**Jeff Riordan '01**

Head Football Coach | Crosby (Texas) High School



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

**Don Newsom '64** of McKinney, Texas, was a standout athlete at Austin College as a four-year letterman and co-captain of the baseball team, a three-year letterman in football, and a letterman in track.

Don's coaching career began in Honey Grove ISD and continued to advance; he served as athletic director and head football coach at several Texas high schools. He also was an assistant football and head baseball coach at Austin College, then assistant athletics director and head football coach at McMurry University. He continued his career at Conroe ISD as head coach, district athletic director, and assistant superintendent, then was named superintendent for Celina ISD.

## A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Members of the Class of 1965, pictured here with Austin College President Marjorie Hass, returned to Austin College in May in celebration of the 50th anniversary of their Austin College graduation and for induction into the Golden 'Roo Society, alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. They received anniversary diplomas from President Hass, toured campus, heard from current students, led the procession into Baccalaureate, attended Commencement, and had plenty of time for reminiscing. Get a closer look at this photo—and find identifications plus more photos—on the Austin College webpage: [www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos](http://www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos). Also find memories shared at the “Walk Down Memory Lane” session, compiled by Drs. Jerry Lincecum and Peggy Redshaw, retired faculty and honorary Golden 'Roos.

## HONORING 50 YEARS AT THE BAR



**Buck Files '60** recently learned that he was one of six lawyers and judges to receive the Texas Bar Foundation's 2015 Outstanding 50-Year Lawyer Award, which recognizes attorneys whose practice spans 50 years or more and who adhere to the highest principles of the profession and service to the public. "I was both surprised and honored to receive this award," Files said. "For 52 years, I have loved the legal profession and the practice of law—and I will continue to do so. A day as a lawyer is a glorious day ... every day a holiday, every meal a banquet. It's like Sunday on the farm, just another picnic."

His 52-year legal career has been an interesting one—spanning successful prosecution at the first general court martial convened by the Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1965 to serving on the appellate team that prevailed for their client at the Supreme Court of the United States in 2014.

A charter member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, he also is an inductee into the association's Hall of Fame. He was a member of the charter class to be certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Files is only the second criminal defense lawyer to serve as president of the State Bar of Texas in its 75-year history. The Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar named him Defense Lawyer of the Year in 2004 and presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

He and his wife, **Robyn (McChesney) '62** will celebrate 53 years of marriage this fall.

**Of Special Note:** Files is the only Austin College alumnus to receive this prestigious 50-Year Award or to serve as president of the State Bar of Texas.

## ALUMNI NETWORKING CREATES DREAM INTERNSHIP



**Anika Payne '15** was drawn to theatre as a child and she made her way to the stage quickly at Austin College. From there, her focus became clear: theatre is her calling.

Honing her talents in campus productions, she was selected to the prestigious Powerhouse Theater Training Program at Vassar College one summer and admitted to Stella Adler Summer Conservatory in New York the next.

Back on campus in fall 2014, Anika directed a full-length play for Homecoming—and loved the experience. "I couldn't wait a whole semester to get out into the real world—and then I discovered I had only .75 credits to complete, so I didn't have to wait," she said, having arranged a Directed Study to fulfill the credits. With help from Austin College theatre faculty **Kirk Everist**, **Kathleen Campbell**, and **Liz Banks**, and from **Kim Powers '79**, whom she had met in New York, she sought new possibilities—and found them in London with **Allen Liedke '03**.

Allen, too, had a love of theatre—since, at 7, he played

the rambunctious church mouse in a Christmas play. He, too, was active in theatre at Austin College, and upon graduating, headed to graduate school in London. He made his professional debut at The Old Vic in Bristol in October 2003; that exposure caused his career to take off, including acting alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in *Body of Lies*. Then came an audition with Actorshop for a corporate role-play job—and that changed Allen's life. Actorshop has multiple branches—an agency representing actors and artists, drama-based professional development programs for companies and schools, and TV and film production. Allen now is a director of Actorshop and upon meeting Anika, couldn't say no to the internship Kathleen Campbell had asked him to consider.

Anika was already in London for January Term, thanks to a Stephens International Scholarship; when the course ended, she headed to Actorshop and myriad exciting opportunities. Busy weeks in London flew by, and soon Anika was back in Texas on a different sort of stage to receive her Austin College diploma. After graduation, she headed to New York City, anxious for new adventures in theatre.

Anika recalls first seeking out theatre opportunities at Austin College. "I was welcomed with open arms," she said. "Whether you were involved in theatre in high school or not, if you have an interest, the Austin College Theatre Department will take you in. It's possible; it's fun; and it's life-changing."

**Read more about Anika's and Allen's experiences at <http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu>**

*Anika Nichols-Payne—Jayne C. Chamberlin Fellowship in Communication Arts, Stephens International Studies Scholarship*



## IN MEMORIAM 🕊️ ALUMNI

1935	Elizabeth Campbell Bullock . . . . .	January 5, 2014
1941	Luine Bryan Simpson . . . . .	December 30, 2014
1947	Mary Elizabeth Foshee Scull . . . . .	April 12, 2015
1949	Silas "Si" Vaughn . . . . .	May 9, 2015
1950	Kate Moore McCord . . . . .	June 24, 2015
1952	Owen Rodman Jenkins . . . . .	November 28, 2014
1952	Adelle Meador Taylor . . . . .	December 28, 2014
1953	Jerry L. Sims . . . . .	May 16, 2015
1955	Marian Letitia Sherard Wilson . . . . .	December 4, 2014
1958	Geraldine Sanders Seaman . . . . .	April 5, 2014
1958	Bobby Jewel Clarkston . . . . .	November 5, 2013
1959	Douglas Brown Finch . . . . .	December 8, 2014
1963	Cheryl Richardson . . . . .	May 8, 2015
1965	Michael Cauthen . . . . .	November 19, 2012
1970	Alan Wayne Waldrop . . . . .	March 9, 2015
1972	Michael Lynn Boothman . . . . .	March 3, 2015
1976	Nancy Elizabeth Betts . . . . .	January 2, 2015
1979	James Michael Brooks . . . . .	March 5, 2015
1984	Russel Warren Lomas . . . . .	December 10, 2014
1992	Doug Nelson . . . . .	December 14, 2014

### Remembering George R. Jordan

**George R. Jordan Jr.**, 94, died February 27. He served on the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1977 to 1985, then as a senior trustee until his death. George and his wife, Julia, were longtime benefactors of the College. The couple, along with George's brother Edwin and his wife Louise, contributed to renovation of Caruth Administration Building and the Jordan family funded construction of Jordan Family Language House. George was a devoted member and elder at First Presbyterian Church of Houston and served on the board of Texas Presbyterian Foundation and Mo Ranch conference center.

### Friends We Will Miss

Austin College retiree **Lillian Skipworth-Bruce**, who worked in the admission office from 1979 through 2007, died March 14. ■ Longtime supporter **Harriet Clemons** died March 23 in Fort Worth, Texas. She and her husband, Heywood Clemons, former Austin College Board of Trustees chair, were generous donors to the College, funding the installation of Solstice Calendar, created by John Van Alstine, outside Abell Library, among many gifts. Mrs. Clemons was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth and a devoted board member for The Van Cliburn Foundation. ■ Education advocate **Robert Priddy**, 96, died January 6 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Lifelong Presbyterians, Robert and his wife, Ruby, who preceded him in death, were longtime friends of Austin College and charter members of the College's Founders Society in recognition of their generous support. Personally and through the Priddy Charitable Trust, they established Austin College scholarships, particularly in support of middle-income students, and supported many capital projects. They also established several faculty positions and provided resources for the Center for Environmental Studies. ■ The Reverend Dr. **Thomas Miller**, 80, Austin College campus minister from 1976 through 1982, died June 7. He served the Presbyterian Church for over 50 years, with a lifelong passion for higher education ministry, also serving at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at West Virginia University, as well as service at Montreat Conference Center.

### College Mourns Death of Distinguished Faculty



**Dr. Arvid John "Jack" Carlson**, professor emeritus of history, died December 4, 2014.

He joined the Austin College faculty in 1962 and served in many capacities, including nearly two decades as dean of Humanities and also as director of the Heritage of Western Culture program, which he helped design. He also served as acting vice president of Academic Affairs for one year. He regularly led January Term classes to England, exploring the history and architecture of the city or social problems related to the emergence of early England.

Dr. Carlson received many honors during his career, including the College's Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service. His accomplishments went far beyond Austin College to leadership in several professional organizations.

After retiring from Austin College in 1994, Dr. Carlson remained active in the Sherman community, Rotary International, and the Presbyterian Church, among many interests.

Memorials may be contributed to the A.J. Carlson Scholarship for International Studies.



**Dr. Cynthia Manley**, professor emerita of French, died April 8 in Florida, having moved near her sister last year.

Joining the Austin College faculty in 1977, Dr. Manley shared her love of the French language and the culture of France with hundreds of students before her retirement in 2010. She loved teaching, and once said her goal in teaching French was to create success for her students in learning 'usable' language.

Dr. Manley worked with many outreach activities of the languages department, including programs that brought hundreds of high school language learners to campus, and later, worked with Texas French teachers. In addition to teaching and mentoring, she served for several years as director of international education and also helped international students attending Austin College to acclimate to their new home.

Memorials may be made to the Wirth-Manley Endowed Founders Scholarship that Cynthia established.



**Dr. James H. Ware**, professor emeritus of philosophy and religion, died May 25 in Pensacola, Florida.

He joined the Austin College faculty in 1970, and in addition to teaching courses in his department, he served as director of Asian Studies in the 1970s. Born in China to missionary parents, he also shared his love of China with his students through travel courses there.

An author of many published articles, Dr. Ware also wrote three books: *Not With Words of Wisdom: Performative Language and Liturgy*, *Heart Sing: Morning Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving*, and *Reading the Bible as Christian Scripture: Understanding the Writers' Use of Language*. He received several honors for his teaching and scholarship, including the John Gammie Distinguished Scholars Award for 1994-1995.

Retiring from Austin College in 1996, Dr. Ware and his wife, Emma (who died in 2013) moved to Florida, where among other roles, he served as a theological consultant at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola and as a parish associate at Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church. He and his second wife, JoRae, were married last year.



## “In Other Words”

### Building a “Personal Cyberinfrastructure”

BY: Morris Pelzel

This issue of *Austin College Magazine* features the new digital pedagogy initiative at the College. It's exciting to see the many enhancements of learning that are taking place across our curriculum. From chemistry to Chinese, music to biology, psychology to history and beyond, faculty are using a diverse set of tools and applications to help students engage and connect more effectively with their subject matter, with one another, and with learners and resources beyond campus.

Beyond all of the individual projects and courses, is there an underlying vision that is propelling us forward? In our grant proposal to the Mellon Foundation, we stated that “Essentially, the College is seeking to change its culture as it builds capacity to engage in digital learning and scholarship.” That's a bold and far-reaching claim, but what exactly does it mean? What is it about the culture at Austin College that we are seeking to change? Are we somehow abandoning our traditional and successful approach to liberal arts education and learning?

Actually, the changes we seek to bring about are intended precisely to preserve and extend what we do best—empower students to take ownership of their education and become the agents of their own lifelong learning. That has always been a hallmark of studying the liberal arts, and, in the digital world in which we now live, that task is more important than ever. As the discovery, production, and communication of knowledge has increasingly moved to digital online networks, we need to equip students to take charge of themselves as responsible participants in those networks.

In a 2009 essay, Gardner Campbell, an influential thought leader in the field of digital pedagogy, sketched out a vision of empowering students in the digital age:

How might colleges and universities shape curricula to support and inspire the imaginations that students need? Here's one idea. Suppose that when students matriculate, they are assigned their own web servers. ... As part of the first-year orientation, each student would pick a domain name. Over the course of the first year, in a set of lab seminars facilitated by instructional technologists, librarians, and faculty advisors from across the curriculum, students would build out their digital presences in an environment made of the medium of the web itself. ... They would play with wikis and blogs; they would tinker and begin to assemble a platform to support their publishing, their archiving, their importing and exporting, their internal and external information connections. They would become, in myriad small but important ways, system administrators for their own digital lives. In short, students would build a **personal cyberinfrastructure**, one they would continue to modify and extend throughout their college career—and beyond.



In building that personal cyberinfrastructure, students not only would acquire crucial technical skills for their digital lives but also would engage in work that provides richly teachable moments ranging from multimodal writing to information science, knowledge management, bibliographic instruction, and social networking. ... Students with this kind of digital fluency will be well-prepared for creative and responsible leadership in the post-Gutenberg age. Without such fluency, students cannot compete economically or intellectually, and the astonishing promise of the digital medium will never be fully realized. [Gardner Campbell, “A Personal Cyberinfrastructure,” *EDUCAUSE Review*, vol. 44, no. 5 (September/October 2009): 58–59.]

Campbell's articulation of a “personal cyberinfrastructure” has become a touchstone for the direction of pedagogy today and represents the cultural change that we are working toward at Austin College. We want to encourage our faculty and students not only to bring digital tools into their classrooms and courses but to establish themselves with a professional academic presence and portfolio in the online world. In the coming year and beyond, we will move to provide our community with the resources to make this possible.

Learning and scholarship on the web is **open, connected, and augmented**. As much as possible, inquiry, study, and publication should be open and accessible to the widest possible audience, preferably to the entire world. This creates opportunities for spontaneous connections, serendipitous collaborations, and unplanned discoveries. For example, a student blog post or portfolio item could be seen by someone with expertise in a given field who offers the student constructive feedback or even a professional opportunity. Openness and connectivity thus augment our intelligence; participating in networks of learning and practice amplifies what our minds are capable of.

Austin College students are renowned among other things for their global outreach and learning. The digital pedagogy initiative represents a further immersion into global networks and the World Wide Web. With a personal cyberinfrastructure, students will be well-situated to continue a long tradition of innovative learning. ■

*Morris “Mo” Pelzel joined the Austin College community this year as digital pedagogy designer.*

*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.*

# AT AUSTIN COLLEGE, THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM.



Whether reflecting over a Mexican landscape, examining cancer causes in biology research, or making decisions for the \$1 million Student Investment Fund, Austin College students are involved in real-world learning that prepares them to be engaged global citizens.



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## NEW ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Some 300 new Austin College alumni boldly faced the world in May—thanks, in great part, to the generosity that helped provide the excellent educational experience that empowered them. Soon, the Class of 2019 will begin the adventure of learning.

Make a gift today to support  
tomorrow's alumni:  
[www.austincollege.edu/giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/giving)

Accepted to Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, **Kristofer Taylor** '15 deferred admission for one year to work and travel. Shown with his proud parents during Commencement weekend, he obviously is equipped to be recognized as a 'Roo wherever his future takes him.

*Kristofer Taylor—Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, Dr. Paul E. Geers Award for Excellence in Pre-Medical Achievement*

