AUSTRALISTICS AU

'ROO NATION AT HOME PAGE 6

MAKING A DIFFERENCE N THE NATURAL WORLD



THE MENTOR ADVANTAGE PAGE 16

'ROOS WHO WRITE

ALUMNI AUTHORS SHARE THEIR MOTIVATION

IN THIS ISSUE WINTER2014

departments

1	From the President
3	Snapshot
4	Roots
6	Along Grand Avenue
20	Home Team
38	'Roo Notes
48	In Other Words

On the Cover: 'Roos Who Write Conference participants Photo by Jason Earnhart, Michaels Photography

Austin

STAFF

PUBLISHER

Office of Institutional Advancement/ Advancement Communications Cary S. Wacker Sr. Associate Vice President

EDITOR Vickie S. Kirby

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN SERVICES Melanie Fountaine

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Christopher Maniet

PHOTOGRAPHY Vickie S. Kirby, Christopher Maniet, Lisa Nielsen, Katie Barber '18, Eden Llamas '18

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Leigh-Ellen Romm, Lisa Nielsen, Mike Sinclair '16, Mitzi Briseno '17

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

AUSTIN College

© 2014 Austin College Magazine ISSN 1949-2405 Winter 2014 Volume 54, No. 1

Marjorie Hass President

Nan Davis Vice President for Institutional Enrollment

Heidi Ellis Vice President for Business Affairs

Brooks Hull Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Tim Millerick Vice President for Student Affairs and Athletics

Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres Vice President for Academic Affairs

PREFER TO READ ONLINE? See http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu Some extended content available.



FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

"The shift from writing as a student ... to writing as a writer ... is one that we want each of our students to make."



Last May, I began a practice known as "morning pages" as described by Julia Cameron in her well-known book *The Artist's Way*. Morning pages are three pages of hand-written free writing ideally accomplished right away after waking up. I committed to do this every morning and tried to adhere to her core piece of advice: "There is no wrong way to do morning pages."

Some days, my writing reflected on issues or problems that were on my mind. Other days, I would find myself writing about the things that were most meaningful or precious to me. Some days, I would realize that I was daydreaming instead of writing—and then I would write about that. Morning pages aren't as formal as a journal, and they aren't meant to be read. Cameron's claim is that regular engagement with this practice will make one a better and more prolific writer—not just of the morning pages but of "real" writing.

I wasn't at all sure that this morning practice could have such an effect. But because there were several things I wanted and needed to write over the summer, and because summer is a time when I have some open space in which to try new things, I got myself a spiral notebook and a good pen and began writing three pages by hand as soon as I got up (well, right after I made a cup of tea).

To my surprise, my writing transformed almost immediately. The practice of informal, morning writing seemed to limber up my ability to get into a flow. It gave me confidence that I could set word count limits for myself and meet them without distraction. And, it provided a place where I could experiment with voice and style without worrying about a reader. Because of this, when I sit down to create a more polished piece of writing, I am more agile and focused.

The work I have been doing to develop as a writer made me particularly excited about our celebration of 'Roos Who Write during Homecoming this fall. Inspired and directed by Dr. Carol Daeley, this program brought accomplished alumni writers of all types back to campus to share their wisdom. Playing to packed rooms, our authors described their work and its astonishing variety—novels, poetry, cookbooks, graphic novels, songs, script writing, and more. It was extremely inspiring to hear that Austin College had given these authors not only the tools to write well but also the kind of education that results in having something of meaning and depth to say. The shift from writing as a student—where writing feels like a labored test to fulfill an assignment and earn a grade—to writing as a writer—where writing is an expression of truth, passion, and ideas—is one that we want each of our students to make. Strong writing is what we call a transferable skill, i.e., one that serves every profession and every form of leadership.

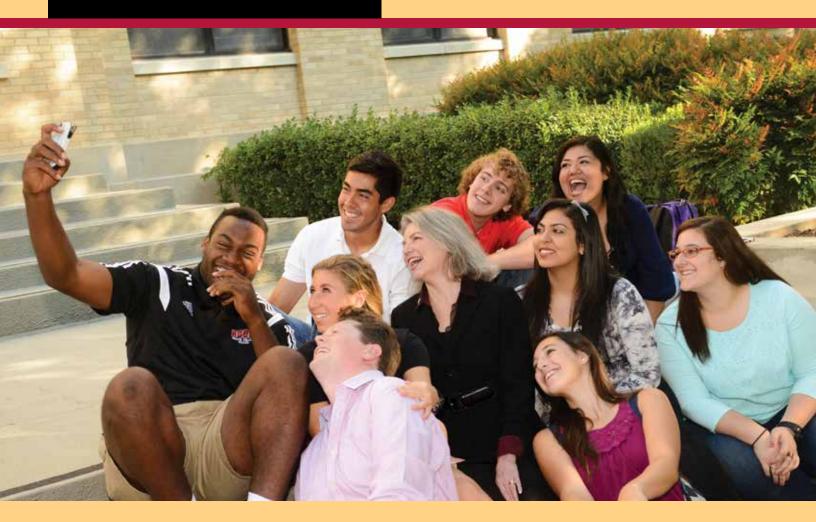
Moreover, writing is now only one of many such communication techniques. Ideas continue to be spread through the written word but they are also increasingly spread through visual images, multi-media presentations, and strong design. We want our Austin College graduates to be comfortable creating and interpreting messages in all of these modes. And we are investing in this wider understanding of literacy.

In support of the objectives of our strategic plan, our faculty members are working to enhance our writing curriculum, making sure that every student has the opportunity to grow as a writer over four years. Faculty members also are transforming their classes to make better use of new technologies so that students can match the medium to their message and goals by creating podcasts, digital archives, blogs, and videos. Our students are digital natives, but their facility with accessing new technologies doesn't by itself mean that they know how to make effective use of them as part of a communications strategy—any more than knowing how to form or type letters makes one an excellent writer.

Read our strategic plan at **www.austincollege.edu/strategicplan**. I would love to hear from you about the ways that Austin College helped you add value to the world and about the transferable skills that have proven most important in your career and your life's work.

Warmly, Maijane Hazo

the NOW scholarship initiative



LIKE.

Access to an Austin College education for all talented young people is a top priority at Austin College—and you can provide that access through your gift to the NOW Scholarship Fund.

Every gift, regardless of size, impacts the lives of students both now and in the future. NOW scholarships help meet the need for financial aid—and allow students to "picture themselves" in a life-changing education.

Make your gift today at **www.austincollege.edu/giving**.

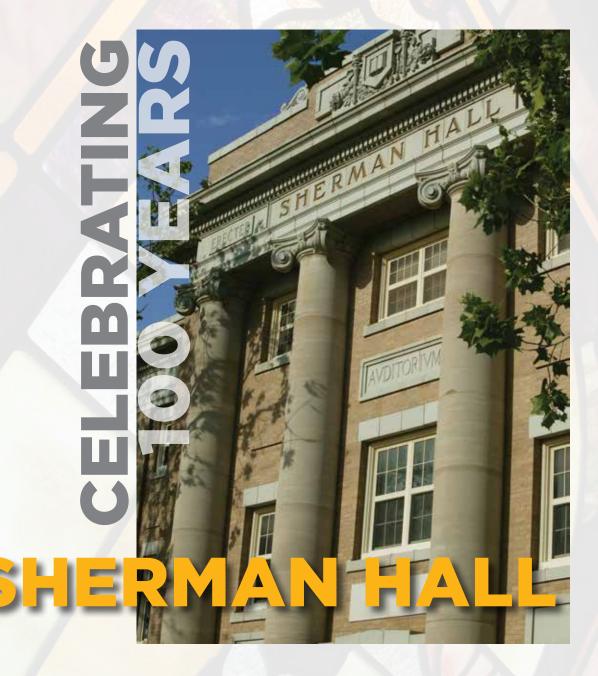




Dancing for Joy

Jennifer Brantley '15 performs Raqs Sharqi (colloquially known as belly dance) at the 2014 Austin College Diwali celebration or "festival of lights," a Hindu fall festival celebrated at the College since 1998 when the Indian Cultural Association was founded on campus. Diwali spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. Each year, between 250 and 400 students, friends, and family gather for the event, which includes performances from several students. ICA includes members of all ethnic backgrounds, and anyone is welcome to take part in the group's events. Jennifer has been dancing for 16 years and is a member of a professional troupe in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Photo by **Katie Barber** '18. *Jennifer Brantley–Sarah Wilhite Miles Memorial Scholarship, Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation Sponsored Scholarship*

WINTER 2014 · AUSTINCOLLEGEMAGAZINE



If those walls could talk ... Sherman Hall could certainly tell many tales; the classical revival-style building has played a very important role in the life of Austin College-for nearly 100 years. The building, dedicated on April 8, 1915, has served as home to the College library, administrative offices, and chapel; housed decades of faculty; heard the recitations and conversations of hundreds of students; and welcomed a multitude of speakers and special programs in its original two-story auditorium, which included a top quality pipe organ. Those speakers have included famous guests from magician Harry Houdini to former President William Howard Taft to former President George H.W. Bush and a host of others between and since. Today, the threestory building serves as the home to Humanities faculty and classrooms for history, religious studies, English, and philosophy-plus more speakers, performers, and guests.

Sherman Hall was built at a critical point in Austin College's history. Today, the story of the homesick young student who set fire to "Old Main" (and a week later, another building) hoping classes would be cancelled so that he could go home, seems almost comical. In 1913, however, the incident could have been devastating for the College and brought questions of whether the College would remain in Sherman, as North Texas cities offered the College other options. Old Main had provided all classrooms and labs, faculty and administrative offices, the chapel, the library, and meeting rooms for the campus. Fortunately, the fire galvanized the determination and loyalty of students and faculty-and Sherman business leaders who wanted to retain the College, which had moved to Sherman in 1876. President Thomas Stone Clyce and the Board of Trustees launched a building campaign to replace Main Building



and construct four needed buildings. When plans began for a building that would be located on the eastern edge of campus along Grand Avenue, the citizens of Sherman rallied to the cause, according to Light Cummins' *Austin College: A Sesquicentennial History*. When local pledges reached \$50,000, College trustees named the building Sherman Hall to honor the support of the citizens of Sherman. The building was completed within a year and formally dedicated in spring 1915.

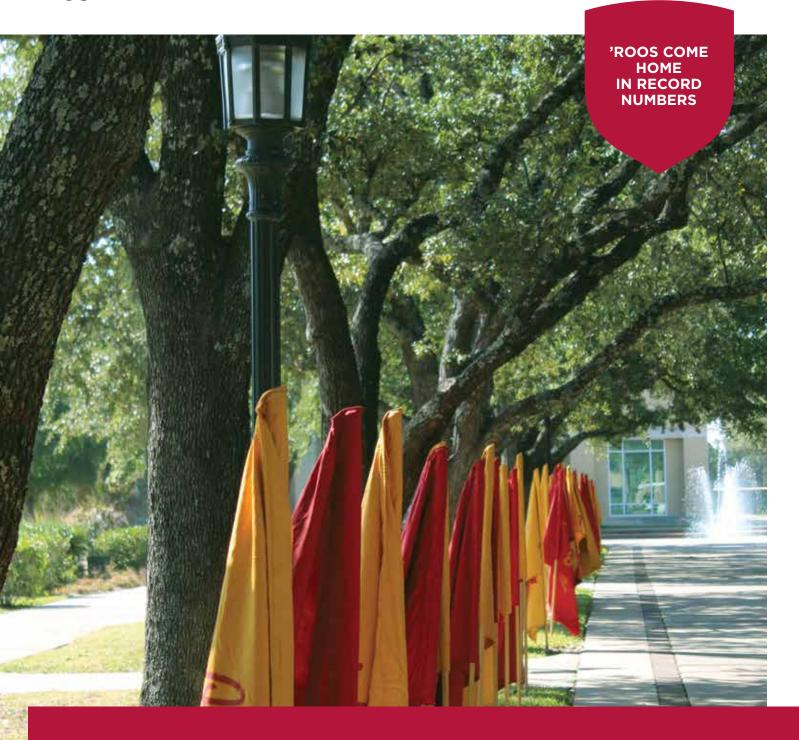
In a 1960 renovation of the building, central heat and air were added, the balcony of the auditorium was closed in and converted to third-floor offices, and the organ was removed. Also at that time, the naming of Hoxie Thompson Auditorium was announced to honor the graduate and trustee. In 1989, a top-to-bottom renovation completely replaced the interior of the building, including wiring, plumbing, and an energy-efficient temperature control system. Then, and still today, the exterior remains much the same as it was 100 years ago at its dedication. Beautiful stained glass windows that were part of the initial construction and bear the names of early Board of Trustees members remain, though many have been refurbished and restored, and offer a continuity of history.

The continuing generosity and support of the people of Sherman and the greater region as neighbors and partners with the College will be celebrated in spring 2015 in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Sherman Hall's dedication. If only the building itself could present a program of the stories it has seen and heard. ...



The 100th anniversary of Sherman Hall's dedication will be celebrated in spring 2015.





"THE EXTRAORDINARY IS THE ORDINARY AT AUSTIN COLLEGE."

- Craig Florence '84, 2014 Distinguished Alumni honoree



ALONG GRANDAVENUE

'ROO NATION AT HOME

Whether triggered by near-perfect weather, a football program on the rise, the draw of the 'Roos Who Write Conference, or nostalgia for a bit of time shared at the home base of 'Roo Nation, Austin College was definitely the place to be for Homecoming 2014. Prior years' attendance records were eclipsed at nearly every event of the weekend.

All the traditions were in place—the Alumni Awards dinner honoring alumni and faculty, the Kappa 'Roo Run, the Golf Cart Parade, tailgating in the Outback, the Big Tent Celebration, Homecoming Worship Service, sports, and more. The Alumni College was much expanded this year by the 'Roos Who Write Conference coordinated by **Carol Daeley**, Austin College Henry L. and Laura H. Shoap Professor in English.

The conference brought several alumni to campus, five of whom are interviewed in the feature beginning on page 24 of this issue. But five was just the beginning. The band Tone Deaf Cowboys came together on campus for a panel discussion and



performances that included musician **Amy Coffman** '85 of Amarillo, Texas; **Bain Ennis** '85, Washington, D.C., strategic planner and advance

operations professional, including former White House experience; Larry Martin '85, chair of the Classics Department at Ascension Academy in Amarillo, Texas; Andy Blair '85, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Canyon, Texas; and John D. Williams '84, Austin College chaplain. Luan Beaty Mendel '75 and Kirsten Brandt James '85 shared information on grant writing (see Luan's comments "In Other Words" on page 48); and technical



writer Amanda Coleman '07, writer and director Andrew Yorke (Stephen Hayes '08), artist and cartoonist Carl Antonowicz '08, and creative writer Jesse Hausler '08, offered a panel

discussion on the various writing styles in their work. Prior to Homecoming weekend, **William Kerrigan** '85, a history professor at Muskingum College in Ohio, kicked off the writing conference.

Students took part in the writing conference, too, through a Short Fiction Contest judged by conference alumni



participants. First place went to Laurie Hursting '15, second place to Marissa Collins '17, third place to Greyson Morrison Sanders '16, and honorable mentions to Devondria Darty '16 and Leah Garnsey '16.

Laurie Hursting—NOW Scholarship; Marissa Collins—Robert T. Mason Presidential Scholarship; Greyson Morrison Sanders—NOW Scholarship; Devondria Darty—NOW Scholarship; Leah Garnsey—Catherine Rosalie Fincher Kucera Scholarship Accomplishments and Service Honored at Homecoming

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Austin College honored four graduates with Distinguished Alumni honors during the annual awards dinner at Homecoming. The awards recognize those who have distinguished themselves in their professions and in their communities, exemplifying leadership and ethical standards in their interactions. Honorees model the accomplishment, spirit of service, and broadened perspective fostered by the Austin College experience, and support and advocate on behalf of the College. First Decade Award recipients are selected on the same basis, but for accomplishments within 10 years of graduation. Austin College President Dr. **Marjorie Hass** and **Kirsten Brandt James** '85, Austin College Alumni Board president, presented the awards.

Craig Florence '84, of Dallas, Texas, is a partner and trial attorney with Gardere Wynne Sewell in Dallas. Recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Best Lawyers in America*, and *Texas Super Lawyers*, he holds an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating. Active in his community, he has served on numerous boards and as chair and board member for Carter BloodCare. He has served Austin College on the Alumni Board and is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Tara Jo Gibson Myers '78, M.D., of Jersey Village, Texas, has practiced hospital-based emergency medicine for nearly 20 years, though she began her medical career in internal medicine. She has held many leadership roles within her profession, including medical director for several services and performing as state commander for the Disaster Medical Assistance Team. She also has been active in community events and has earned national and international honors in competitive ballroom dancing.

Kim Powers '79, of New York City, has been a member of the ABC News team for nearly 20 years and now is the senior writer for 20/20. This year, he received the Edward R. Murrow Award for "continuing excellence"—just one of many awards. Also an author of a memoir, a novel, and a screenplay, he was named one of the "Out 100"



by *Out Magazine*, a prestigious distinction in the LGBT community. Kim earned a Master of Fine Arts at Yale School of Drama.

Abbas Ravjani '04, of Washington, D.C., was selected for First Decade Distinguished Alumni honors. Since graduating from Austin College he has had an impressive array of experiences, including selection as a Truman Scholar, a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and a Center for a New American Security Next Generation National Security Leader. A graduate of Yale Law School, Abbas spent two years working for the U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and since 2012, has been an attorney in the U.S. State Department.

Pictured left to right: Abbas Ravjani, Tara Jo Gibson Myers, Craig Florence, and Kim Powers

Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award

Billy Core '76, of Dallas, Texas, received the 2014 Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award, given to honor continued service to the College and named for longtime Austin College Board of Trustees chair, the late Heywood Clemons. Now a member of the Alumni "A" Athletics Board, Core has been a regular presence at Austin College football games for several years and has donated many hours and many resources serving as the "official" pit master of the Austin College Outback.





Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award

Austin College's **Steven Goldsmith**, dean of Sciences and member of the biology faculty since 1993, and **David Baker**, who joined the physics faculty in 2000, were correcipients of the Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award. Both award-winning faculty have offered guidance to hundreds of alumni and were recognized particularly for their work in the development and opening of the College's IDEA Center and the Adams Observatory, for which Baker serves as director.

Pictured left to right: David Baker, Cindy Bean '75, and Steven Goldsmith

Barker Will Teach in Malta as Fulbright Scholar

Philip Barker, Austin College associate professor of political science, has been named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and received a grant to teach at the University of Malta for Spring Term 2015. He will teach U.S. foreign policy and conduct research on the role of Catholicism in the Maltese political process and in Maltese national identity, a continuation of his research on the role of religion in Europe.

He offered an example of Catholicism as a key part of Polish and Irish national identity, while France, despite being predominantly Catholic, has a more secular notion of nationalism. "When you look at Europe from this perspective, Malta is a fascinating case," Barker said. "It has a long and fascinating history that is intertwined with Christianity. Saint Paul was shipwrecked on the island, and the Knights of Malta controlled the island for hundreds of years. As a result, it is one

of the most Catholic countries in the world." He added that 98 percent of the Maltese people are Catholic; Roman Catholicism is taught in the schools; abortion is illegal; and divorce only very recently was legalized.

Having led a January Term course in Malta in 2012, Barker, pictured above in Malta, is excited to learn more about the nation. "Of course, it doesn't hurt that Malta is a group of fantastically beautiful Mediterranean islands," he said.

Barker is on sabbatical for the spring term. His family will accompany him on the stay.

Faculty Tenure and Promotions

Effective Fall 2014

Ruth Cape Now associate professor of German

Randi Tanglen Now associate professor of English

PROMOTIONS (already tenured)

Lisa Brown Now professor of psychology

Kerry Brock Now professor of mathematics

High School Students Can Start College Journey Early at Austin College

Austin College has instituted a new "Early Scholars Program" designed to allow talented high school students to jump-start their education. Open to rising high school juniors and seniors at least 16 years old with a GPA of at least 3.25 who meet specified standardized score requirements, the program allows students to earn transferable college credit while developing the academic and social skills needed to succeed at any top college or university.

During the 2015 program, June 7 through July 23, participants will complete two Austin College courses that provide an introduction to challenging college academics, experience residential life by living on campus with a roommate in supervised residence hall suites alongside other Early Scholars, participate in service learning and other co-curricular activities, enjoy social and recreational events, get a jump on college while having fun, and start an adventurous and life-changing journey.

The application deadline is February 20, 2015. Cost for the summer program is \$8,500. Application materials and specific requirements are available online: www.austincollege.edu/earlyscholars.





Preparing for the Peace Corps



As of this fall, Austin College is one of a handful of colleges in the country to offer a Peace Corps Preparation Program (PCPP), designed to help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to serve in the Peace Corps. The program was developed through a cooperative agreement between the College and the U.S. Peace Corps.

Helen Lowman '88, Peace Corps associate director of volunteer recruitment and selection, was on campus in October to launch the program. An Austin College Peace Corps Alumni Panel offered information on their own experiences and the benefits of the program. Panelists were Lowman, who also served in Thailand and as regional director for Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia, as well as country director for China and Mongolia during

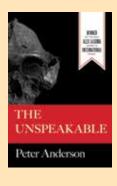
her history with the organization; as well as **Rachel Branaman** '01, who served in Namibia from 2009 to 2011; **Jake Pritchard** '10, who spent 2011 to 2013 in Masaya, Nicaragua; and **Kyle Floyd** '06, who Skyped in from his current Peace Corps assignment in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. At least 34 alumni have completed Peace Corps assignments.

The PCPP curriculum includes at least two years of foreign language study plus four courses from among 22 specified Austin College areas of study. Students completing the program earn recognition that will appear on their transcript. While the program does not guarantee acceptance into the Peace Corps, participants will gain skills that are an advantage in the competitive application process and in other international development work. Students accepted to the PCPP benefit from cross-cultural experience, foreign language proficiency, practical skills, global understanding, and cultural empathy, all of which are highly valued by employers in today's global economy.

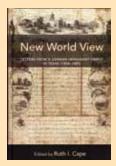


For information, contact Patrick Duffey, PCPP coordinator and professor of Spanish, at *pduffey@austincollege.edu* or 903.813.2377. Read more: **www.austincollege.edu**/**peace-corps-prep**.

Faculty Publications

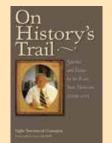


Peter Anderson, associate professor of English, has written his first novel, *The Unspeakable*, which won the 2013 Alex La Guma Award in International Novel. Originally from South Africa, Anderson has been a member of the Austin College faculty since 2006. Told in the first person by a central character, his novel centers on the conflicted being of the white male under apartheid. Anderson presented talks on his book on campus this fall.



Ruth I. Cape, associate professor of German, has edited a bilingual and annotated edition of a collection of letters, New World View: Letters from a German Immigrant Family in Texas, 1854-1885. The book spans three decades, describing the sea voyage of Christian Friedrich Bergmann and his family; their settling in Boerne, Texas, as farmers and ranchers; and the challenges faced in adapting to American culture.

The collection was provided by Gene Steele, a Grayson County man who has been involved with Cape's classes and is a greatgrandson of Christian Friedrich Bergmann. Several advanced German students were involved in the book project.

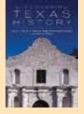


Light Cummins, Guy M. Bryan Chair of American History, released On History's Trail: Speeches and Essays by the Texas State Historian, 2009–2012, about his time as Texas State historian.

The book was launched at a gathering of the Texas State Historical Association

in November at DeGolyer Library at SMU in Dallas. Cummins and two

colleagues edited *Discovering Texas History*, released this fall. It surveys the historical writings over the last 25 years that have been written about Texas history. "It is a 'history of history' so to speak," Cummins said.





George Diggs and colleague Barney Lipscomb of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) have released their latest effort, *Ferns & Lycophytes of Texas*, to catalogue the plants of Texas. The book explains the diversity of Texas ferns and provides an encyclopedic view of the varieties. Diggs, the Donald MacGregor Chair in Natural Science at Austin College, is a research associate at

BRIT and has co-authored other books with Lipscomb.



Making the Pitch

Student Entrepreneurs Develop New Business Ideas



No *Shark Tank* celebrity tycoons were on hand with million dollar investments, but the pitches were just as serious for students proposing new businesses at Austin College's first Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition.

Students in the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management class were assigned in September to collaboratively develop ideas for innovative, successful businesses. They developed their business plans, then pitched the business proposals to a group of judges, first in a qualifying round to gain input and then in final competition, vying to receive \$5,000 and professional assistance in moving the business from idea to reality.

In addition to receiving funding for their ideas, two winning teams and two runner-up teams are invited to take a spring class taught by Dallas Entrepreneur Center (DEC)

"We thought, 'What are we? We are college students. What do we need? We need food and stuff from our parents.' That's how we came up with College Care." co-founder Jeremy Vickers, to help further develop the concepts, and to participate in a summer "incubation" program with the DEC.

The first-place team designed College Care, a company to create, sell, and deliver customized care packages for college students. **Bryce Murphy** '15 said the idea was developed after speaking with

an entrepreneur at a series of seminars. "He told us to focus on what we know and focus on a business that we would understand," Murphy said. "We thought, 'What are we? We are college students. What do we need? We need food and stuff from our parents.' That's how we came up with College Care." Team members are seniors Murphy, Sally Kate Humphries, and David Van Amburgh.

The second-place team devised UNeedAHand, an app that allows college students to solicit tutoring or assistance with other small jobs from other college students. Creators said the idea could be used for tasks like moving or finding a ride home. The runner-up teams created Investment.Ninja, a stock investment educational game, and HET, an app for sports trainers that monitors an athlete's vital signs while in training and competition.

David Griffith, professor of business administration, taught the course and said the business pitch competition was a challenging and rewarding experience for his students. "This transformed an academic assignment into a real business opportunity and illustrates how Austin College contributes to the economic development of our community and provides a transformative experience for our students," he said. Griffith holds the Austin College Jack B. Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies and is dean of Social Sciences.

Judges for the final round of competition were Jeremy Vickers, vice president of innovation for Dallas Regional Chamber and co-founder of DEC; Jeremy Roberts, founder of 903 Brewery in Sherman; Scott Connell, president of the Sherman Economic Development Corporation; and **Robert Likarish** '09, who, with his brother, just opened Ironroot Republic whiskey distillery in Denison, Texas. Qualifying round judges were Sherman Mayor Cary Wacker; **Chris Pendergrass** '02, president of Presco in Sherman; and Kevin Couch, CEO of CBC Creative.

In addition to serving as judges, regional entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses helped get the program off the ground through funding, services, and mentoring. Startup funding for the program was provided by Greg Rohan, president of Heritage Auctions in Dallas, and by Austin College. Daniel Black and Wes Oldaker, cofounders of Dallas-based startup Glass Media, spoke with students about the importance of building a founding team. Local branding and digital agency CBC Creative will provide startup branding packages for the winning teams.

Sponsors and mentors are needed for the continuing program, with hopes to eventually fund all qualifying teams. Interested individuals should contact **Tom Buttine** '07, Austin College director of development, at *tbuttine@austincollege.edu* or 214.356.4451.

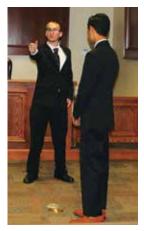
Bryce Murphy—John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program; Sally Kate Humphries—Addie R. Whitcomb Ministerial Scholarship, Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship Program; David Van Amburgh—Arthur V. and Mary A Boand Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, Sara Bernice Moseley Scholarship Program

A New Courtroom Drama



Visitors to Abell Library may think they have taken a wrong turn, suddenly finding themselves not among books, journals, or computers but in an authentic courtroom. Just off the foyer is a courtroom complete with the judge's bench, witness stand, attorney tables, jury box, and a gallery for spectators—home to the College's new Advocacy programs and a laboratory for students to explore moot court, mediation, and mock trial.

Students have jumped into the mock trial and mediation programs with great interest this fall, and already have participated—with good results—in competitions in Texas, Arizona, and Georgia. **Michael Gunnin**, who joined the College in July as **director of special academic programming**, is guiding the teams. He has good experience—having helped



expand the pre-law program at UT-Dallas and coached its mock trial and mediation teams to national recognition. A graduate of Yale University, he earned a degree at The University of Texas School of Law and practiced law before moving back into academics.

Gunnin is pleased with the results of the student work, saying they have done amazingly well in a short time—and competitors have been surprised that they are new teams. Ten students have taken part in mock trial tournaments,

and another group has participated in mediation competition. In mock trial, students portray attorneys and witnesses, with one party suing another. In August, the teams received a 160-page packet for preparation—and present that case at each competition. This year, the case is a civil one, so next year, the teams will be involved in a criminal case. Mediation competitions simulate the growing trend of settlement of conflicts outside the courtroom (sometimes court-ordered). Competition involves a client, advocate, and mediator, with members cycling through the various roles. Moot court, which involves two attorneys arguing points of law before the Supreme Court, is in development this year with plans to compete next year. Participants must have taken a course that includes case law.

The teams meet each week in a four-hour session, practicing their skills on the witness stand and from the attorney table. **Zayra Acosta** '16 competes in mock trial and mediation. Until recently, she hadn't even considered a career in law so finds the program a "blessing" since it has helped her refine her career choices. She now plans to attend law school and obtain a mediator license.

The Advocacy program teaches critical thinking and presentation skills useful to all students, regardless of major or career aspirations. For students considering law, the process does teach them about trial advocacy and the rules of evidence. "This program won't help students get into law school, but once there, they will find the experience to be beneficial," Gunnin said, explaining that alumni who have done Advocacy programs report they have more confidence and general understanding once they are in law school.

For Zayra. the program also has provided new knowledge, new friends, and new opportunities. She particularly enjoys being part of a team that "practices for fun what we want to do for the rest of our lives." The hard work, she said, is "definitely worth the investment." Too, she has had experience performing, and says competition is like performing, and the courtroom provides a stage.

The Austin College program will host a mock trial competition January 17-18, 2015. Any law alumni wishing to help with judging the competition should contact Gunnin at *mgunnin@austincollege.edu* or 903.813.2760.

Zayra Acosta—Jesse H. Jones and Mary Gibbs Jones Endowed Scholarship

Changes in the Classroom

Science Lessons in Leadership

Austin College faculty in chemistry and biology have launched the Science Teaching and Research (STAR) Leadership program, enhancing all biology and chemistry courses through the intentional integration of leadership training into the coursework. Five key behaviors and skills are incorporated: interpersonal effectiveness, problem solving, collaborative work, foresight and planning, and moral consciousness. Students then have opportunities to apply and practice those behaviors in the class and to reflect on their effectiveness as leaders.

The guiding philosophy of the STAR Leadership program is that all thoughtful and scientifically trained people are called to lead at some point in their lives, and should be prepared to do so.

Faculty members recognize that, just as it takes time to develop as a scientist, it takes time to develop the skills necessary to be a leader. Students experience the intentional instruction of leadership behaviors in short, level-appropriate activities in the classroom and are asked to enhance those skills throughout their undergraduate career. Behaviors are built upon as students move through advanced biology and chemistry coursework and participate in departmental research.

The program is supported by the W. M. Keck Foundation. For information, contact, **Stephanie Gould**, **STAR** program director and associate professor of chemistry. Read more: www.austincollege.edu/star.



New Career Paths Open Through Additional Areas of Study + + 🕇

"Several additions to the Austin College curriculum as of Fall Term 2014 broaden program offerings for students and allow additional opportunities for finding the careers of their choice," said **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, vice president for Academic Affairs. These new majors build on the strengths of the Austin College curriculum and faculty.

A major in business now has two tracks: finance and general business administration; a minor in accounting also is added to the Department of Economics and Business Administration.

The Austin Teacher Program now offers an undergraduate minor in education to help students matriculate into the graduate degree more quickly. In addition, the opportunity to take three graduate classes as undergraduates reduces the number of courses from nine to six to be paid for in the Austin Teacher Program graduate year, a savings of approximately \$15,000. Participants can graduate with the B.A. degree and Master of Arts in Teaching degree in 4.5 years.

A new interdisciplinary minor in neuroscience includes courses from biology, psychology, and philosophy departments to build a foundation for understanding the study of the brain and nervous system from molecules to behavior and thought.

A new major and minor in public health promote a multidisciplinary approach to studying the ways of preventing disease, promoting health, and prolonging life. Students will gain an understanding of the nature of the scientific approach, the importance of statistical analysis, and the effects of social, economic, behavioral, political, and cultural factors on health.



SAVE THE DATE! 2015 Dr. Kenneth Street Law Symposium EMERGING TRENDS IN THE FEDERAL COURTS

> Friday | February 20, 2015 Noon – 7:30 p.m.

Opening Luncheon | Wright Campus Center, Mabee Hall Keynote Address: Judge Patrick Higginbotham 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Afternoon Panels | Sherman Hall, Hoxie Thompson Auditorium Closing Reception | Collins Alumni Center

Registration information: www.austincollege.edu/lawsymposium





Environmental studies major Christopher Burke '15 had a summer adventure that may well change his life and his future. He doesn't know exactly what career path he will take; he just knows he wants to positively impact his world.

BY: Christopher Burke '15

he Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve is a 5,500-acre restoration project in the Texas Hill Country between San Antonio and Austin. Mr. J. David Bamberger founded the ranch in 1969 to fulfill his lifelong dream of restoring a piece of degraded land back to its natural health. By clearing most of the invasive Ashe juniper trees, planting native grasses, and carefully managing wildlife populations, with time Mr. Bamberger and

his staff have had a great deal of success in revitalizing the native grassland ecosystem, as evidenced by the return of natural springs, dramatically improved biodiversity, and a greatly increased system-carrying capacity. The Selah Bamberger Ranch stands as a shining example of how we as a society can go about restoring and conserving our natural resources and why this kind of work is important.

As an intern in summer 2014, I assisted with four general types of tasks on the ranch: basic maintenance of the property, "people

ranching" or public education events, scientific research, and conservation projects. Maintaining the ranch's natural state



and preparing it for visitors were basic day-to-day undertakings. These activities, typically under the direction of the ranch biologist, Mr. Steven Fulton, included trapping feral hogs, lawn care for areas where guests were staying, trail repairs and clearing, watering trees, and working in the native plant nursery.

"People ranching" involved helping out with various public events, including field trips with local students, public tours, and

> Camp Selah. The field trips and public tours, led by Mr. Fulton and the ranch's executive director, Ms. Colleen Gardner, allowed students and guests to visit the ranch and learn about both its history and the broader environmental implications of restoration work. Camp Selah had a similar message of encouraging an interest in science, nature, and conservation, but took the form of a weeklong nature camp for middle-school-aged children. During their week on the ranch, the kids had a variety of opportunities to swim, hike,

stargaze, participate in science experiments, search for wildlife, and explore the natural world. These events worked toward



fulfilling the ranch's mission of educating the public about the importance of conservation and connecting with nature.

The scientific research portion of the internship consisted of assisting the ranch zoologist, Mr. Jarod Holmes, in setting up for and conducting an evaluation and inventory of the ranch's small vertebrate populations. Mr. Bamberger is interested in learning more about what species of animals he has on the ranch and establishing base numbers of the various populations for future monitoring. While on the ranch, I had the opportunity to assist in some sight surveys, searching for reptile and amphibian species along the roads and trails, and to help prepare for more extensive passive and active trapping by digging pitfall traps, constructing drift fences, and making cover boards.

Lastly, as an avid naturalist and conservationist, Mr. Bamberger has taken on a variety of pet conservation projects, ranging from constructing a manmade cave for Mexican free-tailed bats to managing a herd of an endangered African antelope: the Scimitar Horned Oryx. The two projects with which I helped the most, however, were an assessment of the ranch's Northern Bobwhite quail population and a survey of the endangered Texas Snowbell tree. The quail study was part of a statewide effort by the Texas Quail Index to monitor the state's quail populations. It involved conducting call count surveys, setting up dummy nests to determine potential sources of predation, and doing habitat evaluations. The Texas Snowbell survey was a five-day trip to several ranches along the Nueces and Devils rivers. Over the past decade, Mr. Bamberger has worked with ranch owners in the area to protect and revive this endangered species. Our trip this past summer focused on counting surviving trees, finding ones that were mature and reproducing, and removing fencing materials from areas where planted trees had not survived.

This internship was an incredible experience. I greatly enjoyed the work and firmly believe that restoration and conservation will play an increasingly important role in our world. Though our society typically defines progress as increased consumption and material prosperity, the most important message I learned at Selah was that this does not have to be the case. The continued survival and success of our species depends on our taking time to reflect on our relation to nature and working toward reducing and reversing the negative impacts we have had on the natural world.

Christopher Burke has been awarded the Carolyn and Houston Harte 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



16

置<mark>MENTOR</mark> ADVANTAGE



BY: Lisa Nielsen

For new or prospective Austin College students and parents, it's easy to walk around campus and learn where things are and what's what. The Jordan Family Language House? You'll find it not far from the soccer fields. The Temple Center for Teaching and Learning? Across the street from the Admission Office.

However, some things on campus are difficult to see. They remain elusive—difficult for even a well-trained campus tour guide to point out. Yet, those are the things that help ensure the Austin College experience is a good one—one that sets the foundation for a student's future.

In many graduates' and parents' minds, the most important "something" is the mentoring that begins unfolding once a new student sets foot on campus. Ongoing, face-to-face interaction between students and professors seems to be a thing of the past at many colleges and universities. A host of teaching assistants, adjunct professors, and online courses have replaced professors, transforming higher education's landscape.

However, Austin College has held its ground. Students come first. One-on-one time with professors—regularly—is part of the pact and process. It's made possible, in part, due to the 12:1 faculty-to-student ratio. Consequently, mentoring provides an important advantage to being a 'Roo.

Getting Started . . .

Austin College mentoring officially begins once a student enrolls at the College and signs up for a Communication/Inquiry (C/I) class, an introductory course required for all freshmen. The faculty member teaching a C/I class becomes the mentor for each student in that class. In most cases, the mentor/mentee relationship continues for four years.

PROFESSOR ROD STEWART

In fall 2014, the freshmen who filed into the C/I class of **Dr. Rod Stewart** '70, professor of philosophy and George R. and Julia Blucher Jordan Chair in Humanities, began studying "Democracies, Old and New: In Search of Justice." He welcomed his 18 students and introduced himself as their mentor.

> Students also met the three returning students serving as Communication/Leaders (C/Ls) for their course. Throughout the semester, each C/L may be asked to lead a class discussion or provide feedback on student papers and quizzes. Regardless, the C/L will remain on the front line, aiding students with their freshman orientation.

Rod explained, "I become their mentor, and I hand out the map to the city." (The "city" is Austin College.) "Then it's the C/L who more or less becomes a taxi driver for the students," he said. "That taxi driver can take them where they want to go—anywhere on the map."

He points out that a C/L, who has already spent time on campus, knows the "back roads" or preferred ways to get from one place to another, metaphorically speaking. So in essence, Rod said, the mentoring or advising begins to spread.

"I may be the official mentor for those students," Rod said. "But they soon may have five or more unofficial mentors, as upperclassmen or others begin offering them advice and helping them get around."

"I become their mentor, and I hand out the map to the city. (The "city" is Austin College.) Then it's the C/L who more or less becomes a taxi driver for the students. That taxi driver can take them where they want to goanywhere on the map."

ROD STEWART

PROFESSOR LISA BROWN

Dr. Lisa Brown, professor of psychology, finds mentoring college students "fascinating." She enjoys opening her arms to students—official and unofficial mentees. In her eyes, there's always a welcome mat outside her office door.

"For college students, there's so much going on in their lives," she said. "The developmental transition from high school to college is significant, involving intellectual and emotional growth."

Many students, she noted, have never been away from home before going to college. "They may have gone to camp or something, but not away for an extended time," she said. "Then all of a sudden, they need to negotiate so much, along with integrating a new social life." When it comes to advising her mentees about courses or a major, Lisa added that students often arrive on campus with one set of ideas, then develop a new mindset. "When they get here," she said, "they suddenly learn there are more choices. There are even courses they have never heard of before. There's a lot to think about."

As Lisa and her fellow mentors know, most students undergo a self-examination. More reason, she said, to keep her office door open. "Often times they need to talk with someone," Lisa said. "And they may find it more comfortable to do it here than among their friends, as they sort things out."

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHANIE GOULD

The first years serving as a student's mentor can be intense, said **Dr. Stephanie Gould**, associate professor of chemistry. Often her students are considering medical school, and they arrive at the College with many preconceived ideas. Regardless, she sits down with them to talk about their options. "I'm here to help them explore what may be out there," Stephanie said. "It's great for them to get out of the classroom and see things for themselves."

She and her colleagues make every effort to identify internships or opportunities for students to shadow someone in a field. Such an experience, she said can be enlightening; it's not uncommon for students to then pause and rethink their choices.

"I remember one of my first groups of mentees," she said. "I looked at them and thought, 'They're so young; they're just three months out of high school, and now learning to be freshmen.' "

Stephanie, like many mentors, likes to do more than simply advise about what courses to take next. True, she must aid students in developing an academic plan and confirming they can graduate in four years. But she also chooses to draw students out. Routinely, she speaks to them on campus, asks them to stop by some time, or inquires how things are going. She's interested in keeping the conversation going.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALEX GARGANIGO

This year, mentees knocking on the door of **Dr. Alex Garganigo**, associate **professor of English**, are in their junior year. "By this time, a lot of issues have been hashed out since they had to determine their major and minor as sophomores," he said. Still, he never assumes he can just sit back and simply sign off on their course

selections. He chooses to question them about their choices, learn how things are going, and help them envision the future. "It's good for them to look at the big picture and reassess things. It can make them feel more confident," Alex said.

> He first met his mentees when they took his science fiction literary class. The mentoring experience was nothing like what he had encountered previously, when he served as a visiting professor at Wake Forest University.

"Before coming here, I was an advisor with a couple of groups of students," he said. "I saw them once or twice a year to talk about course registration. That was all. The way it's done at Austin College allows us to

have a closer relationship. And since you've had them in class, you know how to tailor your advice."

"I'm here to help them explore what may be out there. It's great for them to get out of the classroom and see things for themselves."

> STEPHANIE GOULD

19

PROFESSOR JACKIE MOORE

Dr. Jacqueline "Jackie" Moore, professor of history and a 2011-2012 Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong, acknowledged: "I am a Hands-On Mentor." She enjoys working closely with her mentees, as they examine what they want to pursue in terms of their studies, major, and life beyond college. "They may first come into my office with a list of things they want to do, and they may go out the door with a very different list,"

"Often times they hear from others what's the best thing for them. It can be a struggle sometimes between family pressure versus personal desire," Jackie said. "I try helping them navigate through that."

For all her mentees, the end goal is finding what makes them happy. She admits early on being startled when students would suddenly do an about-face, and change directions. One of the first times was with a junior who she had walked alongside, carefully guiding her in becoming a creative writer. Then suddenly the young woman "turned completely around and decided to go into international relations—with a focus on human rights."

Junior year, she believes, can bring a day of reckoning. However, Jackie said chuckling, so can senior year. One of her seniors had been determined to head down one path, then in what seemed only minutes after grasping his degree, he surprised her.

"I've decided to do something different now," he told her. Jackie embraced his change of heart. "That was perfectly okay," she said. "We work with our students to build a strong academic experience for them so they can go in any direction."

Rounding the Bend ...

PROFESSOR MAX GROBER

Although recently named dean of Humanities at Austin College, Dr. Max Grober, professor of history, is still maintaining watch over his mentees, as well as teaching one of his favorite courses—on Charles Darwin.

Looking back on his mentoring at Austin College, he notes that the College's small size fosters a strong environment for mentoring. Given the on-going interaction among faculty, there are opportunities to brainstorm with other faculty the new directions a mentee may want to head, he pointed out. "You would be surprised how many times the subject of a student's pursuits enters our conversations," Max said. "It's good for us to share ideas about what may work best for them."

His experience as a mentor dates back to his years at Colgate University, where he recalls that the mentoring involved working with a student for only two years. Once students declared a major in their sophomore year, mentors and mentees parted.

"I like the arrangement better here at Austin College," Max said. "Those additional two years with a student are important. They can also be very gratifying for the mentor. You can see the students becoming more confident and articulate."

The junior and senior years also offer an opportunity for a different relationship to evolve. He believes with many students the conversation changes somewhat. "For the most part, they are on an adult level then. I enjoy hearing what they're thinking," he said. "I can learn from them."

"For the most part, they (students) are on an adult level then. I enjoy hearing what they're thinking. I can learn from them."

MAX GROBER



GRIDIRON UPDATES



Football on the Rise

When the current group of Austin College seniors finished up their first season as Kangaroos, the team had a 0-10 record. Their sophomore season finished 2-8, and last year ended 5-5. The 2014 season also ended 5-5, with a four-win streak and a few close games that the 'Roos couldn't quite pull off. Still, the season revealed the team's determination during a rebuilding period that made 'Roo Nation and head coach **Loren Dawson** '91 and his staff proud. Thirteen members of the team were selected as All-SCAC performers, with nine 'Roos on the first team and four on the honorable mention team.

Recognition on the Field

Kangaroo **Kyle Crawford** '15 was twice selected to the **D3Football.com** National Team of the Week for outstanding performance during the season. A tight end, he finished second in the SCAC for receptions and first with 699 total yards. He also led the conference with 16.6 yards-per-catch and was third in the SCAC with four touchdown catches.



Kyle Crawford

Madison Ross

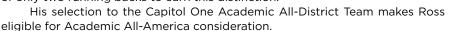


Madison Ross

Academic Honors for Football Standout

Austin College football player **Madison Ross** '16 was selected in November to the CoSIDA/Capitol One Academic All-District Team.

A running back, Ross was selected to the NCAA Division III District 8 Team, which includes all colleges from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Canada. Ross was one of only two running backs to earn this distinction.



A business administration major, the player entered the fall term with a 3.92 cumulative GPA. In addition to excellence in the classroom, he has also been a standout on the field and twice during the season was named SCAC Offensive Player of the Week.

Page 20

Kyle Crawford—NOW Scholarship; Madison Ross—John B. Hunt Scholarship, Austin College Campus Club Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program, Marjorie Stempel Memorial Scholarship

Page 22

Christopher Burke—Carolyn and Houston Harte 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

Alvin Michael—Edwin B. and Louise C. Jordan Scholar Program, Arthur V. and Mary A. Boand Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program Andrew Celio and Erin Eckart—John D. Moseley Scholars Program Presleigh Watson, James Saulnier, Anna Claire Cooke, Franchesca Lozoya, Tyler Marquez—NOW Scholarship



See all schedules and results: www.acroos.com

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



AUSTINCOLLEGEMAGAZINE · WINTER 2014

HONORING 'ROO COACHES

Creating the Larry Kramer Outback

Alumni, parents, and friends who visit the tailgating area of Apple Stadium during football games next season could see many enhancements in addition to signage honoring the late, legendary Kangaroo football coach Larry Kramer.

Kramer, 71, died in January 2014, and his wife, Sandy, was on hand at Apple Stadium for the unveiling of the newly named area at Homecoming 2014.

A fundraising program is underway to create additional structures and landscaping in the Kramer Outback, including crepe myrtle and other trees, a pergola, and an improved barbecue area as well as benches and a walkway. Alumni and friends wishing to direct gifts to the Larry Kramer Outback may contact **Ryan Britt**, **director of development**, at 903. 209.8526 or **Athletics Director David Norman** '83 at 903.813.2499 for information. Gifts also may be made online by selecting Larry Kramer Outback on the dropdown menu at **www.austincollege.edu/giving**.

Coach Kramer led the 'Roo football team from 1973 to 1982, guiding the team to the 1981 NAIA National Championship. His 50 wins at Austin College remain the second highest of any coach in 'Roo football history, and he finished his time in Sherman with an overall record of 50-43-6, including a 35-7-1 mark over his final



four seasons. He left Austin College to become the head coach at Emporia State University in Kansas, where he coached from 1983 to 1994.

In 2003, Kramer was honored by Austin College with the prestigious Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching.

Coach Named to "30 Under 30" Program

Austin College head women's soccer coach **Kristina Corona** was selected from 600 applicants as one of 15 women honorees by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) for its "30 Under 30" program, which also includes 15 men coaches. Launched in 2013, the program is a year-long education and mentorship opportunity for select "up-and-comer" soccer coaches.

Corona finished her first season on the sidelines at Austin College in 2013, coaching four players to All-SCAC honors, including two First Team All-Conference selections. This fall, her team fell to Trinity in the SCAC championship semifinals, ending the season with an 11-10 overall record.

"I strive to be a coaching instructor, and I want to be a role model for young women and coaches specifically," said Corona, who played at the University of Tulsa and for two seasons in the Women's Premier Soccer League for the Fort Worth Panthers. Before coming to Austin College, she coached at University of Dallas, where she was named SCAC Coach of the Year in 2012.



Kristina Corona

Former 'Roo Coaches Score Big: College Football Hall of Fame Nominees

When the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame announced the six coaches on the 2015 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, two former Austin College coaches were on the list: former head coach Pete Cawthon and former assistant coach Bill Snyder.

Cawthon coached the 'Roos from 1923 to 1927 before eventually moving to Texas Tech, and the award given annually to the top male student-athlete at Austin College is named in his honor. Cawthon had a record of 34-25-4 as the head man for the Kangaroos, and coached the 'Roos to the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association title in 1923. After 18 years as a head football coach, he compiled a record of 110-57-10, and eventually became the head coach of the National Football League's Brooklyn Dodgers and then served as the athletics director at the University of Alabama.

Snyder, who coaches the Kansas State University football program, served not only as an assistant football coach but also the head swimming and diving coach for the 'Roos in 1974 and 1975. He went on to win 183 games as a head coach at Kansas State, where he served as head coach from 1989 to 2005, and then came out of retirement to begin coaching the Wildcats again in 2009. Snyder returned to Sherman to accept the Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching in 2007.

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Volleyball Continues Winning

For the 17th year in a row, the Austin College volleyball team marked at least 20 victories, ending the season with a 21-19 record. **Presleigh Watson** '17 was named a Second-Team All-SCAC performer, finishing the regular season ranked third in the conference in blocks-per-set, with an average of 1.16 and with the fourth-best hitting percentage at .292 for the year. At the close of the regular season, she had an average 2.24 kills-per-set, and her 296 total kills were the sixth-most in the SCAC. Coach **Ed Garza** finished the season just two wins short of his 500th victory at Austin College in his 18 seasons with the 'Roos.

The 'Roos Are Running Again

Men's cross country was added to the lineup of intercollegiate sports at Austin College this fall, bringing to 14 the total number of athletic teams, after the addition of women's cross country during the 2013-2014 academic year. "We're excited to have the opportunity to expand our program and provide more chances for our student-athletes to





David Norman '83. Coach Matt Buchhorn leads both programs.

compete at a high level," said Athletics Director

A 'Roo First: Burke Qualifies for Regional Competition

Christopher Burke '15 made 'Roo history by becoming the first cross country runner to earn All-SCAC honors and qualify for the NCAA Regionals, while leading his team to a fifth-place finish at the SCAC championship meet in November. His ninth-place time in the 8K course was 28:23.42, his best of the season and a qualifying time for the NCAA South-Southeast Regionals at Berry College in Georgia. There, Burke came in 72nd of 206 runners and shaved 45 seconds off his SCAC qualifying time, finishing in 27:38.32.

Christopher Burke

Academic Honors for Basketball 'Roos

Alvin Michael '15 and **Austin Brewster** '14 were two of 19 SCAC players and 900 players nationwide named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court in July. To be eligible for the Honors Court, a student-athlete must be a junior or senior with a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher. Players are selected from all NCAA divisions and the NAIA. More than 330 colleges were represented by the student honorees. Alvin is a 6' 8" guard for the Kangaroos.





Soccer Teams Keep Fighting

Alvin Michael

Austin Brewster

The men's soccer team had a tough season, finishing just 1-13-5, but with a large freshman class finding their roles under coach **Mark Hudson** in his eighth season with the 'Roos. The women's soccer team continued to build, closing the season at 11-10, winning the SCAC championship quarterfinal match but falling to eventual champion Trinity in the semifinals.

Two men—goalkeeper Andrew Celio '15 and defender James Saulnier '16—and three women—defender Anna Claire Cooke '15, forward Erin Eckart '18, and goalkeeper Franchesca Lozoya '16—were chosen for All-SCAC Second-Team honors. The two 'Roo

goalkeepers led the SCAC in saves; Lozoya had eight shutouts in the season, and Celio set a new SCAC record with 22 saves against Trinity. **Tyler Marquez** '15, who led the women's team in shots and shots on goal, earned SCAC Honorable Mention honors.



SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 18, 2015 MYERS PARK | MCKINNEY, TEXAS Visit aroonation.com and click "A" Association for details.



With more than 20% of the student body involved in 14 competitive athletics teams, our student-athletes are making a splash! Your gift to Athletics Enrichment supports our student-athletes, helping them succeed on the field, in the classroom, and into the future.

YOU'RE ALREADY A FAN A FAN NOW JOIN THE TEAM

AUSTIN COLLEGE ATHLETICS COMPETE IN THE SOUTHERN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

<u>Men</u> Baseball Basketball Cross Country Football Soccer Swimming & Diving Tennis Women Basketball Cross Country Soccer Softball Swimming & Diving Tennis Volleyball

ROOS 💿 ROOS

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

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







ACCLAIMED WRITERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

Roos Who Write

BY: Leigh-Ellen Romm

Google it: the writer's life.

Up pops page after page of expectations, recommendations, admonitions, and advice. Even though there is copy everywhere from the back of the cereal box to the front of *The New York Times*, the writer's life does seem a little mysterious. After all, how do they get to do that? And still eat?

The Austin College graduates profiled here have succeeded in different writing fields by following a common rule: work hard. It's less about muse and more about discipline when developing and growing as a writer.

Mystery author **Deborah Crombie**, blogger and cookbook author **Lisa Fain**, ABC news senior writer **Kim Powers**, fantasy novelist and artist **Robert Stikmanz**, and academic scholar **Jennifer Wenzel** share their journeys from Austin College to writer's life. As varied as their fields of expertise, they agree the liberal arts education provided them the tools to seize opportunities.

DEBORAH CROMBIE





MYSTERY WRITER

A Plot Twist Leads to Best Seller List

Deborah Crombie graduated in 1977 from Austin College with a degree in biology. But life takes turns, like a mystery unfolding. Her graduate work and travel revealed a passion for England—and for writing. Her liberal arts degree helped equip her with the discipline to pursue it. With her fictional characters Detective Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and Sergeant Gemma James, Deborah has filled the shelves with suspense novels over the last 20 years. A *New York Times*-Best Selling author, she released her 16th novel, *To Dwell in Darkness* in September and is at work on the next. Deborah lives in McKinney, Texas, and travels often to England for research. To learn more about Deborah, visit her website at **www.deborahcrombie.com**.

If you could cast an actor and actress in the roles of Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James, who would you cast?

DC: I've been indulging in some fantasy casting as there is an option in place for the development of a UK TV series, but no one ever seems quite right. I think I'd really like to see actors who are not already terribly well-known take the roles and make them their own.

As a young reader, were you always drawn to mysteries? Do you especially like any other genre?

DC: Oh, yes, I started with the Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew! Then I discovered Agatha Christie and other Golden Age writers, and from there I moved on to more contemporary work. But I also was an avid reader of fantasy and science fiction, and those genres are still a treat for me to read. I love historical fiction as well.

How important is fellowship and interaction with other writers? What are some ways you develop this?

DC: One of the most rewarding things about my more-than-20 years as a published writer has been the friendship and support of other writers. I don't know if this is true of other genres, but the crime fiction community is a close one, and over the years, other writers have provided invaluable support and encouragement. I hope I'm able to give some of the same to newer writers.

I highly recommend going to writers conferences and workshops, or to fan conferences if you are interested in a genre that accommodates that. You'll meet not only published writers but other aspiring writers who may become your lifelong friends. Oh, and if you go to conferences or conventions, hang out in the bar whether you drink or not. It's where all the socializing goes on!

Who do you have in mind when you're writing a story? Can you describe your readers? DC: It's not something I really think about. I have male and female readers, so I don't write to a particular gender audience, although women do make up a much larger percentage of the general reading audience. Older people read more, too, but I don't age target—I'd like readers from high school on to enjoy my books.

Do you write in the quiet or with background noise? Either. Quiet when I'm at home, but I like coffee shop buzz, too.

What have you read most recently?

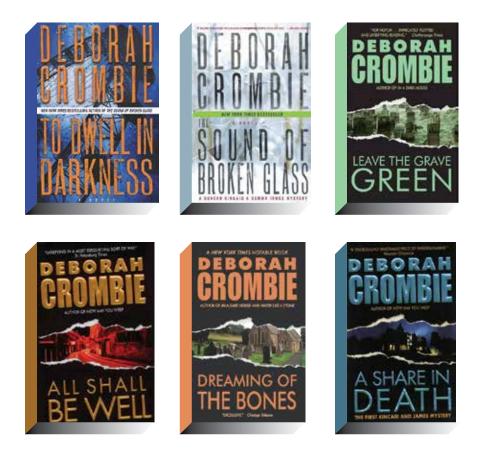
I'm rereading Dick Francis novels from the nineties. They were absolutely brilliant, and they inspire me.

Bookstore or library? Bookstore.

Classic book that you have never read: War and Peace. Or anything else Russian ...

Best writing advice you've ever received:

An adage from the great romance writer Nora Roberts: "Bad pages are better than no pages." I keep it taped to my computer screen!



Just a sampling of her 16 novels

Our readers may include students who might be exploring a writing career. As a successful writer, what advice would you give them to prepare for that field? DC: Read, read, read! There is no substitute! I can't tell you how many times I've had people tell me they want to write a best seller, but when you ask them what they read, they can't tell you. You can't write well if you don't read.

And then write what you love. Don't worry about whether it fits the market—the market changes all the time, and you can never keep up with it. There is always room for another book if it's written with enough passion and skill. Or who knows, you might start a new trend!

Practice, practice, practice. Hone your skills. Examine the work of writers you love and figure out why you like it. There is nothing wrong with copying another writer's style when you are starting out. If you keep writing, you will develop your own voice.

Take advantage of resources. There's no excuse for not knowing the basics of grammar and punctuation, or how to format a manuscript, or write a query letter.

Then write some more.



LISA FAIN





HOMESICK TEXAN, BLOGGER; COOKBOOK AUTHOR

Craving Tastes of Home Creates Niche

Lisa Fain '91 is the creator of the food blog *Homesick Texan*. Since she was blogging before blogging was cool, she established herself early in the food blogging world. She recently completed a book tour with her latest cookbook, *The Homesick Texan's Family Table* and earlier wrote *The Homesick Texan Cookbook*. The winner of the James Beard Foundation Award for excellence in culinary writing, education, and cuisine, she has been featured in *The New York Times, Texas Monthly, Southern Living*, and *Saveur*, and she's a founding member of Foodways Texas.

When you attended Austin College, what were your career goals?

LF: I always knew I wanted to do something with words. When I was in school, my aspiration was to be a movie critic at a newspaper or magazine. While that shifted a bit, I knew that writing would play some role in what I wanted to do with my life.

New York is a long way from Austin College. How did you get there?

LF: Even though I'm a seventh-generation Texan, I always wanted to live in New York City. A combination of movies, books, and television shows made me think it was the most incredible place in the world. When I was 25 and living in Austin, I was offered a job managing a bookstore in New York, and I took it, moving up there with a bunch of Texan friends. I soon shifted to magazine work and was an assistant managing editor at a magazine called *Advertising Age*.

Seems a long way from advertising to where you are today?

LF: While indeed I did discover that New York had all the art, architecture, music, and movies that I'd dreamed about, the thing that it didn't have was Texas food, and this was devastating to me. Sure, there were a few places offering Tex-Mex and barbecue, but they weren't very good, to be honest. So finding tastes of home in New York City became my obsession. And since I couldn't find what I wanted at a restaurant, I started cooking Texas food for my friends, Texans and non-Texans.

Fast-forward 10 years and the new communication medium known as blogging had taken off—and as I loved to cook, take photos, and write, I decided to start a food blog chronicling my quests to recreate Texas food in my New York kitchen. At first, the blog was simply a way to connect with family and friends, but I discovered there's a whole world of homesick Texans out there, as well as plenty of readers who simply appreciate good comfort food. So the blog took off, and I started writing articles for magazines and also began receiving recognition for my blog from a whole host of publications.

What was an early indicator that this was more than a friends and family update? What steps did you take to "take it big"?

LF: I soon discovered that there was not only a whole world of homesick Texans who also missed the same things that I did, but likewise the blog appealed to people who

Do you write in the quiet or with background noise?

New York is noisy, and I prefer quiet, so I either wear ear plugs or turn on some white noise, though sometimes I put on headphones and listen to Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* over and over.

What have you read most recently?

I usually read two or three books a week—a variety of fiction and nonfiction. The last one I finished was James Lee Burke's latest book, *Wayfaring Stranger*. It was a noir novel set in Houston in the 1940s, and it was both a thrilling story and filled with great descriptions of Texan life in the early to middle 19th century.

Bookstore or library? Both.

Classic book that you have never read: Wuthering Heights

Best writing advice you've ever received: Write every day and read all the time.



just appreciated good food and stories about connecting through food with both your heritage and those you love. While I still had my full-time magazine job in 2010, a literary agent approached me about writing a cookbook. I wrote a book proposal over a weekend, and then the book sold in one day. At that point, I decided to quit my magazine job and pursue this full time.

What's the biggest difference between developing your cookbook for print and keeping your blog fresh and updated?

LF: Cookbooks take a lot more work, as the recipes and writing go through more vigorous process, as I not only have the cookbook recipes tested by outside testers but I also work with a developmental editor and a copy editor. Likewise, in a book, you're limited by space constraints, so you can only say so much in a head note, for instance. On the blog, however, I can go on for as long as I want, as there are no space constraints. (Though I'm not sure if this is a good thing or not!) Also, I take all the photos in my books and on my blog, and the quality level of the photos needs to be much higher for the books than on the blog.

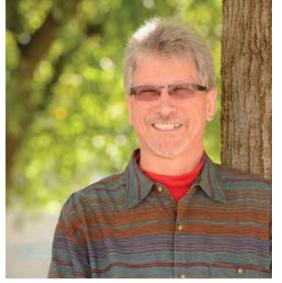
As a successful writer, what advice would you give students considering a career in the field?

LF: Write every day, and read books instead of watching television. Likewise, know that it takes a lot of hard work, and you have to be disciplined. Even if you feel blocked, just keep writing, even if you think it's not your best effort. It's true, chances are your first draft will not be all that great, but that's okay because you can revise it and make it better. The important thing, however, is simply to write and get that draft down in the first place. Everyone has a method that works best, but I've followed Anne Lamott's advice to write first thing in the morning before I talk to anyone. This way, I approach my writing with a clear head.

While being published is a wonderful thing, you should write because it brings you great joy, as that is the one thing that will sustain you when you're receiving rejection letters. It took me 15 years of rejection until I finally got published, but I never quit writing because I had fun doing it.

ROBERT LEWIS/ STIKMANZ

R. Stikmonz



AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR

Out of this World Writing in another reality

Robert Lewis '78, who writes as his alter ego Robert Stikmanz, has followed his dreams. And as a "non-fiction fantasy writer" you could say he is living the dream. Stikmanz's novels, based on a culture of his own design, get deeper and more intricate as they go. Stikmanz is multi-talented in video production, illustration, writing, and composing. His most recent book, *Rose Moon*, was released in October. To learn more about The Land of Nod and Stikmanz, visit his website at **www.robertstikmanz.com**.

Your work on the Nod series has been described as "mind-bending." Do you recall when and how the first notion came to you?

RS: The entire world of *The Hidden Lands of Nod* evolved from a single image that appears in none of the works. In May 1984 (I documented the month), the picture popped into my mind. It was so vivid that I began to explore the story behind it. And the story that followed. And stories running alongside in parallel. My first prose sketches of alternate realities embedded in how we understand the world date to 1983, but the narrative source of *The Hidden Lands of Nod* rose a little later from that forceful, single image. Curiously, the image does not fit naturally into any of the fictions I have written or planned. Call it propulsive back story.

Who do you imagine is an avid Stikmanz reader? Who do you have in mind when you write?

RS: For several years, I traveled regularly to science fiction conventions. One great benefit of those appearances was that I met a couple hundred readers of my work and connected personally with dozens of them. The best generalization I can make is that they are smart, creative, and unorthodox.

I don't give much thought to audience until I begin re-writing. I keep in mind four or five friends who have been tough, honest readers since I began sharing the fruits of my secret labors. They are the generous souls to whom I can turn with a third or fourth draft and say, "Tear it up," and they will, lovingly. They also are the same cadre who, having read a lumpy early draft, will still be first in line for the published book.

As its creator, do you ever think in Dvarsh?

RS: In a limited way, yes. Since there is no one with whom I can speak Dvarsh, I have never become fluent, and it flows most readily to mind when I am actively engaged in its development. I cannot say I think readily in the language, but I have assimilated enough chunks to know the general shape or sound of an expression before I pull out my grammar notes and lexicon.

Describe a "day in the life" while you're actively working on a project.

RS: Every day, I attend to some facet of *The Hidden Lands of Nod*. This past weekend, I made the final edits on my new novella, *Rose Moon*. To break up time staring at a

Do you write in the quiet or with background noise? I write without any deliberate distractions. I don't listen to music when writing because I need to hear the world I imagine.

What have you read most recently?

Most recently, I finished *The Singing Neanderthals*, by Steven Mithen. I am deep in *The Hindus*, *An Alternative History* by Wendy Doniger.

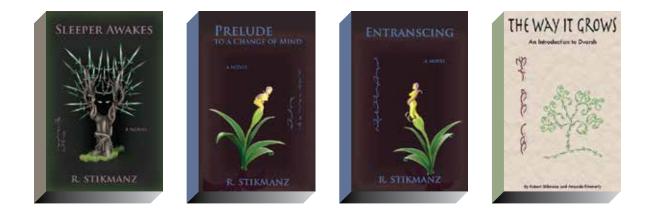
Bookstore or library? Bookstore!

Classic book that you have never read:

Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises

Best writing advice you've ever received:

I have never followed any writing advice I have received. The best advice I give other writers is not to do as I have done.



computer screen, I alternated editing sessions with sessions at my drawing table, working on the "cover" illustration for the novella's coming release as an e-book. Saturday, over lunch, I worked on the character set for a Dvarsh font, on which development of a long-awaited Dvarsh-English dictionary depends. Over dinner, however, I worked on a new draft of my third novel, *Sleeper Awakes*, which has been out of print since I left my original publisher. Sunday evening, after finishing the *Rose Moon* edits, I worked on new graphic elements for a redesign of my web presence, until the last active hour, when I returned to the *Rose Moon* drawing. The work week requires more discipline, as after a day at my job, I may have only a couple hours of effective focus. Those evenings are usually allocated to whatever has the nearest due date, fills the biggest promise, or opens the most subsequent possibilities. Or to whatever surprise capriciously demands passionate attention.

My creative life is overwhelmingly devoted to *The Hidden Lands of Nod* as a single, encompassing initiative. I have outlines, notes, and partial drafts of the fiction still to write. Design is near complete for a new edition of *Nod's Way*, a fantasy divination system that includes the ancient wisdom book of the Dvarsh. The font and dictionary mentioned above are in development. Their importance is not least to me as I complete a body of texts in Dvarsh. And then there are the illustrations. I produce at least one finished image for each text or artifact. Those single images, however, are rooted in sketchbooks that are part of my imagining process, never meant to see public light.

In some ways, a more pertinent question might be, "Do you have a life apart from your job and *The Hidden Lands of Nod*?" As a socially awkward introvert, my only response can be, "Um, maybe."

What other jobs have you held while pursuing your art?

RS: For the past 14 years, I have worked for Cycorp, the artificial intelligence software company, where I am deputy director of operations. Before that, I spent a little over three years as administrative associate to Jody Conradt, the legendary University of Texas women's basketball coach. From 1983 to 1997, I worked in the graphics industry, both as a manager and as an artist/designer. Since about 1992, I have maintained a sideline as a video artist.

As a graduate of Austin College, how did the liberal arts education prepare you for a life as a writer?

RS: As for how a liberal arts education prepared me for this creative life, to my previous answers I add one word: Sprezzatura!

KIM POWERS

K.Pme



AUTHOR, 20/20 WRITER

Upstaged by Opportunity A theatre major's journey to the newsroom

Kim Powers '79 may have expected to walk through a stage door somewhere in New York City; opportunity came knocking in an unlikely way at an unlikely place. Years later, Kim has received an Emmy and a Peabody award for his writing in 9/11 coverage for *Good Morning America*. His acclaimed memoir, *The History of Swimming*, was a noted Barnes & Noble's "Discover Great New Writers" selection. He works now as senior writer for ABC's weekly news show, 20/20. Although a long way from the stage, it's been a dramatic journey. Kim received an Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award at Homecoming 2014.

You left Texas to pursue theatre in New York City?

KP: Yes. I got there a little accidentally. I had done summer theatre work at Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts before and after my senior year at Austin College. Of course, I met many people from that area and they were all saying, "Hey, come to New York." I had applied to graduate school, but did not get accepted and was devastated at the time. Since going to New York sounded like more fun than coming back to McKinney to figure out what to do, I went. That was 35 years go.

Many journalism majors would love to know how you landed the job on 20/20.

KP: Well, it had nothing to do with planning. I had spent 20 years not working as an actor but in executive development. I would search out film and television projects to produce, through the publishing industry. It was full of smart guys like me looking for work to produce. After a while, I began writing on my own and promoting myself.

At the same time, I was volunteering at a place called God's Love We Deliver, around 1996. We were serving meals and helping in the AIDS community. Every Sunday, I would go there with a group of people, and one guy always left for work at 3 p.m. I thought, what kind of job starts at 3 on a Sunday afternoon? So, I asked, and turns out he was a writer for *Good Morning America*. That's when the shift starts, and they write into the night.

I was out of money and out of work, so I mentioned I'd like to do something like that. He said, come on out; they needed temp workers, and I showed up and auditioned for the job.

I was surrounded by journalism majors from Columbia and such, but I could tell jokes. I knew a lot about pop culture and really approached it from a human-interest point of view. I didn't even know which rules I was breaking ... who, what, when, where, and all that. I tried to be heartwarming.

How did a liberal arts education prepare you to succeed there?

KP: I think the liberal arts education gave me a broader perspective. I had taken a range of classes including history, psychology, and some English. I wanted to write as if for myself. Smart and not formulaic.

Do you write in the quiet or with background noise? Noise. Television and the radio. Together.

What have you read most recently?

I'm in the middle of the most brilliant book I've read. It's a wonderful and devastating novel titled *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

Bookstore or library? Bookstore. Definitely.

Classic book that you have never read: All of Dickens and Jane Austen

Best writing advice you've ever received: A writer writes. Period.



Do you think it's still possible to work "up" in journalism like you have done? KP: It is very competitive now. We have interns at ABC, and many of them come from journalism programs. They're the editors of their papers, run the school radio station, and such.

What are the unique demands on a news writer today?

KP: It's so hard. Any story has a life cycle of maybe 36 hours. Not even two full days. Let's say you're talking about something special such as the deaths of Robin Williams or Joan Rivers. If it breaks on a Tuesday, then by Friday night on 20/20, there's not much we can add. By remaining topical we see more in the ratings. We hang it on that peg. The language always has to be "what's new" or "for the first time" or "Exclusive to 20/20." It's difficult.

It's been a number of years since you published *The History of Swimming* and *Capote in Kansas: A Ghost Story* in 2008 and 2009. Do you have plans for another book? KP: Yes! Actually I have just finished a new book; it's a commercial thriller, *Dig Two Graves.* It's a very big concept, and we're looking into film rights. I hope to have an announcement soon about that.

Do you have someone in mind to cast in the movie?

KP: Can I tell you? When I first thought of it, as a screenplay, I thought of Harrison Ford as a young, strapping actor. That tells you how long it's been. Now I'm thinking more Ben Affleck.

What advice would you give a student who is interested in a writing career?

KP: I would say you have to write every day. To develop the muscle you can't wait on a muse. The muse will never come. Ten thousand hours of writing will make you a damn good writer. As scary as it is.

I also would say, do your homework. There are millions of resources to find out about publishing and getting an agent. Don't just ask someone. Dig.

And then, work through your writing as much as you can. You never get a second first chance. No one will listen to "well, that was just a draft." There **won't** be another chance.

JENNIFER WENZEL

ACADEMIC WRITER, PROFESSOR

Seeking a Scholar's Life

Jennifer Wenzel '90 completed majors in history and English at Austin College, and her career is an excellent response for the common question of what graduates do with an English career. A member of the faculty at Columbia University, Jennifer travels, teaches, and brings ideas to the top so others may also learn. She is an associate professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature and also the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. In 2009, she published her first book, *Bulletproof: Afterlives of Anticolonial Prophecy in South Africa and Beyond*. She has many published papers, two current book projects, and a co-editing venture within the field of literature, history, and the environment. To learn more about Jennifer, visit columbia.academia.edu/JenniferWenzel.

What were your goals when heading to graduate school after Austin College?

JW: I loved literature and loved college and wasn't ready to be finished with either. I couldn't have said it this way then, but I wanted an academic life.

Did you always want to teach on the college level?

JW: I went to Austin College for the Austin Teacher Program, first thinking I wanted to teach in elementary school, then high school. But I had some gentle prodding all along from my mentor Jim Ware in philosophy and English faculty like Bill Moore and Carol Daeley that perhaps I was best suited for graduate school and college-level teaching. It took a long time for me to recognize myself as the scholar that they seemed to see early on. But I am still completely fascinated, at an intellectual level, with how young children think.

What percentage of your time do you commit to writing for publication?

JW: It's hard to quantify in that way. During the academic year, I'm mostly deadlinedriven and have to steal little bits of time from teaching, going to lectures, committee work. In the summers, I tend to get more time to work at my own pace.

Do you have set hours when you write?

JW: If only. On days that I don't have to go to or prepare for classes or meetings, I like to settle in by around 9 a.m., plan to write for an hour or two, and, if I'm lucky, be eager and able come back to it after lunch.

How would you describe your readers?

JW: Most of my work to date has addressed an academic audience of scholars and students interested in postcolonial literature and history (particularly Africa and South Asia), memory studies, and the environment. In the past few years, though, I've been involved in building the environmental humanities, which has an explicit commitment to engaging broader audiences and bringing a humanities perspective to public debate on environmental challenges, like climate change or fracking. Some of my favorite pieces, like "How to Read for Oil," were written for the newsletter of the English Department at the University of Michigan, which is read mostly by alumni.

Do you write in the quiet or with background noise?

In graduate school, I wore out a cassette tape of the Roches that Austin College professor Peter Lucchesi had given me. These days, voices and words are really distracting to me, so I don't set out to have background noise.

What have you read most recently?

I was captivated instantly by Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior*. The last book that grabbed me in that rapt, can'tput-it-down, don't-let-it-end way I remember from being a kid was Amitav Ghosh's *Sea of Poppies*.

Bookstore or library?

My enthusiasm for buying books began to wane around the time I started moving every few years. Now I only buy books I really need. Our relationship to the printed word has really changed in the past decade, but I really need paper (and pencil!) in hand for things to stick in the mind.

Classic book that you have never read:

So many. *Wuthering Heights* for one.

Best writing advice you've ever received:

Imagine a broader audience. ... It's okay to quit for now or try something wildly different (yellow pad vs. computer, crayons, poster board) if the writing isn't coming. ... People say to write every day. I'm not able to pull this off (at least in the sense of sitting down daily to add paragraphs to the book projects I'm working on), but I have tried to get better at keeping track of thoughts, sentences, and references that come to me between the times I can sit down to flesh them outsometimes years later.

Jennifer Wenzel

I have a short piece online about climate change that is cited in the Wikipedia entry for Anthropocene; that's pretty cool!

So much of the professional writing I do will never see the light of day: confidential letters of recommendation, reviews of book and article manuscripts, and tenure reviews all have miniscule audiences, but the stakes are so high, demanding such meticulous reading and canny argumentation, that I sometimes feel (and fear) they're my best work.

What role has travel played in determining what you write?

JW: I spent a summer in India in 1992, basically on a lark after I left the graduate program at Indiana. I had an epiphany there—during a sleepless night on a rooftop terrace, complete with a full moon and a lone cow wandering the street below (it's so cliché, but totally true!)—that my longtime love for literature might be combined with my budding interest in India and the postcolonial world more broadly. Since then I have been lucky enough to travel widely, mostly for work, but even on vacations to places like Guatemala, Martinique, or Portugal, I'm seeing the sights through the lens of colonialism and the slave trade. And I try to keep my eyes open for suggestive images and stories to use in my work, whether it's a local TV news report about abandoned houses full of used tires in Detroit, or a photograph in the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg that became the starting point for the introduction to *Fueling Culture: Energy, History, Politics*, a book I'm co-editing.

How does reading make you a better writer?

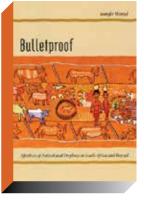
JW: In more ways than I can know or say. It's all about fluency, really, like playing a musical instrument: the daily practice that lets you hit the notes in tune, play the score with precision and style, and learn to improvise and noodle around. Taking inspiration from masters is important; I read Anthony Lane and Hilton Als in *The New Yorker* because they so often elevate cultural criticism to an art, in a way that leaves me in admiration, and occasionally, awe. But I've also learned so much from reading and editing others' unpublished writing in a supervisory capacity; articulating the principles of good writing to apprentice writers and tinkering with their prose has made me more conscious of my own failings and prodded me to work harder to say what I mean in a way that is intelligible.

How did the liberal arts education from Austin College help prepare you for your career?

JW: In a more specific way than you mean, perhaps, in the sense that I quite literally would not be where I am now without Austin College faculty who so generously took an interest in me early on and pushed me toward a scholarly career. More broadly, though, before there was Google or Wikipedia I had Heritage of Western Culture and a wide range of courses that introduced me to various disciplines, and, more importantly, a sense of the rewards of curiosity and the joys of being able to think, read, and converse across disciplines, historical periods, and geographic regions. And, the delight of discovery: I found secret passions for evolutionary biology and Chinese literature that never really went anywhere but were nonetheless precious as new things to know and ways to think. At Austin College, I learned how to learn and how to love learning deeply.

How can college students get the most out of their education?

JW: Seek out great teachers. There's nothing like being in the presence of a mind on fire.



STORYTELLERS' GIFT WILL PROVIDE FUTURE STUDENT STORIES

Scott Metelko '88 is a storyteller. He has told stories through song, through theatre, and through the design and construction



of magnificent sets (examples above) for all sorts of companies and all sorts of programs. He has done work in television, film, and theme parks—all over the world. Now, he and his wife, **Marilee Emerson**, are making a commitment through a planned gift to the College to help generations of Austin College students discover their own stories. The endowment gift will benefit the theatre program

for design and construction of sets and scenery for student productions.

Marilee graduated from the University of Florida but is happy to make this investment in Austin College. "Since I've been with Scott, I've been a part of the Austin College family; I've been involved in alumni productions; I know a lot of alumni and consider them friends; I love Austin College," she said. "My alma mater is a massive institution, and I give to it every year. But this gift allows us to be really focused in our giving; we felt like we could have more impact at Austin College."

Scott, who was a music major at Austin College, was involved in theatre—on stage and behind the scenes—from his first semester on campus, including summer theatre programs at Mo-Ranch. "A lot of what I do professionally came from what I learned from **Andy Williams** '74 (long-time technical director of Ida Green Theatre) and in the theatre department."

Scott and Marilee have no children and, like many people still in their prime, hadn't given much thought to an estate plan until the death of Marilee's dad a few years ago. "That was a catalyst for us; everyone should have a plan, and our minds kept coming back to Austin College. I really wanted to do something for the theatre department at Austin College," he said, adding that the plans were finalized last year.

Scott knows that a little bit of money can go a long way in theatre in an educational setting since all the labor is done by students. He's been that free labor on many occasions. After Austin College, he began a master's degree at Florida State in theatrical design but didn't finish as a business opportunity came his way. Since then, he's had his own business in set and lighting design.

Now, he and Marilee are telling stories just a little differently. His company, AST Exhibits, has moved in the last few years into museum setups. Marilee, who had a career in special education for 25 years, is now working at AST Exhibits as a client navigator and helps facilitate design meetings. Scott is designing exhibit spaces and telling stories. "The unique thing that drew me to the museum world, besides the fact that you have more time and resources to do things, is that museum exhibits, when done well, are an exercise in storytelling. Every exhibit is different and the important thing is finding the story and finding the best way to tell it."

"I'm happy to share the news of our gift because it's not something we talk about with friends, but I know there are a lot of alumni who don't have family obligations to fulfill with estate plans," Scott said. "If we can steer more people to make a gift to the College, we are happy to do that. For us, this is a really good use of our estate."

A motto of Scott's company is "No story left untold." The story of this couple's impact on the lives of future Austin College students is just beginning.

To discuss an estate plan to benefit future generations, contact **Suzanne Crouch**, CFRE, executive director of development and estate planning at 903.813.2059 or at *scrouch@austincollege.edu*. All who make legacy gifts are members of the John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society.

AUSTIN COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

"Global Vision, Local Engagement" Gets Spotlight at Fall Board of Trustees Meeting

Austin College trustees enjoyed a taste of Texoma during the fall 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. To acknowledge the power of local partnerships, the board met for Friday night dinner in downtown Sherman at Fulbelli's Restaurant in Kelly Square—a historic building restored by senior trustees **Robert** '60 and **Honey Altman Minshew** '63 of Sherman. Local community leaders joined the board to talk about the impact Austin College is making in the region—from volunteer manpower to student grant writing and local internships.

"Global Vision, Local Engagement" is one of four pillars of Austin College's recently adopted strategic plan, *Adding Value to a Changing World: 2015-202*0.

A foundational piece of the College's local engagement is its nationally recognized Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) program. SEPA is a collaborative effort with the Texoma Council of Governments and U.S. Government Grants, designed to provide grant-writing internships for Austin College students placed with local non-profit organizations (NPOs). In summer 2014, SEPA student/NPO teams submitted 42 proposals; to date, 14 have netted \$113,650 in new funds for the region.

The SEPA project, along with initiatives in regional innovation, collaboration, and facilitation, will build new bridges between the College and its home community—while accelerating the cultural and economic growth of the surrounding region. If the success of SEPA is any indication, the partnership between College and community will have a bright and successful future.



"The issues of regional prosperity are extremely important to Austin College. The 'international headquarters' of Austin College is here in Sherman, Texas, and that means that the future of this region is very tied to the future of our institution and vice versa." — Austin College President Marjorie Hass



Grant Marcinko '16 worked in summer 2014 as a SEPA intern at Pottsboro Public Library. He helped write six grants, and three were successfully funded, totaling \$19,850. Through his internship, Grant also assisted library visitors with research; he helped St. Patrick Catholic Church in Denison with a grant that was funded for \$45,000 to restore the church's organ.

Grant Marcinko—Tom and Priscilla Connally Memoria Scholarship

< Sampling of student impact in region through internships, research, and community service

ROO NOTES

57



Martha Boren Hook has written a historical romance novel, *Glory Bel*, published this spring by Xulon Press. The inspirational fiction novel is a story of "courageous love in post-Civil War America" and is

the first in "The Springdale Series" about a Southern family. This is her sixth book and second novel. Though Martha attended Austin College only her freshman year, she reports she is pleased to remain in touch with friends she made that year. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from North Texas State College in 1957 and a master's degree in literature from Southern Methodist University in 1959. She lives in Tyler, Texas.

65



Paul Pearce is included in a new book about the history of open tennis, The Original Nine: The Visionaries Who Pioneered the Women's Professional Tennis Circuit. The book was written by Donn Gobbie, a

doctoral student at Indiana University and a former associate of tennis star Billie Jean King. In 1980, Paul, then-executive director of the Houston Tennis Association, and tennis pro Nancy Richey spearheaded what became the first tournament of the women's professional tennis circuit, the Virginia Slims Tour. Paul is a retired officer of Club Corporation of America and runs a business providing interim management for country clubs in the Chicago area.

'Roo News



'ROOS IN CELEBRATION

Charles '55 and **Dorothy Tucker Winfield** '53 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 11 and were surprised with a luncheon in their hometown of Mount Vernon, Texas. Earlier in the year, the Winfields were inducted into Mount Vernon ISD's Hall of Honor for their more-than-30-years of service to the community and the school. Charles was high school principal at Mount Vernon High, then returned to the classroom, also coaching boys and girls sports teams. Dorothy was a music teacher for Mount Vernon elementary and junior high schools. The Winfield's family, including their son **Allan** '81, Allan's wife Diana and son David; and the Winfield's daughter **Margaret Winfield Jackson** '85, attended both events. Pictured above, left to right, are Allan, Dorothy, Charles, Diana, and Margaret.

GOLDEN 'ROO WEEKEND SAVE THE DATE: MAY 15 - 17, 2015

The Class of 1965 will be formally inducted into the Austin College Golden 'Roo Society. Watch for more details in the spring. 69



Ed Jones married Jeffery Twu on July 29 at Saint Paul's Chapel at Columbia University in New York City. Ed retired in 2010 from a career in philanthropy, most recently at the JPMorgan Private Bank. He currently teaches English for Speakers of Other

Languages (ESOL) with the New York Public Library. Jeffrey is working toward a Ph.D. in anthropology at Columbia. The couple lives in New York City and looks forward to spending a year in Hong Kong during Jeffery's field research in 2015-2016.

70 🗖

Lyn Lockhart Gray has retired from teaching after 32 years in public schools



and the last eight years at a private school, where she taught thirdthrough-sixthgrade reading, language,

and history. Now, she is writing children's books about her dogs. Four books, available through Amazon, have been published and another one is on the way.





David Baker is in his 42nd year in public education as an athletic trainer/ teacher. As an athletic trainer, he is charged with providing sports medicine coverage for a suburban high

school's 2,700 students and 1,000 athletes. In coordination with the team physician, he is responsible for treatment and rehabilitation for the athletes and works with each sport's head coach to implement conditioning, prevention, and sport specific training to enhance the individual athlete's success. Though his position no longer includes teaching, he taught health education for 36 years.

75 🗖

Julie Sager Miller, president of Advantage Trust Company in Salina, Kansas, was elected to the Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees in June. She earned an MBA degree from Southern Methodist University and began her banking career at First National Bank of Dallas, following that with 21 years in banking in Salina. She has served as president of Advantage Trust Company since 1997. She has been very involved in her community, serving on the boards of the Airport Authority, Regional Health Center, Surgical Hospital, YWCA Endowment Trust, and Hospice of Salina, as well as Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure.

76

Davina Grace Hill moved to Georgia in February to serve as executive director of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County.

77 -

Cynthia Hestand directed *Lone Star/ Laundry and Bourbon* Off-Broadway at the Clurman Theatre in July, produced by Contemporary Theatre of Dallas.

[ACCOLADES]

LEADING TEXAS DOCTORS



Don R. Read '64 was elected chair of the Board of Trustees of the Texas Medical Association in May. The TMA is the nation's largest and one of the oldest state medical societies and speaks for more than 47,000 physician and medical student members across the state. The board manages business and financial affairs of the association, implements policies of the House of Delegates, establishes interim policy of the association between meetings of the House of Delegates, and monitors program activities of association councils and committees.

Board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Colon & Rectal Surgery, Don practices with Texas Colon and Rectal Specialists. The group includes 13 physicians and 11 locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. He has been included in many "Best Doctor" listings in *D Magazine* and was included as a "Super Doc" in *Texas Monthly* in 2013 and 2014.

Dr. Read previously has served as president and Board of Directors chairman for the Dallas County Medical Society, and as president of the Texas Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Based upon his leadership, he was awarded the Max Cole Leadership Award in 2010, presented by the Dallas County Medical Society for outstanding service in the field of medicine and to the community. After surviving West Nile Virus with encephalitis, meningitis, and polio-like paralysis in 2005, Don, along with his wife, Roberta, run one of the few West Nile Virus support groups in the nation. They are able to help others who come down with West Nile Virus to understand the disease and the prospects for recovery.

The next generation of 'Roo physicians is following in Don's footsteps of leadership. **David Savage** '07 is the medical student member of the TMA Board of Trustees, serving with Dr. Read. Last year, David was the Texas Medical Association Medical Student Section chair. An M.D./Ph.D. student at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, David plans to become a physician-scientist and pursue a career in academic medicine.





Rebecca Simmons is included in the *Texas Lawyer* listing of "Winning Women," published this summer. The former justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals and the 408th Judicial District Court of Bexar

County, Rebecca is now associate general counsel, litigation, at Kinetic Concepts, Inc. She sits by assignment on selected appellate and district court cases.

82 🗖

Charla Glass Aldous, founder of Aldous Law Firm in Dallas, was among 18 legal practitioners teaching a small group of young lawyers the art of being a successful



trial attorney at the National Trial College of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) at Harvard Law School this summer. Nationally recognized as a top trial lawyer, Charla consistently

is included in "Best Lawyer" listings, with recognition among the top 50 women lawyers in Texas.

87



Gregg Fort will become vice president for college advancement at Hartwick College in New York in January 2015. He makes the move from Hilbert College in New York, where he

serves as vice president for institutional advancement. From 2007 to 2012, Gregg was an assistant vice president for advancement at DePaul University in Chicago and previously was executive director of the Big Red Fund at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

89

Eric Schwab is the new cross country coach and assistant track coach at Tabor College in Kansas. He had been the cross country and track and field coach at Fresno Pacific University for 20 years. While at Austin College, he competed in track and swimming and finished 12th in the marathon at the 1989 NAIA National Track and Field Championship. Eric earned a master's degree in physical education in 1991 from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California, where he served as





TELLING THE AUSTIN COLLEGE STORY

The above "panel of experts" shared their Austin College stories this spring at Austin College Experience, when admitted students visit campus—and hopefully confirm they will enroll in the fall's freshman class. Left to right, with job titles as of April, are **Nick Zitaglio** '10, district sales leader, PepsiCo/ Frito Lay; **Bethanie Livernois** '13, student, SMU Dedman School of Law; **Will Griffith** '13, residential mortgage asset management analyst, Goldman Sachs; **Han Pham Hulen** '98, M.D., CEO, Hulen Wound Care Professionals; **Nicholas Low** '11, student, SMU Dedman School of Law; **Asil Yassine** '12, analyst, Commit!; and **Neema Dad** '12, student, Baylor College of Dentistry. They must have done well; 2014 freshman enrollment numbers were right on target.

the women's cross country coach for two years and as an assistant track and field coach for four years. He was named Golden State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007 through 2011. Eric coached 62 NAIA All-Americans in track and field and cross country, 19 NAIA national champions in track and field, and 79 NAIA scholar athletes, among other accolades.

93 🗖

Jim Tarpley has a new role ahead. See the article on page 46.

95 💻



Dennis Womack has earned a doctorate in educational administration from the University

of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He has served as the assistant superintendent for Lovejoy ISD for the past nine years.

96

Dave Youngblood has been named vice president of communication for Analog, DLP, and the corporate brand by Texas Instruments. He joined TI in 1999 as a



launch marketing manager for Standard Linear and Logic products. He has held a number of positions in marketing and communications in his 15 years at TI, most recently serving as director

of communications for Analog, DLP, and the corporate brand. After graduating from Austin College, he earned a master's degree in communications from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

Kevin White was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Writing Award in Law by the Burton Awards in association with the



Library of Congress. Award winners are selected from nominations submitted by the nation's top 1,000 most prestigious and largest law firms. Kevin received the award for co-authoring "The Consideration

of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions: A Critique of the EEOC Guidance," which appeared in volume 43 of the *Seton Hall Law Review*. He is a partner on the Labor and Employment team at Hunton & Williams, L.L.P.



Marissa Elkins was

sworn in to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) at the group's annual meeting in Philadelphia in August. She is a solo practitioner in western Massachusetts, where

she focuses almost exclusively on criminal defense. She previously was a partner at the Amherst law firm of Allison, Angier, Bartmon, Elkins, & Fernald, and began her career as a public defender. She has been especially dedicated to indigent defense, accepting major felony appointments in state court at both the Superior Court trial level and post-conviction cases before the Massachusetts Appeals Court and Supreme Judicial Court and in the U.S. District Court in Springfield as a member of the local CJA panel. Marissa is president-elect of the Hampshire County Bar Association and has been a member of that organization's executive board since 2010. She works in the area of criminal defense training for the Hampshire County Bar Advocate Program. In 2013, she organized and recruited lawyers to participate in a required training for ASL and Certified Deaf Interpreters seeking certification as court interpreters and acted as lead counsel in the mock trial culminating the training. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law and a member of NACDL's Indigent Defense Committee.

98

Stephanie Barnes has been promoted from courtroom litigator to partner by the Texas-based law firm Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith. She practices in the firm's offices in Plano and is a veteran of courtrooms across the U.S., with a focus



on representing clients before the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas. Stephanie handles a variety of litigation matters for clients in both state and federal courts,

including business disputes, intellectual property claims, and employee benefits litigation tied to ERISA and non-ERISA life and disability plans. She previously clerked for Judge Curtis L. Collier, who served as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. She also practiced in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, office of Miller & Martin, one of the largest firms in the Southeast. **Tim Kennedy** earned a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School (YDS) in May, and also graduated from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, the Episcopal seminary within YDS, with a diploma in Anglican studies and a certificate in educational leadership and ministry. He received the Hicks Prize, awarded to the graduate who most benefited the seminary community. He is chaplain and religion teacher at Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda, Maryland, outside Washington, D.C.



Jack Skaggs, an attorney with Jackson Walker was selected to the "Super Lawyers - Rising Stars" list by Thomson Reuters and published this spring in *Texas Monthly*. Those on the list are among 2.5 percent

of lawyers selected each year to receive this award.

99 🗖

Audrev D. Ebel has been named regional human resources manager for Bed Bath and Beyond in all its Canadian operations. She transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2010 as the district human resources manager for the company in British Columbia and Alberta provinces. BuybuyBaby, a firm subsidiary, entered the Canadian market with its first store in Edmonton, Alberta, this fall. Audrey also serves as regional human resources manager for this store and future stores as the Canadian market grows. She is the daughter of **Bonnie M. Scranton** '90. who retired from Austin College in 2010 as director of donor relations and advancement services.

Jake Estes opened Estes Law Office in McKinney, Texas, in April. The firm represents a wide variety of clients in the practice areas of wills and trusts, probate, guardianship, and corporate law.

[ACCOLADES]





Carol McDonald '72 retired this fall from her position as president of Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) and was awarded the ICUT Founders Award. As ICUT's president, she was its principle advocate with lawmakers from the 68th through the 83rd Texas Legislatures.

Under Carol's leadership, ICUT experienced a number of public policy successes, including increased funding for the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant program and inclusion of ICUT institutions in other state financial aid programs. During the award presentation, it

was noted that Carol spent 11,960 days as president, and during that time, TEG appropriations increased over 500 percent with nearly \$1.9 billion in appropriations benefiting approximately 200,000 students. Having cultivated strong working relationships with legislators and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board members, Carol's initiatives were given thoughtful consideration, and she had success on many issues for which she advocated.

Before taking the ICUT position, Carol earned two master's degrees, taught at the National Institute for Public Administration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, through a Luce Scholarship, and was a policy analyst and legislative aide in the Texas Lieutenant Governor's office. That position made the perfect stepping stone to become ICUT president in 1982. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Along the way, she served as president and president-elect of the Austin College Alumni Board and was honored with the College's First Decade Award, Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award, and an honorary doctorate. She's done the 'Roos—and all of independent higher education—quite proud. 00



Jake Davis has been promoted to head baseball coach at Celina High School. He has taught U.S. history for the past four years at the school and served as pitchers and

catchers coach and defensive ends coach for the football squad. He and his wife, Shandee (Richey), have two adopted sons, Slade, 5, and Dax, 2.

01



Katharine Battaie Clark was selected for inclusion in Texas Rising Stars 2014 by Thomson Reuters, published in Texas Monthly in April. The list includes the topranked 2.5 percent of Texas attorneys

who are 40 years old or younger or who have been practicing for 10 years or less. Katharine is a bankruptcy and business attorney in the Dallas offices of Thompson & Knight.



recently earned a Ph.D. at Garett Evangelical **Theological Seminary** in the field of Christian education and congregational studies. In July, she was appointed director of children and intergenerational ministries at the United Methodist Church's General Board of Discipleship in Nashville,

Tennessee. Tanya's Portuguese Water Dog puppy, Bela Esperanza (Portuguese for "Beautiful Hope"), will join Tanya in ministry soon, having recently passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and training to be a therapy dog and a canine ministry companion. Tanya continues to run (she completed the Chicago Marathon in October 2013), cycle, and sing in her spare time, and wrote that she loves the beautiful and hilly parks of Nashville.

Stephanie Odom completed her Ph.D. at UT-Austin in 2013 and joined the UT-Tyler faculty that fall, teaching within her specialties of English with a concentration in rhetoric and writing, as well as some literature classes.

AUSTIN COLLEGE ALUMNUS PROVES TO BE "UNSTOPPABLE"



Luther Jackson '06 released his debut album, Unstoppable, in July. He began his musical journey after graduation, when he and his friend Akaash Singh '06 moved to Los Angeles. Influenced by his musical performances while at Austin College, Jackson knew upon graduating that he wanted to pursue a career in entertainment. When Singh started on a path toward becoming a comedian and actor, Jackson set out to produce his own music. Many albums are never fully realized, and difficulties confronted Jackson as he strove to establish himself in the Los Angeles area. However, he persevered, putting everything he had into his music, and his hard work allowed him to succeed. Jackson's inspiration behind the album is self-discovery, and he feels that his music speaks to diverse audiences of different ages, races, and musical styles. He describes Unstoppable as a "retro take on '90s R&B," influenced by artists such as Michael Jackson, Usher, Boyz II Men, and Brian McKnight. For Jackson, music allows him to share himself, connecting with others by embracing different cultures. Unstoppable has received strong positive reviews on iTunes and Google Play. Jackson lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jamilla, and their son, Luther Jackson III.

By Mike Sinclair '16



03

Sarah Carabias-Rush was promoted early this year to vice president for corporate recruitment and economic development for the Dallas Regional Chamber. Her role is to lead efforts to market the Dallas/Fort Worth

region as a location for headquarters, technology-based companies, and other targets. She led the team's efforts on recent corporate headquarter relocations, including Toyota Motor North America, Active Network, and Omnitracs. Sarah has worked at the Dallas Regional Chamber for more than 10 years with increasing responsibility in the areas of economic development, technology and healthcare industry programming, and international business recruitment.

05

Chris Moore became senior pastor of New Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, in February. After graduation, he returned to his hometown of San Augustine, Texas, to teach and coach at

his former high school. Two years later, he enrolled at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he earned a master's degree in Christian education. He is pursuing a doctorate in education and ministry at the seminary. Ordained in July 2011, Chris also served as youth pastor at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas.



07

Jason Burton was named the women's basketball head coach at Texas A&M-Commerce in April 2014. He was coaching at McKinney Boyd High School at the time of the hire. though the position

at A&M-Commerce is a return trip to the university, having spent 2007 to 2011 as an assistant and associate head coach for the men's basketball team. Jason spent the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 seasons as an assistant basketball coach at Texas State University. He previously was a coach with the Dallas Mustangs, a non-profit youth basketball program. He earned a master's degree in business administration at Texas A&M-Commerce in 2009.





Hillarv Powlen Croissant graduated in May 2014 with her doctorate in education with an emphasis on supervision, curriculum, and instruction from Texas A&M-Commerce. Her dissertation is entitled "Classroom Environment Influence on

Student Self-Efficacy in Mathematics." This preceded the birth of her son, Weston Eric, in April. She lives in Melissa, Texas, and continues to work with elementary students in the north Dallas area.

09

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



Hillary Luckett-Clark and Edwin Clark were married May 10, 2014, in Sherman with alumni Josh Muchnicoff '11, Kelby Archer '09, Melida Ailshire '06, and Sam Thorpe '84 attending. The new couple lives in Sherman associate attorney

where Hillary is an associate attorney with the LeCrone Law Firm. Edwin earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mississippi State University and a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University.

DJ Hardy passed the Texas Bar Exam and married Rachel DeWitt in November 2013. The wedding party included Wesley Johnson, Colin Renner, Robert Likarish, Britain Bruner, and Elizabeth Elliot, all '09; Sean Simpson '12, and Gabe Vasquez '11.







Erin Bailey married Jordan Davidson, a 2010 graduate of Angelo State University, on March 14. Pointing out their 3.14 (Pi) wedding date, Erin said they could have truly had a Pi wedding if they delayed a year (3.14.15). Love must have won out, and they settled for 2014. The couple lives in Odessa, Texas.



Jered Dominey, an intelligence analyst with Bravo Company, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2/10 Security Forces Assistance Brigade, was presented the Bronze Star

Medal with "V" device during an awards ceremony in September 2013 at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan.



Kate E. Murphy is the Mental Health Policy Fellow contributing to the centers for Effective Justice and Health Care at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, funded through the Hogg

Foundation. She earned her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law in 2013, where she was an Austin College Presidential Scholar and a member of the Texas Tech Arbitration Team that won the national championship at the 2011-2012 ABA Arbitration Competition in Chicago, Illinois. While in law school, Kate interned for Justice Phil Johnson at the Texas Supreme Court, and as a Judge K.K. Legett Fellow, interned at the Washington Legal Foundation where she drafted arguments that were included in amicus briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. Upon graduation, she was inducted into the National Order of Barristers for her achievements in oral advocacy and received awards for her accomplishments in constitutional and property law. Before joining the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Kate worked as an attorney in Houston, focused primarily on oil and gas law.



What's your legacy?

Including Austin College in your estate plans will support the educational mission, future, and financial wellbeing 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*. 12

'Roo **News**



Casey and John met on a JanTerm trip to South Africa. Casey works for North Texas Public Broadcasting as a project coordinator, and John started a manufacturing

company in Irving, Texas, shortly after graduating. The couple lives in Irving, Texas.

Casev Coplin and John Rauschuber '11 were

Katie Heath was one of eight candidates, of 1,200 applicants, recruited to join the management training program with Japanese clothing retailer Uniqlo. She is stationed in Paris. France, at a flagship store of more than 250 employees and the highest sales of the 2,000 boutiques worldwide. As part of her training, she has traveled to London and Tokyo, and stores are quickly opening around Europe so opportunities for global mobility are "endless," she said. Though the move in fall 2013 came after a long and frustrating job search in Paris, passing the DALF language studies diploma recognized by the government of France, and immigration nightmares requiring much research, she is now "living the dream I envisioned for myself when I first enrolled at Austin College."

13

Lauren Hill earned a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School for Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is a management analyst for the City of Mesquite, Texas.



Jill Murphy met and fell in love with Benjamin Elberson '12 during JanTerm 2011 trip to London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Munich, exploring the great scientific discoveries of Europe. They were engaged on New Year's Eve 2012, and were married July 12 at The Brookwood Community Chapel. Keatan King '09, associate pastor at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas, officiated at the ceremony. Kate



READY FOR A CAREER?

Austin College's second Career-Readiness Check was held this fall, with professionals assessing more than 40 students' preparedness for their career search and allowing students to experience what job interviews might be like. First, Career Services staff helped students get their resumes in order. Next, 16 alumni volunteers returned to campus to serve as interviewers or coordinators, and then offer students input on their preparation and delivery. Each student had two 15-minute interviews. Then, interviews were scored and the results became a Career Action Plan, empowering the student to take valuable steps toward their career goals. One group of alumni volunteers is pictured above, left to right: Mary Richardson Cyrus, '11, owner, Mary Cyrus Photography; Mary Caroline Ingram '13, operations consultant, Encompass Home Health and Hospice; Curtis Henderson '84, chief administrative officer, Approach Resources; Stan Collins '75, business analytics consultant; Charles Curtis '75, IT and management consultant; Brandon Brown '09, associate, Goldman Sachs; Katy Williams '10, program director, Special Olympics Texas; Katie Clifford '06, director of communications, Arkansas Public School Resource Center; Laura-Jane Kirby Barber '04, ambassador, Plexus Worldwide; and Arjun Demla '09, associate, DBG.

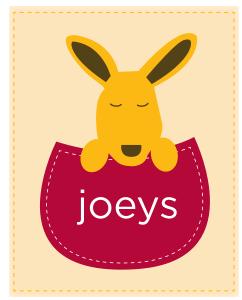
Murphy '10, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and bridesmaids included Lauren Hill '13 and Evy Mitchell '13. The best man was Hanaro Yoon '12, and groomsmen were Sean Simpson '12, Prateek Shukla '12, and Graham Crannell '13. Adam Phillips '13 and Matthew Wescott '12 were ushers. Guests included Kimberly Cook, Connor Patton, Kolme Ray, Parneet Dhaliwal, Ben Sater, Scott Meara, Blair Lenhan, Bliss Froelich, Ashley Fitzpatrick, Kate Wofford, Ellen Kenzora, Tyler Liang, Haley Freeland, Aaron Baldwin, Anthony Tatar, Brian Clinton, Michael Luk, Alexandre Fegalhi, Jake Wilson, Amy Kalmbach, Brian Botello, Casey Titus, Caitlin Larsen, Rachel Crooks, Eric Gordon, Amanda Kelly, Sarah Cravens, John Rudder, Emily Olvera, Amanda Hovey, Vanessa Castro, Mara Lipow, Julie Coggins, Zack Bengsten, Sarah Bennett, Samantha Matulis, Kelly McDaniel, Jason Henry, Heather Farquhar, and Jared Zimmerman. The first group dance at the wedding was an ACtivators' Energizer, and all the Austin College students

and many Presbyterian guests joined the newlyweds on the dance floor for "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" by The Proclaimers. Ben has completed two years of medical school and is currently working toward his M.D./Ph.D. at Texas Tech School of Medicine and Health Science Center. Jill is director of after-school activities at The Covenant Child Development Center in Lubbock, Texas, where they will live for the next five years while Ben completes his degrees.



graduated with honors from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law and recently sat for the Texas State Bar examination.

Jordan Rose





Jill Young Hughes and her husband. Chris. announce the birth of their son, Marcus Hamilton, March 24. Big sisters Casey, 18; Aly, 16; and Brooke, 4, were very excited to have a brother. Jill earned a

master's degree in special education and taught elementary school for five years, but now she loves being a stay-at-home mom teaching her own daughters. The family lives in Neptune Beach, Florida.

03

Laura McFerrin

and Deanna

welcomed a

son, Griffin

Michael. on

He joins his

big brother,

was named

for Michael

April 30, 2014.

Grayson Myles.

Griffin Michael

Hogan



Kris '02 and Brooke Blankenship Hiltzman announce the birth of their second child, Kristopher "Drake," on January 17 in Longview, Texas.



Emily and Christopher **Dixon** '04 welcomed their daughter, Eloise Erin, on April 10. The family lives in Olathe. Kansas.



Jamilla and Luther Jackson welcomed Luther Jackson III, "Trey," on January 3. Read more about Luther's work in 'Roo News on page 42.



Drew '08 and Nicole Hagenbuch Kelly announce the birth of their son, James Hall Jones Kelly, December 26, 2013. Big sister Evelyn loves her

new playmate. The family lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, where Drew is completing his residency in orthopedic surgery at University of Oklahoma Medical Center.





Hillary Powlen Croissant '08 (MAT '09) welcomed their son, Weston Eric, on April 22.

was just released to DVD. **99**

family live in Oak Cliff, and she has owned

years. The documentary that she directed

Anthony Garcia '96. Laura and her

Benchmark Legal Media for the last 11



Jeff and Michelle Whetstone Anderson welcomed two bundles of joy to their family May 28, 2013. Jack Rhodes and Hunter Stone join big brother Reid at home in Dallas.

05 I



Holly Ramsey Blaydes announce the arrival of their daughter, Claire Cilja, on May 30. Patrick and Holly were

married in 2011, and the family of three lives in Dallas.

Patrick and

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

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

07



Fielding a Team of New Doctors



Dr. Jim Tarpley '93 is developing and directing a new residency program at Texoma Medical Center in Denison.

Dr. Jim Tarpley '93 is about to launch an exciting new program with a group of young doctors. He doesn't anticipate the drama of *Grey's Anatomy*, but he knows that serving as the director of the Texoma Medical Center (TMC) Family Medicine Residency program will bring many new challenges. The program, which launches in July 2015, is in partnership with the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC).

Tarpley himself earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine through UNTHSC in 2000, and went on to Texas Tech University Medical Center to complete his internship and residency in family medicine, serving as chief resident his final year.

Since then, he has practiced family medicine through the Texoma HealthCare System, with an office in Bonham, Texas. He grew up there and was proud to return to serve his hometown. He has treated an average of 450 patients per month since 2003, offering care to newborns through geriatric patients, and has done all sorts of procedures and therapies along the way.

Once he was approached by TMC and UNTHSC to direct and develop the residency program, he moved his practice from Bonham to the medical building next door to the hospital. Though he will not see the number of patients he has in the past, Tarpley will be "doing what I'm teaching and teaching what I'm doing."

Residents, Tarpley explained, come in with a good knowledge base of medicine. "Residency," he said, "is about learning to manage the patients and put their knowledge into action. Part of my role is to see that they gain a level of confidence. They will certainly have an advocate in me." He added that it is important also that they learn the business of medicine and the role of community service. Community service is something Tarpley knows well. Since his student days at Austin College, he has worked and volunteered at Camp Sweeney, a camp for children with diabetes, in Gainesville, Texas. He more recently has been involved in medical/evangelical mission trips to India. And he see the potential for trips with residents in the future.

Tarpley said in addition to his work serving to model medical care for residents, it is important to him that his compassion be on display to the young doctors. "I have

a strong belief that to wear a white coat is not a prestigious honor but a blessing," he said. "I'm compelled to take my blessings or talents and invest them in the lives of the different people that intersect with my life every day."



Though the residency program is just getting started, Tarpley already is thinking about how he can work with Austin College pre-medical students as well and ways to integrate students into some of the teaching opportunities for residents. He recalls his own undergraduate days and decisions about what to do with the rest of his life. The reputation of the pre-medical program led him to Austin College, even turning down a full-ride scholarship at another school to seek an Austin College education. "I just felt the pre-med training would be better. The College has a great reputation and **Jack Pierce, Health Sciences advisor**, is very protective of that reputation," he said.

Medical care is a team operation, Tarpley said, and family medicine doctors are the quarterbacks of the team. "They call the 'shots'," he laughed, pun fully intended.

IN MEMORIAM 💊 ALUMNI

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



While visiting at Homecoming this year, one friend was surprised that I was on the Alumni Board and asked me why I was serving? When I reminded them of how much our time at Austin College meant to us and the impact that it made on us, the question really became, why not?

I truly believe that Homecoming 2014 brought our College experiences home to us in a new way. Alumni had the privilege to hear from a variety of novelists, news writers, academic authors, and song writers—all Austin College graduates—through 'Roos Who Write lectures. The program was incredibly well done and well attended too. In fact, this year's Homecoming broke almost all recent attendance records! I was honored to be a part of it to present a workshop on grant writing and how my Austin College education prepared me so well for a career in nonprofit management. Homecoming 2014 turned a brighter spotlight on the College itself—and many talented people it has educated.

We hope you were able to join the fun and see how students benefit from alumni support. This is evidenced not only through Homecoming programming but also new opportunities such as the Advocacy, Mock Trial, and Mediation Program (www.austincollege.edu/mocktrial) and the Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) Program (www.austincollege.edu/sepa).

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 as well as the college ranking publications. And, more importantly, your annual giving provides operating dollars to give students access to realworld 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 at **www.austincollege.edu/giving**. I hope to see many of you at AlumNights or other events, and please make plans now to attend Homecoming 2015. You won't want to miss it.

Thank you for your support of 'Roo Nation!

Kirsten Brandt James '85 Alumni Board President

1000	
1938	Doris Hibbert Neves
1941	Kent Morrison May 15, 2014
1945	Nancy Hatfield Everett June 11, 2014
1946	Bev Ficke November 14, 2013
1949	John M. Coffin November 9, 2014
1950	Philip Morrow October 16, 2014
1951	Lynn Porter CalvertMay 1, 2014
1952	Shirley May February 13, 2014
1953	Richard Freeman October 25, 2013
1953	Wayne Sebesta October 19, 2013
1954	Anne Chaney Hardy June 30, 2014
1954	Joe RaylSeptember 29, 2014
1955	Edna Sue HoodSeptember 8, 2014
1955	Don Hulse May 25, 2014
1956	Daniel Howell, Jr June 10, 2014
1956	Robert William Schaefer July 28, 2014
1958	Geraldine Seaman Sanders April 5, 2014
1959	Courtenay Marshall June 8, 2014
1961	Imy Lou Caviness WaltersSeptember 23, 2014
1963	Julie Lawrence Cochran October 21, 2014
1964	David Mercer Martin February 22, 2014
1967	Steven McAdooJuly 2, 2014
1969	Nancy Marchetti Maggard February 22, 2014
1972	John Lane February 19, 2014
1972	Ann Roberts Williamson O'Hara November 2, 2014
1972	Penny Apple Trosper November 2, 2014
1974	Joe Martindale November 2, 2013
1975	Barbara Boren MarshFebruary 3, 2014
1985	Dorane Docherty August 29, 2014
1988	Cheryl Woodworth May 25, 2014
1991	Laura Marble Arledge August 10, 2014
1999	Brian C. Dodson August 5, 2014
1999	Laura McCracken April 11, 2014

Remembering Senior Trustee Joe Rayl

The Austin College community was saddened to learn of the death on September 29 of senior trustee **Joe F. Rayl** '54.



Joe joined the Austin College Board of Trustees in 1988, and following his term, he continued on the Senior Board until his death. He was a longtime supporter of Austin College projects, with gifts toward building renovations, annual fund, capital projects, and several athletics projects.

in addition to gifts toward the renovation of Wortham Center, the Harry E. Smith Art History Chair, and the College's Volunteer Leadership Assembly.

He was inducted into the Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor in 1981.

Joe and his family had lived in Bolivar, Missouri, since the 1960s when he purchased a petroleum distributorship there. A few years later, he purchased a small bank in Greenfield and spent the next 40 years in banking and building community banks throughout southwest Missouri.

Friends We Will Miss

Margaret Crow of Dallas, a supporter of Austin College projects, died April 11, 2014.

" In Other Words "

Just Write.

BY: Luan Beaty Mendel '75



"I've always wanted to write." If I had a nickel for every person who's said that to me, I'd be a wealthy woman. When the people who make that comment are strangers, I don't have a chance to inquire further about their literary aspirations. But if friends and acquaintances express an interest in writing, each time I see them, I ask whether they've made any progress. Of that group, only three people have started and finished writing projects. The sad truth, I've concluded, is that few of those who say they want to write actually follow through. There are valid reasons for this, some of which I'll explore below. On the other hand, research has supplied some surprising reasons to persevere.

Finding time to write is the most daunting obstacle for many of us. We tend to see writers as people who somehow manage to carve out big blocks of time to work, and few of us are able to do that. But that picture is less true than ever before. Writers I know work on airplanes, in hotel rooms, in doctors' waiting rooms. Accepting that it's a matter of making time to write, whenever and wherever, is the first step in the journey. I'm not suggesting this is easy, but, as novelist Margaret Atwood says: "If you're waiting for the perfect moment you'll never write a thing, because it will never arrive."

The second obstacle is as much cultural as it is personal. We live in a world that offers unlimited distraction. The Internet beckons 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our phones and tablets play music and movies and provide entire libraries at the swipe of a fingertip. Yet creative endeavors require a certain amount of quiet and mental, if not physical, privacy. There are still places we can find quiet and privacy even in a noisy, distracting world, but I am concerned that our capacity for relative silence, with no company save our own thoughts, is diminishing. And to the extent that we allow that trend to continue, artistic pursuits of every stripe will suffer.

Let's assume—and it's a big assumption, I know—that you find time and mental space to begin a writing project. Then, one day early in the undertaking, you stare at what you've written, and you realize your sentences are flat, your words forced. You find absolutely nothing redeeming in the work you've done. Meet obstacle number three: the best seller complex.

The New York Times Best Seller List has long been the Holy Grail for writers. We all want to drink from that cup, and there's nothing wrong with aspiring to greatness—unless it keeps you from writing. Like the fledgling painter who gives up because she's never going to rival Monet or Van Gogh, many of us stop writing because our work will never equal that of our favorite authors. It's a lousy excuse, but—and here I speak from personal experience—it can be the toughest to overcome.

By now you're probably thinking it would be easier to scale Mt. Everest than take on a writing project. But before you abandon the idea, consider what Dr. James Pennebaker at the University of Texas has discovered about writing. For nearly 20 years, Pennebaker, a psychology professor, has studied the beneficial effects of expressive writing. Pennebaker used writing as a vehicle for students, and later for patients, to articulate thoughts and feelings about stressful events or emotional upheavals. Pennebaker's work, and that of researchers in New Zealand, shows that writing can improve the function of the immune system, help physical injuries heal faster, boost mood, and reduce the severity of asthma attacks.

But you don't need to be stressed out or dealing with a traumatic event to benefit from writing—even blogging has been shown to produce positive psychological and physiological effects. Researchers are currently exploring the neurobiology of the writing process, and at this point, the leading theory is that it triggers dopamine release in the brain, as do activities such as listening to music and running.

So forget the Great American Novel. Find 15 minutes, shut down your browser, and silence your phone. Write a paragraph about the latest run-in you had with your crusty neighbor or blog a few hundred words about a movie or book you loved (or hated). Put aside any preconceived notions you may have about quality and quantity and just write. Because the act of writing itself is therapeutic—good for your brain and good for your body.

Luan Beaty Mendel '75 is a freelance writer and novelist who lives in Mammoth Lakes, California. Her novel Yard Sale was published in 2010, and she is currently working on a mystery set at the South Pole. Find more of her thoughts at www.lbmendel.com. Luan is also a member of the Austin College Board of Trustees and participated in the 'Roos Who Write conference during Homecoming.

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.

Austin College GLOBAL OUTREACH FORUM

POSEY LEADERSHIP NAWARD

March 26, 2015



Shigeru Ban

Innovative Architect and Humanitarian

Receiving the 2015 Austin College Posey Leadership Award

Convocation | Austin College | Wynne Chapel

GO! Forum | Lecture and Award Presentation in Dallas Perot Museum of Nature and Science

> Registration required Opening January 2015

Learn more and stay informed: www.austincollege.edu/goforum







Office of Institutional Advancement 900 North Grand Avenue, Suite 6G Sherman, Texas 75090-4400

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID AUSTIN, TX PERMIT NO. 110

TWEET, POST, & TAG. CONNECT TO AUSTIN COLLEGE



www.austincollege.edu/connect

Crowned king and queen of Homecoming 2014, seniors Newt Cunningham and Stefany Cruz embody the full Austin College experience. Active in service, theatre, and academic and social organizations, they are taking full advantage of their opportunities.

Gifts from alumni and friends make such opportunities possible funding scholarships, supporting faculty, and making available programs that help change lives.

Have you supported Austin College this year? Make your gift now: www.austincollege.edu/giving

Stefany Cruz—Thomas G. Hall Sponsored Scholarship Newt Cunningham—Beverly G. Harris Endowed Academic Honors Scholarship, John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars Program

