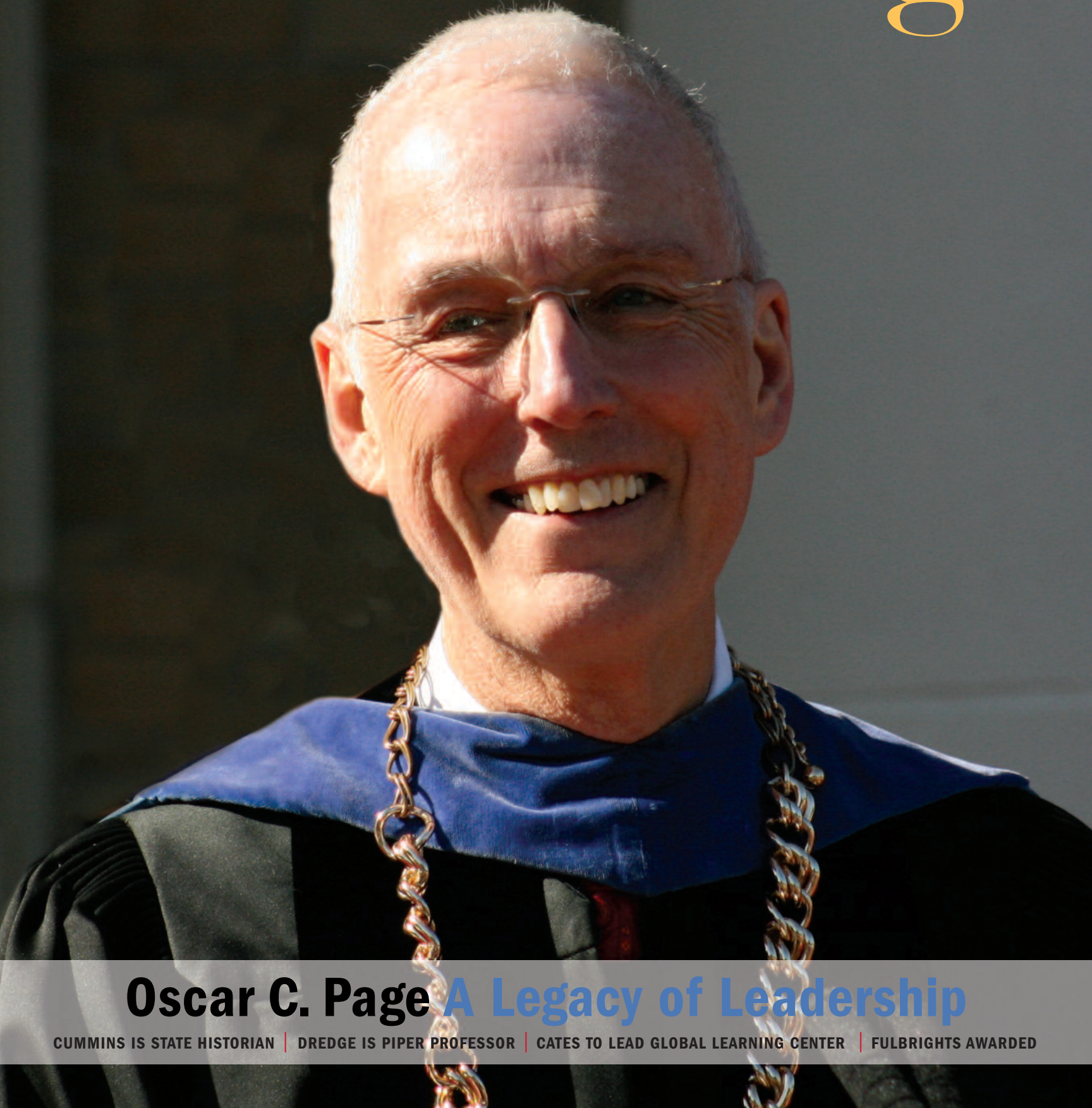


Austin College

Magazine June 2009



Oscar C. Page **A Legacy of Leadership**

CUMMINS IS STATE HISTORIAN | DREDGE IS PIPER PROFESSOR | CATES TO LEAD GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER | FULBRIGHTS AWARDED



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Photo by Vickie S. Kirby

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Blue skies and bright sunshine offered a brilliant backdrop for Commencement exercises for the Class of 2009. A photo display highlights only a few of the memorable moments of that important day for graduates and their families.



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AUSTIN COLLEGE

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AUSTIN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

June 2009

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Editor's Note: In place of President Page's regular column, we print here the text of his May 17 Commencement Address to the Class of 2009.

I am honored to have been invited by the Senior Committee and the senior class to be your Commencement speaker. I find myself today standing before you to share a few thoughts that hopefully will be meaningful as you move to a new venue of opportunity.

As I put these few thoughts on paper, I could not help but reflect upon my 38-year career as a senior administrator in higher education. During that time, I have had an opportunity to teach at a major university and to serve as dean of a small women's college, provost at a small state college, and president of a state university before coming to Austin College almost 15 years ago.

I cannot help but remember my first experience in the classroom at the University of Georgia during the late 1960s — a time of turmoil, civil disobedience, and cultural change. The civil rights movement was in full swing, and significant controversy surrounded all aspects of life as a result of the war in Vietnam. As I reflected on the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy, I could see a picture in my mind of the changes that were taking place in society.

I distinctly remember early one morning as I left Athens, Georgia, to drive to Kentucky where I grew up. I turned on the radio, and the first thing I heard was that Robert Kennedy had been killed. This stuck in my mind as a point in history that was going to change the nature of all our lives in years to come. We already had witnessed the assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. I realized during this early morning drive that the structure of society and the values within community were being challenged and would continue to be challenged more than ever before.

Various points in our lives can be categorized as life-changing experiences, where we can definitely say that life will not be the same as it was before. September 11, 2001, was one of those times in history. I stood that day with the students at Austin College in front of the Wright Campus Center participating in a candlelight vigil, remembering the many

individuals who were killed that day by a terrorist act. This event changed your lives and has changed my life significantly.

As you graduate today and begin your quest for success in whatever opportunity you have, you will some day look back over your life and remember these turning points that can be categorized as society-changing or life-changing experiences.

As I reflected over my years of service in higher education, one theme continued to surface. That theme was the impact of individual students and what they accomplished while in college and what they are accomplishing today. The fact is, our lives are shaped by those people with whom we interact in society. You, the graduates of 2009, have intersected with my life and with the lives of the students around you in a very meaningful way. If I had the time this morning to name each student and comment on what he or she has done over the past four years, it would offer a great testimony to the impact that one person can have upon a college or a community.

The opportunities you have had to serve humanity during the last four years are numerous, and many of you have taken full advantage of those. Some of you have shared pictures with me of your internships in third world countries, and in most instances, these pictures involve you with a group of children. You have reached out to children throughout the world, and in your brief encounters, you have planted seeds of hope that will result in life-changing experiences for them.

The faculty and my colleagues in administration periodically are reminded that the way we live our lives and the way we intersect in the lives of others through teaching, advising, or casual conversations will have an impact upon each of those individuals.

In a previous position, I woke to the ring of the phone on a Sunday morning around 5 a.m. On the other end of the line was a friend who was an administrator at another college, telling me that a student I had sent to that university had died the night before in a fire. He asked me to find this young man's mother and father and tell them about this tragic loss. I did, and ultimately visited with the father who immediately responded to me, "Dr. Page, you must speak at Leroy's funeral service." I said, "No, this is



not necessary. I am only giving you this sad news, and you do not have any obligation to invite me to speak at his funeral." After we went back and forth on the issue for what seemed like an eternity, he said, "But Dr. Page, I don't think you realize you were Leroy's best friend. You were the only person he talked about when he came home." That sad but meaningful interaction told me a lot about life and about what is important.

I hope this morning as you prepare to leave Austin College, you will reflect upon some of your experiences, and remember as you go into the community, that the manner in which you approach your work, your life, and your home is being observed by many people, and you, too, will have an influence upon them. Many of you have had a great influence upon me as I have worked with you over the past four years.

I don't mean this commencement talk to be depressing or to focus on sad events. I have shared this more personal side of my experiences to illustrate that life is much broader than what is happening to you today. The liberal arts experience you have had at Austin College has exposed you to distinguished faculty members who have taught courses that at the time may have seemed abstract to your area of interest or outside your realm of comprehension, but that is what liberal arts education is all about.

This was illustrated beautifully by a freshman at our home one evening. I asked Jennifer if she had thought about a major and she quickly responded, "I have given a lot of thought to that and I think I will major in classical studies." I pursued the question, "Why?" Her answer was on target when she said, "Because I know very little about the classics."

Attaining a liberal arts degree is an opportunity to master an understanding of new ideas that may not be consistent with what you have learned throughout your young life, but ideas that challenge your thinking and help you to become a person who can critically analyze an issue. A liberal arts education today is one that introduces you to the global perspective of life, and a very high percentage of you have studied outside the United States for a period of time while you have been a student at Austin College. You have been introduced to a culture that may have been totally unfamiliar to you.

Many of you have had global experiences by living with individuals in the residence halls who represent different cultures, and you have learned from each other. You have supported each other in a wide variety of activities. Your liberal arts education has taken you through disciplines that introduced you to the past and the present, and prepared you for the future. You have not been trained to do a specific narrow job. You have been educated to continue your learning experience in years to come.

Perhaps one of the best descriptions of where you and Austin College are today is seen in this quote from a newspaper article:

"We have laid our foundations deep; and, I may add, the rapid increase of scholars, and the very liberal subscription of nearly ten thousand dollars in Texas alone, prove, beyond all doubt that Austin College has the confidence of the people, and is winning golden opinions every day. Surely, every friend of Education and Texas must say, 'Heaven speed the enterprise!' It is a noble one and we trust will bless generations yet to come."

"It is truly great, but too great for our unaided effort. We must look abroad. We have done what we could. We have hoisted our flag; we have endeavored to nail it to the mast, but we want more nails. Will not our Presbyterian brethren in the blessed old States furnish some? Will not all the friends of learning, irrespective of name or sect, give us a few? We want buildings; we want money, books, and minerals. Many things are needed to crown the enterprise with full success."

These comments by Daniel Baker, printed in *The National Intelligencer* in Washington on July 19, 1850, were about Austin College in its infancy, but in some respects, describe the College today. The work today is a noble one and it will bless generations yet to come, but it is too great for an unaided effort. At the same time, this describes you as seniors who are friends of learning, irrespective of name or sect. As you hoist your flag in society, you will be dependent upon the learning experience at Austin College and upon the help of many people who have crossed your path on this campus. As Daniel Baker concluded his comments, "Many things are needed to crown the enterprise with full success." That is true of the College as its potential continues to expand, and it is true of you as you continue this journey of life.

As you leave this place today, I would encourage you to remember a few very important lessons that are a part of the liberal arts experience. First, never discount an idea until you have fully explored it, critiqued it, and determined that it is not a viable idea for you to continue to study. Second, recognize that you are a teacher in life, that you teach one another in a very meaningful way. Third, continue your learning experience by stepping outside the box and studying fields outside your principle field of interest. Fourth, continue the development of your spiritual being, the part of you that becomes the cornerstone of your value system and the basis of your beliefs.

Remember that you have an opportunity to serve that encompasses the entire world. Recognize the needs of others and be willing to step outside your comfort zone to help them. I urge you to be philanthropic in your thinking and in the use of your resources. Be a giver, not just a taker. Recognize that the cornerstone of your ability to interact with the world and with each other is found in the concept of gratitude.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of Austin College for 15 years, and I am extremely grateful to the seniors who wanted me to say a few words this morning. I congratulate you on your success and look forward to following your lifelong goals as you leave Austin College and step into new venues of opportunity.

Dora C. Page

Bart Dredge Named Minnie Stevens Piper Professor

“Bart’s teaching success is the result of a tremendous amount of organization and preparation. He sets the standard that others try to follow.”

Bart Dredge, professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, has been named a 2009 Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. The foundation annually honors 15 Texas college professors for superior teaching, based upon nominations from select Texas colleges and universities. The Austin College nomination, made by a College committee with student and faculty input, is itself an Austin College teaching award.

“Bart Dredge is a most deserving recipient of this award,” said **Jerry Johnson**, dean of Social Sciences. “Bart’s teaching success is the result of a tremendous amount of organization and preparation. He sets the standard that others try to follow.”

A member of the Austin College faculty since 1994, Dredge earned his undergraduate degree at Furman University and completed his master’s degree and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the former director of Austin College freshman seminar Communication/Inquiry (C/I, and JanTerm programs.

Dredge teaches a variety of courses that include “Classical Social Theory,” “Social Movements,” “Law and Society,” and “Sociology of Religion.” He also engages students in occasional courses on “Issues in Higher Education,” “The Social History of American Education (K–12),” and “The Social Gospel Movement in the United States.” Dredge’s research centers on labor in the American South, especially the Southern textile industry prior to World War II.

He has been published recently in *Arete: An International Journal of Social Work History*; *Vitae Scholasticae* (educational biography); *Libraries and the Cultural Record*; and *Management and Organizational History*. Dredge is currently working on a series of projects that stem from his study of the life and work of David Clark, textile industry booster and long-time editor of the *Southern Textile Bulletin* in North Carolina.

The Piper Professor Program began in 1958 with eight awards. The program’s roster of honorees includes outstanding professors from two- and four-year public and private institutions.

Dredge joins a distinguished list of seven other Austin College professors who have earned Piper Professorships dating back to 1959, only the second year of the awards. Current faculty members honored by the foundation include **Clyde Hall**, professor *emeritus* of economics; **Ken Street**, professor *emeritus* of government; **Shelton Williams**, professor *emeritus* of political science; **Jerry Lincecum**, professor *emeritus* of English; and **Light Cummins**, professor of history and Guy M. Bryan Chair of American History.

COURTESY PHOTO



Bart Dredge

Governor Names Professor Light Cummins as Texas State Historian

Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed **Light Townsend Cummins** of the Austin College history faculty as Texas State Historian on May 12. Cummins was officially sworn-in to office by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst on May 26 during a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol. **Victoria Cummins**, Light's wife and an Austin College professor of history, stood with him at the ceremony.

"I am deeply honored by this appointment," said Cummins, Guy M. Bryan, Jr., Chair of American History and director of the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies at Austin College. "It is a reaffirmation of the solid academic programs that distinguish Austin College, especially offerings in Texas history and Southwestern studies. It has been my good fortune to have taught many students who have had a marked interest in Texas history over my 31 years on the faculty at Austin College, many of whom have graduated to distinguish themselves in a wide variety of careers by which they have advanced Texas and the Southwest."

Cummins is the second to hold the honorary designation of Texas State Historian, created by the Texas Legislature in 2005. During his two-year term,

Cummins is expected to enhance Texans' knowledge about state history and its heritage, encourage the teaching of Texas history in public schools, and consult with government officials on the promotion of Texas history.

Cummins was recommended to the post by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). "As State Historian, Light Cummins has a superior opportunity to provide Texans insight into their heritage," said TSHA past-president Larry McNeill, who attended the swearing-in. "His effusive personality as well as his understanding of Texas history will serve our state well in this regard." THC executive director Larry Oaks also attended the ceremony. "Dr. Light Cummins is a master of enriching people's lives through history," Oaks said. "He has written several books on the history of the Lone Star State and received numerous awards for his scholarly research and accomplishments. We look forward to working with him."



COURTESY PHOTO

Light Cummins

Fontana Named to Smith Distinguished Teaching Professorship

Jeffrey Fontana, associate professor of art history, was installed in the Harry E. Smith Distinguished Teaching Professorship in Art History during Honors Convocation in April.

Fontana joined the Austin College faculty in 2002 as assistant professor of art history and was promoted in 2007 to associate professor. He received his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in art history at Boston University. Before coming to Austin College, he taught at Colgate University, Vassar College, and Florida State University, and taught summer courses for Boston College in Florence, Italy. He was a Straus Intern in the drawing department at the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, where he curated the 1999 exhibition "Timeless Beauty: Representing the Ideal in Neoclassical Drawing."

The Harry E. Smith Distinguished Endowed Teaching Professorship in Art History was established in 1994 by the Board of Trustees in honor of then-retiring **Harry E. Smith**, 13th president of Austin College. Friends and family of Smith helped fund the endowed professorship, as did a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) challenge grant.

Smith, who served as president from 1978 to 1984, died in 2002.



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Jeffrey Fontana

Faculty Receive Fulbright Awards

Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan, associate professor of religious studies, and **Kevin Simmons**, associate professor of economics, have been awarded Fulbright Scholar grants they will use during sabbaticals in the 2009–2010 academic year.

Vargas-O'Bryan's grant will be used for teaching a course entitled "Religions and Society in Asia" at City University of Hong Kong in fall 2009. She also will complete research in Tibet and China for a book on the interrelationship between Tibetan medicine and religion in the religious lineages of a Kashmiri Buddhist nun, popular in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition from the 11th century to the present day.

"Teaching at a Chinese academic institution will help me build relationships with colleagues in China that could potentially lead to collaborative work and future study abroad opportunities for faculty and students," Vargas-O'Bryan said. "This opportunity came at a critical time with Austin College's focus on global education. I am very excited to network with area scholars at City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, and several institutions in Tibet." She also will organize a panel and make a presentation on Tibetan and Himalayan medicine and religion at the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine Conference in Bhutan on September 7-11.

Simmons will utilize his Fulbright grant during spring 2010, conducting research at the International Centre for Geohazards (ICG) in Oslo, Norway. The ICG researches the assessment, prevention, and mitigation of geohazards, including risk of landslide in soil and rock due to rainfall, flooding, earthquakes, and human intervention, and geological risks in deep waters, especially underwater slides.

Simmons also will work with the U.S. Geological Survey before and after his Fulbright research in Norway and hopes for continued collaborative work that can involve Austin College students with the federal agency. "Most of my research has been on wind hazards," he said. "This grant gives me the opportunity to expand my research on economics and natural hazards into a different type of hazard. Any time I broaden my research agenda, it positively impacts what I can do in the classroom."

More information about the Fulbright Program: www.fulbright-online.org.

At Honors Convocation, Simmons also was announced as the College's CASE Professor of the Year nominee. Recipients will be announced in the fall. The nomination itself is an Austin College teaching award.



Top, Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan
and Kevin Simmons

Barton Receives 2009 Austin College Excellence in Teaching Award

Lance Barton, assistant professor of biology, was awarded the 2009 Austin College Excellence in Teaching Award during Honors Convocation in April.

"My response to getting the award was shock and surprise," Barton said. "I think most of us who teach pre-med students and are involved in core course sequences where some students drop the course, resulting in shattered dreams, don't think that we will be getting too many teaching awards." Students and faculty offer nominations for the awards to a selection committee composed of a faculty representative from each academic division and two students.

"When you look at my syllabi and focus on my course objectives or learning outcomes, I am really a skills-oriented teacher," Barton said. "I want students to retain knowledge, but I am even more interested in their application of knowledge. Can they pull the textbook off the shelf and use that knowledge to solve problems?"

Barton also is very active in student-faculty collaborative research, which he considers "the single best teaching opportunity we have," and has mentored more than 20 students in the research lab over the past five years.

The award recognizes the fundamental importance of the quality of teaching in the educational process and seeks to honor a person who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate in areas such as classroom teaching, campus leadership, pioneering pedagogy, and instructional support.

Barton earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Dickinson College and a Ph.D. in immunology at the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine. There, he was a University Distinguished Graduate Scholar and won the First Year Academic Achievement Award, as well as a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship. Barton completed the Preparing Future Faculty program at UC and was an adjunct faculty member at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati before joining Austin College in 2003.

"Between my experience at Dickinson and at the Mount, I found several great role models of successful scientist teachers," Barton said. "I knew that was what I wanted to do. I get to do a little science; I get to work with talented students; and I get to develop great relationships and have a lot of fun along the way."

Lance Barton

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



45 Years and Counting

Students once called him “Dr. Death.” In the 45 years he has been at Austin College, **Howard Starr** has held numerous titles and played many roles, some official and some not. Now a professor of psychology, Starr came to Austin College in 1964 as an admission and psychological counselor at a time when the counseling center and admission office were one and the same. A lot can change in 45 years.

Starr has served as the dean of educational development, vice president of College Relations, chair of the Department of Psychology and Sociology, fraternity sponsor, dean of Social Sciences, unofficial counselor and academic mentor to thousands of students, and even “Dr. Death” at Austin College. One thing remained the same throughout each new role or changing responsibility: Starr always had a presence in the classroom. “I’ve always been teaching, and I have to admit that is my love,” Starr said. “There’s nothing like being in the classroom.”

He credits most of the myriad experiences offered to him at Austin College to the energetic and innovative leadership of the late President *Emeritus* **John D. Moseley**, who Starr said constantly placed him in the middle of one project or another. In the 1970s, Moseley asked Starr to spearhead the launch of a faculty-student mentor program, a cornerstone of the Austin College education today. “I had my mentor, and it was John D.,” Starr said. “Everything that I accomplished was because of the faith he had in me and his vision. He was a constant motivator for me.”

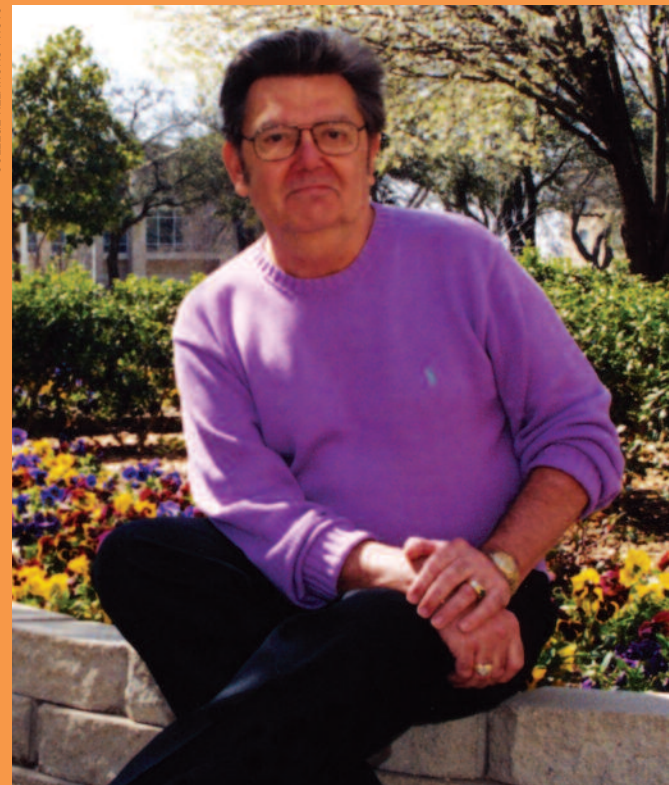
Starr consistently draws motivation from the changes his job and life have presented. His particular interest in the areas of death, grief, and loss has sent him around the world to Egypt, Israel, and England to study leading scholars in the field. He helped found the Home Hospice of Grayson and Fannin Counties in 1983 and developed the “Psychology of Death and Dying” course from these interests. In 1990, he introduced the “Psychology of Relationships” course after a traumatic relationship experience in his own life.

“Our students experience death, suicide, and things of that nature in their own world, and it’s allowed me to be a resource for students,” Starr said. “I’ve spent countless hours with students dealing with those issues.”

Whether it was working side-by-side with one of the most influential and groundbreaking presidents in College history, the benefits of travel and career development offered to motivated faculty members, the freedom to teach unique courses (his 2010 JanTerm course will focus on serial killers), or meaningful student interaction, Starr isn’t lacking for reasons to get out of bed each morning and head onto the Austin College campus. “It’s not like 45 years. It’s like a moment in time,” Starr said. “I really do get to go to a place for which I have a great passion.” 🐾

Howard Starr

COLLEGE RELATIONS PHOTO



Austin College Students Receive Fulbright Awards

Cherie Oertel '09 and **Sophia Kuiper '08** ('09 Master of Arts in Teaching) have accepted Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) awards for 2009–2010. Both will be assigned to Spain.

Oertel, a psychology major with a Spanish minor, will teach in the Valencia region of Spain from September 2009 to June 2010. Her preparation for this opportunity included Spanish classes on campus, a 2008 JanTerm in Costa Rica, and a study abroad experience in Chile during the spring term in 2008. "Both of my study abroad experiences were helpful in the essays and Fulbright application process because I could speak sincerely about my interest in learning about other cultures," she said.

Kuiper, a religion major with a Spanish minor, will follow the footsteps of her older sister, **Nicole Kuiper '00**, through the Fulbright Program. "My sister did a Fulbright research fellowship to Spain after she graduated, so that's how I initially found out about this opportunity," Sophia said.

She will spend September 2009 through June 2010 as an English teaching assistant in Madrid, Spain. Kuiper said her Spanish minor, the Austin College Teacher Program, and experiences studying abroad, such as a semester in Mexico City, Mexico, in high school and teaching English in El Salvador during the 2007 summer through an Austin College Lilly grant, have prepared her for this opportunity. After her year in Spain, she plans to return to the United States, obtain bilingual certification, and become an elementary teacher.

Each ETA program is designed by the host country and ETA recipients are assigned activities to improve their students' language skills and knowledge of the United States. The ETA recipients are encouraged to integrate fully into the host community to improve their own language competency as well as knowledge of the host country. Individual study and research plans in addition to ETA responsibilities are allowed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY



*Cherie Oertel,
far left, and
Sophia Kuiper*

Many recent college graduates are facing the task of their first job search in the midst of high national unemployment and a bleak world economic outlook. **Nathan Withers '09** — who finished coursework for his degree with majors in political science and media and society in January — has discovered the advantages of getting an undergraduate education that provides more than just fodder for an impressive résumé (though he has one of those, too).

Nathan cites programs such as the Posey Leadership Institute and Model United Nations for providing numerous and memorable educational experiences, from attending speeches by leadership experts Michael Maccoby and Howard Prince to serving as the head delegate for Austin College at the 2008 National Model United Nations Conference in Xi'an, China.

"I learned more in China about how the international community works than I ever learned in a classroom," he said. "I will never forget the informal interactions I had with students in China. I felt a sense of global self that is difficult to describe."

Nathan took advantage of Austin College JanTerms, gaining international exposure in a 2008 course on Afro-Latino culture and traveling to Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. In 2006, he spent his spring break with a contingent of Austin College student volunteers working with Presbyterian Disaster Relief in post-Katrina New Orleans.

While Model U.N. may have given Nathan a taste of international politics, he branched out on his own to experience U.S. and Texas politics. He spent his 2007–2008 Christmas break in Iowa, volunteering for the Ron Paul presidential campaign, and he was a delegate to the Texas Republican Convention in Houston, Texas, in June 2008.

Nathan, formerly president and vice president of the Austin College Pre-Law Society, sees law school as a possible future endeavor, but for now, has beaten the odds and found work in these trying economic times. Since November, he has worked as a contractor for the Economic Development Department at the Texoma Council of Governments in Sherman.

"Through the wealth of programs that I was able to become intimately involved with at Austin College, I gained a confidence and readiness for the professional world," Nathan said. "Through the global emphasis in various programs, I also feel significantly connected as a global citizen and have a greater understanding of the world beyond our borders."

Nathan Withers

PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



More than a
Résumé Builder

Austin College Students Receive Year-End Honors

Monica Martinez '09 and **Parth Shah '09** were named Outstanding Senior Woman and Outstanding Senior Man at the annual Student Affairs Leadership Awards event this spring. The awards recognize scholastic achievements and co-curricular involvement.

Altrusa Outstanding Senior Woman Award

Monica Martinez, an international relations major, was 2008 student body president and very active at Austin College. She was the student representative for the Austin College Presidential Search Committee and New Science Building Steering Committee.

Selected as an inaugural fellow in the Global Outreach (GO) program, Monica volunteered at an orphanage in Nigeria, where she taught a pre-kindergarten class and tutored village school children during the 2008 summer. She also was student coordinator for the 2008 Alternative Spring Break service trip to Guatemala. She participated in numerous Model United Nations conferences, traveling to New York, Chicago, and China for these events, and serving as head delegate for the fall 2007 conference in Chicago. She was a 2007–2008 Hatton W. Sumners Scholar in political science and was selected for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society. She also is a member of Omega Zeta social sorority.

Class work and service programs have taken Monica to Australia, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Taiwan, and Turkey.

Outstanding Senior Man

Parth Shah, a biology and religion major, was a member of the Posey Leadership Institute, president of the Indian Cultural Association, chair of the Student Assembly Budget and Finance Committee, and captain of the Roller Hockey Club. A member of the Residence Hall staff, in 2008, Parth received the Residence Life Team Builder of the Year Award. He received the Brittain Memorial Award for an Outstanding Student in Biology in 2007. He also was a member of Chi Tau Chi social fraternity.

He worked for the Department of Biology as a lab assistant and course assistant since 2007. Parth also volunteered for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America and at the Glennie O. Ham Center with an after-school program for elementary school children.

Parth was selected by his classmates to give the 2009 senior commencement address.

Outstanding Freshman Award

Alicia Houser '12 received the Outstanding Freshman Award, which recognizes a first-year student who has excelled in leadership and scholarship and who has demonstrated future leadership potential.

Alicia is a member of the Posey Leadership Institute, Model U.N., Rotaract, Student Development Board, and Omega Zeta. Born in Botswana and having lived in Namibia, she has traveled to 10 countries and plans to continue her travels with a 2009 summer Lilly grant to Sierra Leone in West Africa. Alicia's career plans involve returning to live in Africa and work in the non-profit sector with a nongovernmental organization, AIDS organization, or a humanitarian branch of the United Nations.

PHOTOS BY WICKIE S. KIRBY



Monica
Martinez



Parth Shah



Alicia
Houser

the water girl

Austin College's reputation for pre-medical studies and the College graduates' medical school acceptance rates often draw the aspiring doctor or specialist. **Marielle Remillard '09** was one of those. "I had every intention of pursuing a career in neuroscience and chose to attend Austin College partially for the school's excellent reputation in the biomedical sciences," Marielle said. "Like many undergraduates students, however, I changed my mind."

In May, Marielle graduated *summa cum laude* from Austin College with a major in mathematics (Honors in Mathematics), a minor in biology, and an entirely new vision for her future career. During her sophomore year at Austin College, she discovered a passion for the study and conservation of water resources. Having grown up in the arid climate of New Mexico (the state receives an average of less than 15 inches of rainfall annually), Marielle was well aware of the importance of water resources to communities.

After visiting Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during a 2007 JanTerm, she realized the impact of water resources on global issues like poverty and on the functioning of entire societies. "I could witness firsthand the dire need for clean water and improved sanitation," Marielle said. "When you are living in a place without running water, it is impossible to ignore the problems that arise. My education would be emotionless and dry without the experiential knowledge acquired during that JanTerm."

The experience in Southeast Asia changed her career focus. "I decided that I would dedicate my life to safeguarding water resources and working to improve global access to clean water — working as an environmental engineer," Marielle said. As she began to seek out courses and educational experiences that reflected her change in academic and career focus, she found Austin College's educational opportunities flexible and fulfilling for the non-pre-medical student as well.

Marielle participated in the Model United Nations program to expand her knowledge of international political structure and environmental law. With the help of her peers and a few Austin College student organizations, she organized two WaterCan Walk for Water 6-K charity races. "In 2008, we educated more than 150 participants and volunteers and raised \$3,000 for clean water projects in Eastern Africa," she said.

Marielle also took her education off-campus. In 2008, she took courses in fluid mechanics, Middle Eastern studies, business, and Arabic during a fall semester study abroad program at the American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). She spent the 2008 summer in Alaska taking courses and working for a watershed analysis group, Geo-Watershed Scientific, and continued work with the company after completing her degree in January 2009.

This fall, Marielle will attend Johns Hopkins University to earn a master's degree in environmental engineering, funded by the Department of Homeland Security Fellowship program. She intends to use the degree to assist with disaster relief and sustainable development. "While Austin College is noted for excellence in biomedical sciences, I believe its strongest trait is producing students who know how to think and ask questions, regardless of the discipline," she said. "I now have been at a few undergraduate institutions, and I am glad to say that my degree comes from Austin College."



Marielle
Remillard

PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Class of 2009 Top Scholars Named

Each year during Commencement, the J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Scholarship Medals are awarded to the graduates with the highest academic records. Faculty members select the recipients, with no distinction between them, on the basis of students' entire academic records. The 2009 Kidd Medal was awarded to **Matthew Holzgrafe** and the Robinson Medal was awarded to **Amanda Rehling**.

Amanda Rehling graduated *summa cum laude* with majors in political science and Spanish and a minor in sociology. She received a full-tuition, with stipend, Hatton W. Sumners Foundation Scholarship to pursue her legal education and this fall, will enter Oklahoma City University School of Law. She plans to become a practicing attorney, anticipates working in the public sector as a prosecutor, and hopes to ultimately serve as a district attorney or assistant United States attorney.

Those are areas she knows about, having completed internships at the United States Attorney's Office in Plano, Texas, and at the Grayson County Attorney's Office in Sherman to explore her interests in the legal field. She said those opportunities to delve a bit below the surface left her even more fascinated with the law.

Amanda spent spring 2008 in a study abroad program in Sevilla, Spain, in order to sharpen her oral proficiency and heighten her perspective. "I found that discovering another culture and another way of living and thinking is one of the greatest and most rewarding adventures a human being can experience."

At Austin College, Amanda was actively in Campus Activities Board, Student Development Board, the Pre-Law Society, and Mentors in Violence Prevention. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies, Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society, and Sigma Delta Pi national honor society in Spanish.

Amanda was awarded a Hatton Sumners Scholarship in political science at Austin College that offered opportunities "critical in cementing my desire to pursue a career in public service," she said, including opportunities to meet with distinguished leaders and public servants through the Sumners Foundation Distinguished Lecture Series.

"The individuals I met through the foundation embody the citizenship and leadership traits that I strive to emulate. I have learned that leadership means service. I am incredibly grateful for the Sumners Foundation's support, and am excited and honored to have an opportunity to continue to represent the foundation as an Oklahoma City University School of Law Hatton W. Sumners Scholar."

Amanda Rehling



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. WIRBY

Matthew Holzgrafe graduated *summa cum laude* with majors in economics and French, with Honors in Economics. He will soon begin training for a two-year Teach for America assignment in New York City. Following that experience, he is considering pursuit of a law degree.

The competitive Teach for America program last year received nearly 25,000 applications and accepted only 3,700 corps members who are assigned to 29 regions across the U.S. Teach For America aims to end educational inequity by enlisting the nation's most promising future leaders as teachers in some of the neediest areas, including low-income communities and inner-city schools.

At Austin College, Matthew was very involved in a range of activities. A member of the Posey Leadership Institute, he also was involved in Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students (ECOS), Young Democrats, and was an officer in Student Assembly.

Matthew served as a peer tutor with the Academic Skills Center, tutoring particularly in academic areas of economics, French, and calculus. He also was a little brother of Omega Zeta social sorority.

He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies, as well as Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honorary society for students in economics, and Pi Delta Phi, national honor society in French.

This year, Matthew completed an honors thesis in economics, researching "Disparities in Health Based upon Socioeconomic Status and Race: a Case Study of NYC." "The process of completing the honors thesis taught me a lot about research and data analysis in the field of economics and helped me grow significantly as a researcher," he said.

Matthew lived in the French area of Jordan Family Language House then put that experiential learning experience to the test, spending a semester in a study abroad program in Grenoble, France. He took advantage of further international study experiences through three JanTerm courses that involved travel to Senegal, Mali, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. "All of these experiences have taught me about the diversity of cultures and yet how small the world is becoming," he said. "The highlights of my Austin College experience are the places I've been and the friends I've made at Austin College."



Matthew Holzgrafe

PHOTO BY KATIE MCCOY

History Students Make Presentations at Conference

COURTESY PHOTO



Jacqueline Welsh, Victoria Sheppard, William Weeks, David Loftice, Trang Ngo, Joshua Pollock, Paige Rutherford, and Miranda Hernandez attended the history honor society conference in Denton.

Victoria L. Sheppard '10 won first prize for the best undergraduate paper presented at the Phi Alpha Theta, national honor society for students of history, conference at the University of North Texas in April. "This was a very competitive accomplishment since more than 60 undergraduate students from more than a dozen colleges and universities presented papers," said **Light Cummins**, professor of history and Guy M. Bryan, Jr., Chair of American History.

Sheppard's prize-winning paper "Women, Marriage, and Singledom in the Nineteenth Century: The Emergence of a Conscious Choice" was researched and written in the History Department's "Historiography and Historical Methods" seminar during fall 2008.

Other Austin College students presenting papers at the conference were **David Loftice '10**, **Trang Ngo '09**, **Paige Rutherford '09**, **Joshua Pollock '10**, and **Jacqueline Welsh '09**. A paper by **Elizabeth Elliott '09** was read in a conference session although she was unable to attend. **Miranda Hernandez '12** and **William Weeks '09** also attended the conference.

History faculty **Light Cummins**, **Victoria Cummins**, and **Jackie Moore** attended the conference on behalf of the department.

The Art of Diplomacy

Representing Mauritius and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Austin College students earned several honors at the National Model United Nations competition in New York City in April. The Mauritius delegation was named Outstanding Delegation and the delegation for Great Britain and Northern Ireland earned Distinguished Delegation ranking. That delegation also won Outstanding Position Paper.

Adnan Marchant '10 and **Marcela Onyango '09** served as head delegates for the 37 additional Austin College participants. **Philip Barker**, assistant professor of political science, directed the students.

Sean Killen '91 and **Shelly Williams**, professor emeritus of political science, serve on the board of the National Collegiate Conference Association that governs National Model United Nations programs. **Eric Cox '97**, a member of the political science faculty at TCU, was elected this spring to the Faculty Advisory Board for the National Model U.N., and **Amanda Hunt Williams '92** was elected as one of the two director generals for the 2010 National Model U.N. conference in New York.



COURTESY PHOTO

Austin College students attending the National Model U.N. conference in New York City celebrate outside the United Nations Headquarters, posing near the "Sphere Within Sphere" sculpture by Arnaldo Pomodoro.



Students Continue Support of Tostan

Austin College students gave up meals, created and sold art, and made cash contributions this spring in support of Tostan, raising more than \$750 to support microcredit loans in Senegal.

The College affiliation with Tostan began three years ago through student efforts, and the Service Station maintains the program. This April, the Tostan dinner included a video conversation with Gannon Gillespie, director of U.S. operations for Tostan, and was served by members of the Service Station Board.

Tostan is a Senegal-based community empowerment program that loans small amounts of money directly to small businesses and entrepreneurs in West Africa who otherwise would not qualify for loans. In addition to micro-lending, Tostan — which means breakthrough in the West African language of Wolof — contributes to the human dignity of African people through education about health, hygiene, human rights, literacy, and math. To learn more about Tostan, visit www.tostan.org.

Campus Newspaper Staff Members Honored

Writers, photographers, and designers of the Austin College newspaper, *The Observer*, earned first place in points awarded to a college in the Press Women of Texas collegiate competition this spring. First-place awards advance to the National Federation of Press Women contest, with results to be announced in September. **Felicia Garvin**, Austin College student publications adviser, also received first-place honors for her role.

Students also were honored in April by the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) at its 100th anniversary convention in Dallas. More than 600 students attended the convention, with 52 of 61 member schools represented. **Katie Masucci '11**, *The Observer* sports editor, was elected secretary of TIPA for next year.

Students recognized at the two events for their work were **Kira McStay '10**, editor-in-chief; **Marcus Urban '10**, photo editor; **Katie Masucci '11**, sports editor; **Lauren Chiodo '10**, entertainment editor; **Lesley Wayler '11**, layout editor; **Hector O González '11**, staff cartoonist; **Lindsey McLennan '09**, former features editor; **Justin Harris '09**, former opinions editor; and **Marc Bacani '11**, photographer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Newspaper staff members, left to right, Lindsey McLennan, Kira McStay, Marcus Urban, Katie Masucci, and Felicia Garvin pose for a photo at the TIPA conference.

Students, Faculty Participate in Undergraduate Conference

Several Austin College students and faculty presented research or served on panels during the 2009 Austin College Undergraduate Research Conference "Darwin 200: Bridging Disciplines/Breaking Boundaries" in April.

The annual undergraduate conference provides an opportunity for students to build professional relationships, prepare for graduate studies, and share their best work," said **Carol Daeley**, Shoap Professor of English and coordinator of this year's conference.

A presentation by David Buss, a leading evolutionary psychologist, highlighted the two-day event. Several alumni made presentations at the conference, as did **Fazlur Rahman**, an oncologist from San Angelo, Texas, and a member of the Austin College Board of Trustees.

Conference panelist **Merritt O'Boyle '11** was identified as a male in the feature "Witness to Change" in the last issue. Obviously wrong, we apologize for the error.



Austin College seniors Matthew Crawford and Aaron Flores prepare to present their paper "Abuse of Pleasure: Sex, Drugs, and Reward."

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Student Proposal Sets Goal of Climate Neutrality

Members of the Austin College "Environmental Policy" class presented their "Proposed Austin College Climate Plan" during an environmental forum on April 28. **Casey Check '09**, **Maegan Fitzgerald '09**, **Ann Huston '09**, **Jamie Jenkins '09**, **Cara Marusak '10**, **Zach Owens '10**, and **Preston Pettit '09** presented ideas to lessen the College impact on the environment.

The group cited research from an honors thesis by **Jade Rutledge '09** titled "Austin College Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory," which helped formulate their energy-saving proposal, setting a 2025 goal of "climate neutrality" for the College.

The students' presentation was in response to Austin College President **Oscar C. Page** signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which marks the College's pledge to eliminate campus greenhouse gas emissions over time. **Peter Schulze**, director of the Center for Environmental Studies and professor of biology and environmental science, led the course and was the thesis supervisor for Jade's honors thesis.

Ann Huston '09 also made presentations at two earlier environmental forums this spring. In "Impacts of a Non-Native Snail in Vietnam" she reported on research in Tram Chim National Park during a fall 2008 semester of study in the "Ecology and Sustainability in the Mekong Delta" program offered through the School for International Training. She presented "The Land Institute and Natural Systems Agriculture" based on her summer internship with The Land Institute in Kansas. After graduating with a major in environmental studies and minors in English and French, she began a temporary job with Environment Texas, working with water conservation and supply in Austin, Texas.



Jade Rutledge '09 presented her own research at another forum. She begins an internship in July as a guide and educator at Silver Falls State Park in Oregon. She will work for a year before beginning graduate school.



Presentation participants are, left to right, first row, Zach Owens, Jamie Jenkins, Cara Marusak, and back row, Ann Huston, Preston Pettit, Casey Check, Maegan Fitzgerald, and Peter Schulze.

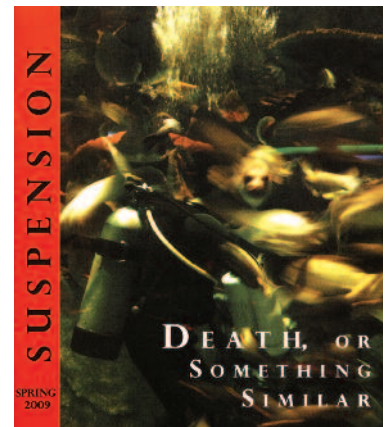
PHOTOS BY WICKIE S. KIRBY

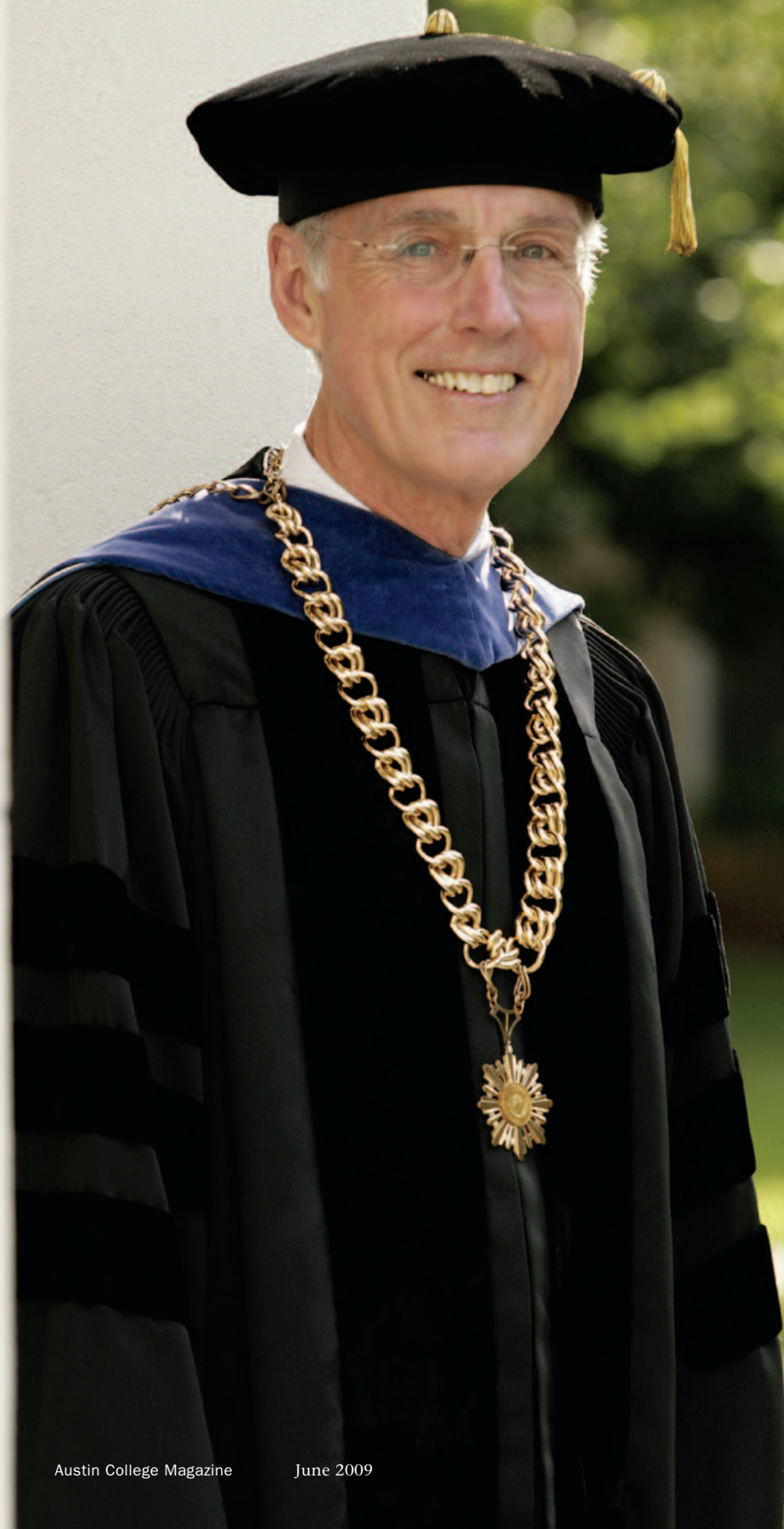
Literary Magazine Takes New Direction

Austin College's student-produced literary magazine, *Suspension*, entered a new era in its almost 50-year history with the April 2009 release of the spring edition *Death or Something Similar*. For the first time in the magazine's history, submissions to the spring edition were open not only to students, but also to faculty, staff, and alumni. **Sarah Thomason '11**, *Suspension* editor-in-chief, said the goal was to create "a platform for showcasing the best creative work that Austin College has to offer without the pretensions to a prestige sometimes associated with student publications or literary magazines by-and-large."

Other changes include a biannual production schedule (the fall edition *Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll*, will appear in September 2009) and a shift in focus from poetry to strong prose. "If our main focus is upon story, the reason is that story is primal; it is an urge we all have to make comprehensible who and what we are, to test for significance the things that happen to us, to weave a charmed circle upon the inexorable progress of time," said **Peter Anderson**, associate professor of English and faculty sponsor for the publication.

Other members of the editorial staff were **Meghan Smith '10**, writing editor; **Leslie Slade '10**, art editor; **Jenna Hotz '10**, layout editor; **Mackenzie Mayer '12**, Webmaster; and **Natalie Taylor '11**, publicity chair. At-large staff were **Caitlin Gillis '11**, **Carolyn Griffin '10**, **Miranda Hernandez '12**, **Alisha Kannarr '12**, **Vanessa Perales '12**, **Mary Richardson '10**, and **Katherine Wilshusen '10**. 🐾





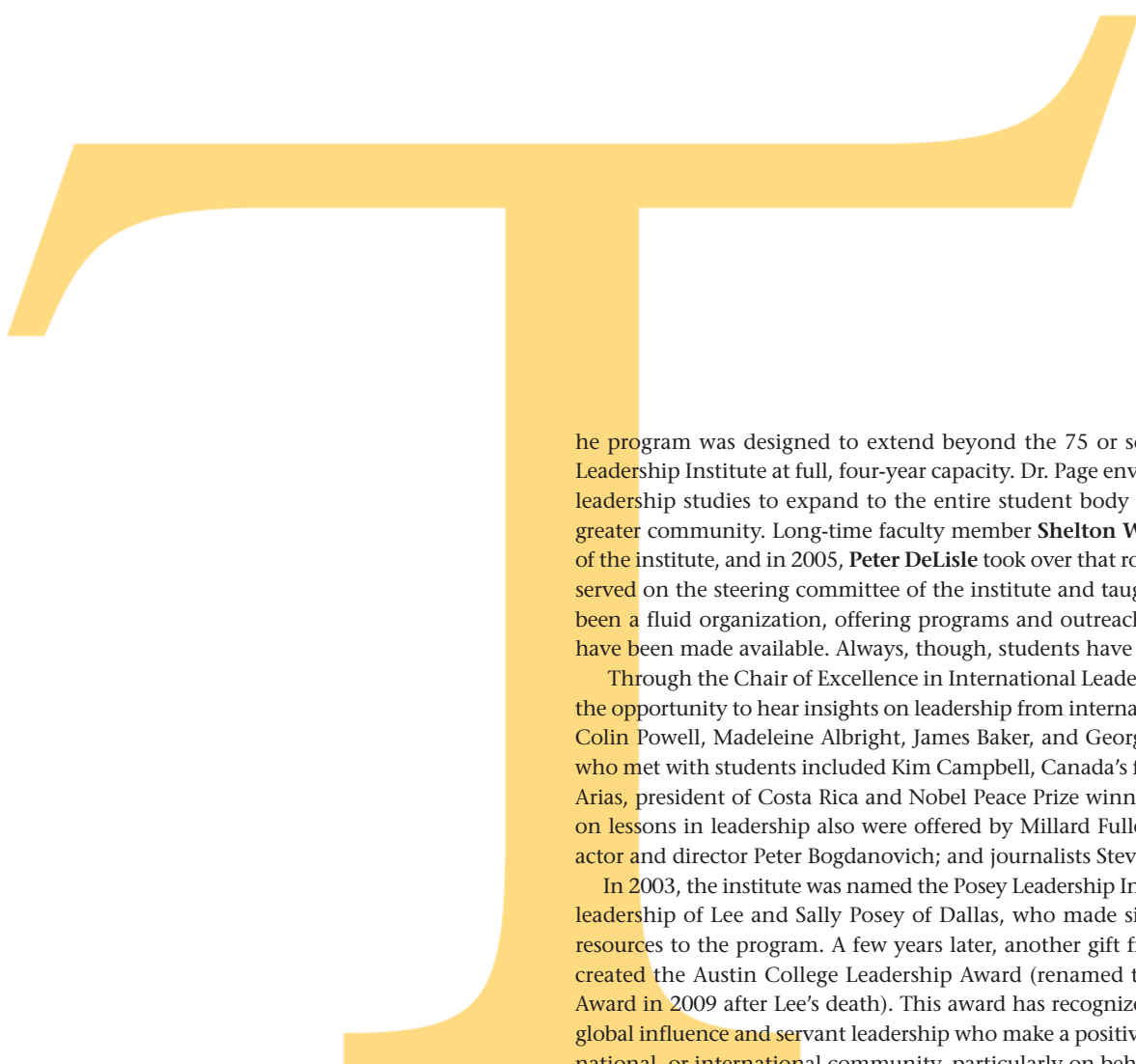
Legacy of Leadership

*by Peter A. DeLisle
and
Vickie S. Kirby*

When Oscar C. Page became president of Austin College in 1994, his own heritage of leadership was evident. A college faculty member, dean, provost, and president in the years before arriving at Austin College, he also served the communities in which he lived and worked through a variety of involvements, volunteer activities, and leadership roles.

Acquainting himself with the Austin College community, Dr. Page spoke often of the importance of servant leadership and values-based education. He also told of his plan for nurturing leadership skills and abilities in Austin College students, who would become engaged members of their own communities, providing leadership in their careers and mentoring other individuals, thus furthering service and leadership.

With that plan in mind, Dr. Page initiated one of the most influential student development programs in the recent history of the College. Plans became reality in 1995 as the first 15 freshman students were accepted into the Austin College Leadership Institute. The program of study and exploration was designed to present a modern model of leadership that embraced service to others, a global perspective, and personal responsibility. The program included active study of leadership theory and practice, experiential growth through internships and interactive mentor relationships, courses in communication and ethics, and exposure to great examples of leaders.



he program was designed to extend beyond the 75 or so students who would make up the Leadership Institute at full, four-year capacity. Dr. Page envisioned the institute as the means for leadership studies to expand to the entire student body and as a vehicle for outreach to the greater community. Long-time faculty member **Shelton Williams** was named the first director of the institute, and in 2005, **Peter DeLisle** took over that role. A number of faculty and staff have served on the steering committee of the institute and taught various courses. The institute has been a fluid organization, offering programs and outreach activities as different opportunities have been made available. Always, though, students have been the focus.

Through the Chair of Excellence in International Leadership, all Austin College students had the opportunity to hear insights on leadership from internationally recognized leaders, including Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright, James Baker, and George H.W. Bush. Other political leaders who met with students included Kim Campbell, Canada's first female prime minister, and Oscar Arias, president of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize winner. Unique and personal perspectives on lessons in leadership also were offered by Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity; actor and director Peter Bogdanovich; and journalists Steve and Cokie Roberts.

In 2003, the institute was named the Posey Leadership Institute in honor of the generosity and leadership of Lee and Sally Posey of Dallas, who made significant contributions of time and resources to the program. A few years later, another gift from the Poseys and Dr. Page's vision created the Austin College Leadership Award (renamed the Austin College Posey Leadership Award in 2009 after Lee's death). This award has recognized women and men of extraordinary global influence and servant leadership who make a positive impact through service to the local, national, or international community, particularly on behalf of young people.

Recipients of this honor have included Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach for America; Dr. Paul Farmer, international medical humanitarian whose health relief efforts are memorialized in Tracy Kidder's book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*; Geoffrey Canada, community advocate and founder of the Harlem Children's Zone; and Greg Mortenson, director of the Central Asia Institute and builder of girls' schools and human understanding in Pakistan and Afghanistan for 20 years.

These speakers were simply the "headliners" among many local, regional, national, and international leaders who have interacted with Posey Leadership Institute students throughout the years. Meanwhile, students were having their own experiences, sharing what they had learned with younger students, and working with Dr. Page and other leaders to ensure that the activities and programs of the institute would benefit the Austin College community.

What are the real results of Dr. Page's vision for a leadership institute? As of 2009, the program has nearly 200 graduates — alumni who have embraced the study of leadership, emulated their mentors, and focused on becoming responsible citizens as they have moved beyond Austin College. Many are quick to relate their professional development and success to the lessons learned at Austin College, where they had the full advantages of the type of Austin College education that has produced leaders for 160 years. The alumni are thankful that they were offered some extra benefits through the institute — and through the shining example of Oscar Page they witnessed while at Austin College and beyond.

Greg Gitcho '99 and **Michelle Whetstone Anderson '99** were among the 15 original institute scholars.

Today, Greg is vice president of acquisitions with Cypress Real Estate Advisors in Austin, Texas, and Michelle is a senior account manager with STERIS Corporation in Dallas, Texas. Ten years after graduating from Austin College, their leadership training remains with them. "Today, my idea of leadership is much broader and a bit more intrinsic than when I began my studies," Michelle said. "Leadership comes in many different forms, styles, and techniques, but ultimately, I believe it is simply the art of motivating and inspiring people to perform in a positive, productive way."

Michelle said she wishes that businesses had a forum for continuing the type of education and growth offered through the institute. "The art of leadership is valuable in every facet of one's life from work to church to home to our everyday interactions with strangers," she said. "The more we study and grow our independent leadership skills, the more valuable we are to ourselves and to others in our lives."

Greg said the Leadership Institute and other opportunities at Austin College provided him a sense of preparedness upon graduation. "The 'real world' was not an unknown, but rather a crucial component of the Leadership Institute curriculum in which we all participated via community service commitments, our community mentor relationships, and even interactive conversations with world leaders," Greg said. "After 10 years, I find myself still studying and evaluating leadership, both introspectively and by way of leaders in my daily life. For me, leadership is a practice that must be exercised and strengthened over time, while still preserving the fundamental principles upon which it is based."

Greg and Michelle believe that Austin College students have not had to look far for an example of excellence in leadership. "Dr. Page has not only dutifully fulfilled the position of president of Austin College for the past 15 years, but has served as a principle role model for the Austin College community and the Leadership Institute he created," Greg said.

Recalling her early days on campus, Michelle remembered, "I thought that as long as I could learn from Dr. Page's example over the next four years, I would certainly grow and develop into the kind of Austin College graduate that would make my parents proud."

She did — and today she continues the example of leadership, as do her leadership institute classmates and more than 4,500 Austin College alumni who have graduated since 1995. The legacy of leadership continues



*Greg Gitcho, far left,
and Michelle Whetstone Anderson*

Legacy of Success

Rhett Skiles '02, program officer for Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro for the International Republican Institute in Washington, D.C., charts his trajectory from a Student Assembly and Model United Nations delegate to the London School of Economics and to duties as a senior legislative assistant for Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Economic Development for U.S. Representative Steven Pearce of New Mexico.

Rhett attributes much of his awareness and sensitivity to the combination of practical experiences and academic reflection that he experienced through the Leadership Institute. He remembers with appreciation the advocacy of Professor **Mark Hébert** and a manifestation of true servant leadership in Dr. Page, his smile for everyone and an “impeccable” memory for students and personal and consequential details of their lives. Rhett described Dr. Page as a person consistently ready to assess the vision and practice of Austin College, with the special ability to listen to ideas and perspectives with positive outlook and regard.

Catherine Moran '07 embraced the model of the scholar-leader-athlete. In addition to her leadership as women’s basketball team captain and active membership in Black Expressions, Catherine was instrumental in the development of the outreach partnership, now in its fourth year, between Austin College and the Irma J. Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School in Dallas, Texas.

Catherine is finishing her studies at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, where she is president of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society and began the Ashaki Young Women’s Leadership Project, an advocacy program working with Austin public schools.

In retrospect, Catherine said, her own leadership style was formed by a continuing desire to focus on personal growth and how she could positively affect others. She recently competed on the national finalist team for the Frederick Douglas Moot Court competition, serves as an editor for the *National Black Law Journal*, and has served on the staffs of legislators, judges, and public defenders in preparation for her career as a civil rights litigator.

Lynden McGriff '02, who earned a doctorate in pharmacy and a master’s degree in business at Creighton University, reports that the experience of the Leadership Institute and the support of Dr. Page allowed him to cultivate a sense of personal confidence that fortified his positive engagement. Through that confidence he has traveled to Africa, served as an intern in the Office of Environmental and Scientific Affairs as a chemical research associate, and found himself as a spokesman for the Environmental Policy Office for then-Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Lynden has been a clinical coordinator for the Institute for Latin American Service as a pharmacy student, a lobbyist for the American Pharmaceutical Association, and a pharmacy manager and pharmacist for Walgreens. His recollection of leadership experiences at Austin College involve the encouragement for diligence, determination, perseverance, and courage.



*Left to right;
Lynden McGriff,
Kristen Saboe,
Abbas Ravjani,
Amber Childress, and
Catherine Moran*

Amber Childress '07 lives in Washington, D.C., and recently joined the staff of the Terrestrial Carbon Group, a climate change mitigation program housed within the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment. She had significant exposure to the federal legislative process before and during her studies at Austin College, serving as a Congressional page while in high school and, while at Austin College, interning in the office of the Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

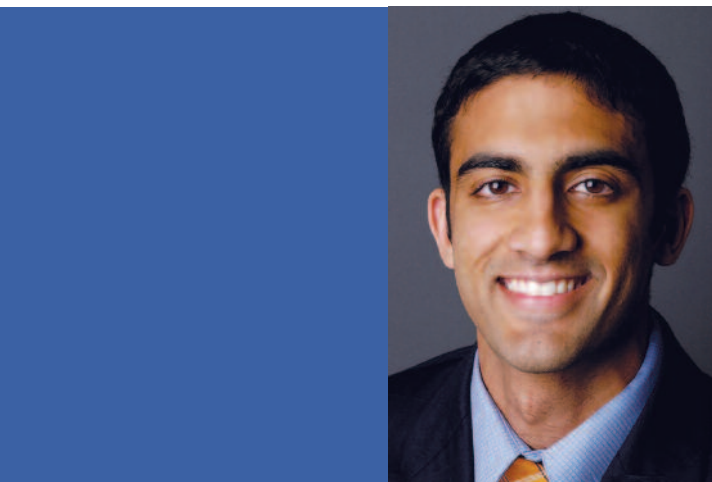
While a leadership student, Amber led a team of Austin College students who assisted the Greater Dallas Business Ethics Selection Committee in the selection of the annual national awardee in 2007. Amber credited these and other leadership roles she was afforded as a member of the leadership program as instrumental in her personal development and subsequent choice of professional endeavor.

Abbas Ravjani '04 was the consummate student leader. From Boys and Girls Club volunteer to Student Assembly president, Abbas extended himself far beyond the norm for Austin College students. He was awarded prestigious Truman Scholarship based on leadership potential, but delayed his entry into law school to work for the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence as a Middle East analyst. He is completing Yale Law School this June and then will join the legal counsel team of the Senate Foreign Services Committee.

Abbas noted that his experience at Austin College studying leadership afforded him the distinct advantage of having knowledge and skill in self-development and professional decision-making. He said that the frequency with which he was able to engage in real leadership responsibilities gave him a sense of self-confidence and perspective that contributed directly to his success. He credited Dr. Page with creating this environment and providing the feedback and support that enhanced his development as a student leader.

Kristin Saboe '07 chose Austin College over comparable schools because the College allowed her to begin her studies in leadership as a freshman. She demonstrated her interest and engagement as a student leader through involvement with Rotaract, as a founding member of the Wheelchair Basketball fundraiser, and as the executive for the Student Development Board.

Kristin credits her study abroad experience; internships at the Osgood Center in Washington, D.C., and the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce; and exposure to leaders of state like Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, as instrumental in developing her awareness and fortifying her conviction. Kristin was awarded a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship on her way to doctoral studies in organizational psychology and leadership at the University of South Florida. She is working on a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology and was awarded a traineeship in an interdisciplinary program for occupational health psychology. 🦘



Truett Cates Named Director of New Center for Global Learning

The Austin College commitment to international education and global awareness was emphasized this spring with the creation of the Center for Global Learning and the selection of **Truett Cates**, long-time member of the German faculty, as its director. The center will serve as a cornerstone of the College's plan to enhance international programs and increase cultural awareness among students. Cates no longer will teach in the language department, instead taking on full-time administration of the center and all aspects of global learning and internationalization.

Creation of the Center for Global Learning was a key element of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) 2009-2014, a major component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation of accreditation process. In that process, a college must submit a plan that has potential to have substantive and lasting effect upon students and learning. Austin College faculty chose "The GLOBE Program" as its QEP. **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs, announced selection of Cates as the center's director in April.

"To really be effective, the director has to interface with the faculty and students of Austin College, understand our programs and culture, and be knowledgeable about international education," said Imhoff. "Truett is exceptionally well positioned for this and brings a tremendous range of qualifications that should make him very effective in this role."

Cates said the reaction among the campus community to Austin College's QEP, its focus on internationalization, and his selection as director of the CGL has been very positive. "One of the things that has been most impressive to me is how many different people across campus have come up and said something nice to me, not just colleagues in the faculty I've known for years, but new faculty, staff, and people who you'd never really associate with being interested in curriculum," Cates said. "I even had a janitor congratulate me. It's a real College effort."

Cates joined the Austin College faculty in 1979 and has served in numerous roles, including professor of German, director of study abroad, director of January Term, chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, and soccer coach. The fall 2009 term will be the first in his 30 years at the College, excluding sabbaticals, to have no teaching duties — something he expects to miss.

Though Cates has had some administrative duties in the past, he admits some philosophies about administration that he held as a faculty member may have to be re-evaluated. "Most of my career, I said anybody who wanted to be an administrator should not be allowed to be one, but I did apply for this job so I can't really say that anymore," he said.

His experience in languages and study abroad as well as his passion for spreading the reach of global awareness and internationalization throughout campus motivated him to seek this new role. "This is a challenge I'm happy to accept," Cates said. "I've been so involved with thinking about the future of these programs in the last couple of years that it seems natural to continue to do that."

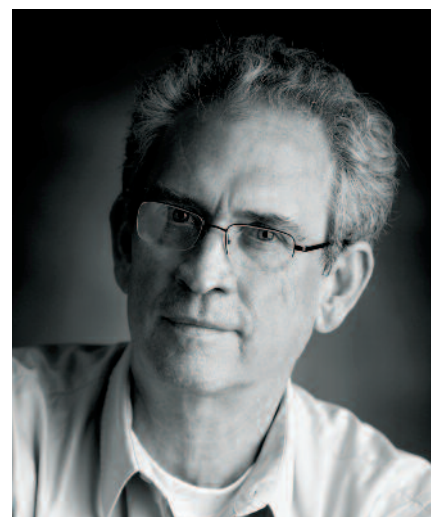


PHOTO BY JASON JONES

Truett Cates

What is the Center for Global Learning?

"The centerpiece of the GLOBE program will be the Center for Global Learning (CGL) — a clearinghouse for information about all programs including study abroad, internships, international January Term courses, and summer opportunities. The CGL will provide resources for the 'unpacking' of experiences of students who have participated in off-campus study or internships; develop and coordinate contacts and resources in the local and regional community; and work with trustees, faculty, and staff who can provide advice and assistance for students who are planning international experiences."

— Austin College Quality Enhancement Plan 2009–2014

The Austin College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) 2009–2014 called for the establishment of a Center for Global Learning (CGL) as the main feature of the GLOBE Program to improve international cultural awareness for all Austin College students.

While the CGL provides an infrastructure for many GLOBE Program initiatives and will administer and house study abroad and travel January Term programs, the center will serve as an internationalization headquarters on campus for other programs with international elements, such as the Global Outreach (GO) Fellowship Program, Vocational Internship Program (VIP), and international Career Study Off-Campus (CSOC) opportunities. The center will become a resource for travel logistics, country and cultural destination information, and international knowledge for interested students and faculty.

The center officially begins operation in July, headquartered in the Robert J. and Mary Wright Campus Center.

Editor's Note: A closer look at the goals and elements of the GLOBE Program is planned for the September 2009 issue of *Austin College Magazine*.

Donors and Scholars Meet

I have walked the roads of Timbuktu, wandered the halls of the Hagia Sophia in Turkey, climbed an active volcano in Guatemala, and stood at the top of the tallest building in the world in Taiwan. And, these are just a few of my experiences! Austin College students have traveled the globe, leaving their footprints in places as close as Louisiana for Alternative Spring Break trips as well as places as far away as Timbuktu for January Term. All of these cultural experiences opened up worlds that textbooks could not begin to convey.

Tom Hall '78, a Fort Worth attorney, spoke at the Austin College Evening with Your Scholar event in Irving, Texas, on April 3, about the impact of his Austin College experience — and why he and his wife, Lisa, fund scholarships at the College today. The annual event brings together students who receive scholarships and the donors who make those scholarships possible.

Hall owns the firm of Hall & Heygood in Fort Worth, Texas, and is board certified in personal injury trial law. A member of the Texas Board of Legal Specialists, he is vice president of the Board of Trustees of Texas Tech School of Law and previously served as director of Tarrant County Trial Lawyers. Hall also serves on the Austin College Board of Trustees.

Monica Martinez '09 spoke at the event on behalf of scholarship recipients, thanking donors for the benefits of their investment in the lives of students. "Students here are continually challenged, not only in the classroom but also outside of it," she said. "I have walked the roads of Timbuktu, wandered the halls of the Hagia Sophia in Turkey, climbed an active volcano in Guatemala, and stood at the top of the tallest building in the world in Taiwan. And, these are just a few of my experiences! My fellow students have similar experiences. Austin College students have traveled the globe, leaving their footprints in places as close as Louisiana for Alternative Spring Break trips as well as places as far away as Timbuktu for January Term. All of these cultural experiences opened up worlds that textbooks could not begin to convey."

Marcus and Betty Tappan Payne of Waxahachie, Texas, both 1958 alumni of Austin College and scholarship donors themselves, were underwriters of the April event, as they have been for the past five years.

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



Tom Hall

Maleeha Aktar '09 poses with Marcus and Betty Tappan Payne. Maleeha enrolls this fall in the Boston University School of Public Health, which joins a master's degree with 27 months of field experience in the U.S. Peace Corps.



Austin College Gives Distinguished Alumni, Service Awards

Austin College honored four alumni — and a surprise honorary recipient — with Distinguished Alumni Awards, and the parents of a recent graduate received the College's Clemons Award during an awards program on March 6.

Distinguished Alumni

Donald M. Gibson '75 of Houston, Texas; chief medical officer at Memorial Hermann Hospital and a nationally recognized leader in the field of off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery, having performed more than 2,000 such cases;

Rebecca Russell Sykes '67 of Dallas, Texas; executive director for the Dallas Women's Foundation, an organization that promotes women's philanthropy;

Barbara Smith Hensley '70 of Shakopee, Minnesota; founder of Hope Chest for Breast Cancer and foundation chair and CEO of Hope Chest Franchising;

William O. Walker, Jr., '53 of San Antonio, Texas; a member of the religion faculty at Trinity University for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2002;

Anna Laura Page, honorary recipient, first lady of Austin College.

Distinguished Alumni awards honor those graduates who have distinguished themselves in their profession 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 educational experience and offer inspiration to all Austin College community members, providing support of and advocacy for the College and its mission.

Clemons Award Honorees

Ken and Debbie Worden of Richardson, Texas, received the Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award. The parents of **Ross Worden '06**, Ken and Debbie have been very involved in the Austin College Parent and Family Council during their son's years at the College and beyond. They served as co-chairs of the council in 2006 and continue to act as hosts and panelists at many events for prospective students and their families.

The Clemons Award is given to alumni and friends of the College in honor of continued service and commitment to Austin College. The award is named in honor of Heywood C. Clemons of Fort Worth, Texas, who served as chair of the Austin College Board of Trustees for 16 years.



A very surprised Anna Laura Page receives her award.



Debbie and Ken Worden



Distinguished Alumni honorees, left to right, are Rebecca Russell Sykes, Anna Laura Page, Donald M. Gibson, William O. Walker, and Barbara Smith Hensley.

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Not Goodbye, Just **Hasta Luego**



PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY AND JOSHUA BOWERMAN



Each spring as the academic year ends, seniors particularly are aware of bittersweet “lasts”— the last class, the last final, the last weekend as a college student, the last sports event, the last days of “freedom” before the “real world” begins.

This year, the campus community experienced other “lasts” with sadness and anticipation as the end of the presidency of **Oscar C. Page** and first lady **Anna Laura Page** approaches. Many celebrations of caring and gratitude were arranged by students, staff, faculty, and friends to honor the Pages.

Thankfully, no last goodbyes are called for as the Pages will continue to live in Sherman and remain involved in the life of the College. So, final farewells became “until then,” taking a bit of the sting from the series of last events.



A fiesta gala honoring the Pages was held during the May 29-30 Board of Trustees meeting. Filled with much laughter, some tears, a bit of frivolity, and many good wishes from friends and colleagues, it was a night long to be remembered. In addition to warm wishes from Henry Winkler and President Barack Obama, the event included legislative proclamations; words from TIAA-CREF, the Presbyterian Church, and higher education representatives; and reminiscences from several friends and trustees. In addition, a tartan was unveiled, certified by The Scottish Registry of Tartan, as the Page Tartan, which is designated the official tartan of Austin College.



Class of 2009 Graduates Celebrate Commencement

After several days of rain, the skies turned blue and clear on May 17 for Commencement ceremonies of the 160th academic year of Austin College. For the first time in years, the morning temperature was a little chilly as College marshal **George Diggs** led graduates and faculty to the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court. More than 320 graduates received Bachelor of Arts degrees and an additional 23 students were granted the Master of Arts in Teaching.

The 2009 Commencement address was presented by Austin College President **Oscar C. Page**. (See his speech on page 2.) **Parth Shah** was selected by his classmates to serve as senior speaker at Commencement.

An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters was granted to Karl Travis, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, Texas, who presented the Baccalaureate sermon on May 16.

Members of the Class of 1959 were on campus throughout the weekend for 50-year reunion activities and were recognized during the Commencement ceremonies. (See the photo on page 42.)



Seniors Britain Bruner, Clayton Travis, Michael Gill, Kelby Archer, and Justin Light prepare for the Baccalaureate procession.

Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecture Set

The 2009 Williams Executive-in-Residence lecture is scheduled for September 17, featuring Kirk Rimer, a managing director of Goldman Sachs and the Southwest regional manager for the Private Wealth Management Division, which manages more than \$15 billion. He will present "The Global Investment Landscape: Then and Now" at 11:30 a.m. in Mabey Hall of Wright Campus Center.

Before and after the lecture, several business alumni will offer a panel presentation and breakout groups for career planning advice for students.

This lecture was funded by gifts from Abby and **Todd Williams '82** as a means to mentor students. Todd said he benefitted greatly from the assistance of his mentors, and he hopes to provide this benefit to others.

More information about the lecture will be available on the Austin College Web site as schedules are finalized. **David Griffith**, associate professor of business administration, is coordinating the event.

Alumna Illustrates the Changing Seasons

A mural of Texas wild flowers and grasses of the four seasons, painted by Austin College alumna **Julie Lobrecht Crownover** '98, was installed in the Howard McCarley Pavilion at the Austin College Clinton and Edith Sneed Environmental Research Area and Prairie Restoration in April. The artist prepared the mural off-site then installed the completed painting along the top of the pavilion wall.

"Not only is this a fantastic painting but it will have tremendous educational value for learning about the local ecosystem and its species," said **Peter Schulze**, director of the Austin College Center for Environmental Studies and professor of biology and environmental science. "Most of the particular plant species are clearly identifiable on the mural."

Crownover, who earned a degree in biology with minors in art and environmental studies, lives in Garland, Texas, and has been painting in pastels for more than 20 years. She is an award-winning pastelist and a member of the Southwest Pastel Society. "In my own art, I use light and color to bring out beauty in everyday life, whether that is a trail I have hiked 100 times or my son hanging laundry on a line," Crownover said. "In that way, I use my art as a reminder of where to find beauty all around us, and to slow down in our daily lives so that we may see it."

Austin College's 100-acre Sneed Environmental Research Center serves as a site for biology and environmental studies courses and research, as well as a tall-grass prairie restoration project. Since 1996, course participants and student volunteers have worked with the members of the Environmental Studies Program and the Biology Department to restore native vegetation to the site. To date, hundreds of Austin College students have worked and studied at the Sneed Area and thousands of children have toured the site.



COURTESY PHOTO

Julie Lobrecht Crownover

News Briefs

Speakers Offer Views on Political Parties

Political science students had opportunity this spring to learn more about the status and role of political parties. The Political Science Department and Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, sponsored the visits of **James W. Walker** '82 and Roger Sanders. Walker is a principal in the Walker Sewell law firm of Dallas, a member of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations, and previously served as general counsel of the Republican Party of Texas. Sanders is a Sherman attorney and former Democratic Texas legislator.

Scholar Presents Lecture on Evolution of Whales

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Philip Gingerich presented "The Evolution of Whales: A Profound Transition from Land to Sea" on campus March 5. He is the Ermine Cowles Case Collegiate Professor of Paleontology at the University of Michigan, where he also teaches in the departments of biology, anthropology, and geological sciences.

Theatre Students Present *Ordinary People*

The Austin College Communication Studies Department presented the dramatic production *Ordinary People* March 5-7 on campus, directed by **Joel Torres** '09. The play is based on Judith Guest's 1976 novel *Ordinary People*, which was made into a 1980 Academy Award-winning film.

Cast members included **Shane Gannaway** '10, **Paul Frederick** '10, **Christiana Bay** '11, **Austin Tooley** '09, **Tayyar Unal** '10, **Elizabeth Webb** '10, **Joshua Gilbreath** '09, **Taylor Browne** '11, and **Averie Bell** '09.

Law Symposium Focuses on Earl Warren Court

Austin College's 2009 Law Symposium, held March 27, "Earl Warren: The Man and His Court," offered a 40-year retrospective on the Warren Court, which some historians may assess as the modern court's greatest era. Some of the nation's leading Warren scholars spoke at the event, including Professor Lucas A. Powe Jr., author of *The Warren Court and American Politics*; Jim Newton, author of *Justice For All: Earl Warren Court and the Nation He Made*; University of Alabama Bainbridge Professor of Law **Pamela H. Bucy** '75; James George, Austin media law attorney and former clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall; Austin attorney Shannon Ratliff, former clerk to Justice Tom C. Clark; D'Army Bailey, a Tennessee judge; and Brian Serr, a member of the Baylor Law School faculty and former clerk to John H. Brown.

Alumna Discusses the Aftermath of Violence

Vanessa Noël Brown '00, who works with Freedom House in Washington, D.C., returned to campus March 30 to present the lecture "In the Aftermath of Mass Violence: Conflict Transition in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Freedom House is an independent nongovernmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world through analysis, advocacy, and action. During her visit, Brown also spoke with students about careers in social justice and international development. The lecture was sponsored the Austin College history and political science departments and the 2008-2010 Mobley Scholars Project.

Rethinking the Western: Examining the Lone Ranger and Tonto

Professor Chadwick Allen, associate professor of English at the Ohio State University, visited campus April 6 to present the lecture "Tonto as Aural Indian: Rethinking the Western through

Homer P. Rainey Awards Honor Service

Sheryl Bradshaw, director of finance, and **Howard Starr**, professor of psychology, were honored with the Austin College Homer P. Rainey Award at the annual Honors Convocation in April.

The Board of Trustees established the Homer P. Rainey Award in 1975 to be presented each year to a member of the faculty or staff for outstanding achievement and service to Austin College. Occasionally, two awards are given as deemed appropriate by the board.

Bradshaw began her employment at Austin College in December 1986 as College comptroller. She became director of finance in 1999, continuing her work within the Business Affairs Division. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Southern Florida.

"During her tenure at Austin College, Sheryl has worked tirelessly to manage the College's business using sound fiscal judgment and has endeavored to motivate those around her to do the same," said Austin College President **Oscar C. Page** in announcing the award. "She demonstrates professionalism and determination in her daily tasks, ever mindful of the larger picture, while always keeping the proper perspective on the challenging demands of the College."

Starr joined the Austin College community in 1964, and has served as professor of psychology, dean of Social Sciences, dean of educational development, chair of the Department of Psychology and Sociology, and vice president of College Relations.

Starr holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas, a master's degree from Southern Methodist University, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M at Commerce. He is certified as a licensed professional counselor in the state of Texas and is certified by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis as a clinical hypnosis. He is actively involved in Home Hospice of Grayson County, an agency he helped to found in the 1980s.

Homer P. Rainey was a 1919 graduate of Austin College, who returned to teach at the College for four years before leaving to earn his doctorate at the University of Chicago. He later taught at the University of Oregon and from 1928 to 1952, held presidencies at Franklin College of Indiana, Bucknell University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas, and Stephens College of Missouri. From 1956 until his retirement, Rainey was professor of higher education at the University of Colorado.

PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



Sheryl Bradshaw
and
Howard Starr

The Lone Ranger Radio Show." The visit was sponsored by the American Studies Program with support from the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies.

Professor Allen's talk focused on his most recent research on radio Westerns of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. He is one of the first scholars in the field of western literary studies to examine the medium of radio Westerns and their impact on constructing a national sense of what it has meant to be American.

Asia Week Features Author of *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle*

A lecture by Cathy Bao Bean, author of *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle, A Memoir and Manual*, highlighted the annual Asia Week program on campus in early April.

A philosopher, writer, and educational consultant, Bao Bean has presented a wide range of programs throughout the United States on her own quest to learn "how to make the 'foreign' more familiar and the ordinary and extraordinary into each other." Her book, *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle*, is a humorous but poignant memoir, recounting her experiences as a Chinese immigrant growing up in the United States. She uses the story of her own immigrant experience to explain how to reconcile the expectations of families and society.

Lecture Examines Lost World of Gratitude

Ted Harpham of the University of Texas at Dallas visited campus April 9 to present the 2009 Austin College Will Mann Richardson Lecture, "Adam Smith's Lost World of Gratitude." Harpham, associate dean of undergraduate education and the director of Collegium V, UTD's honors program, teaches in the government and political economy programs at UTD. He is the author and editor of seven books and numerous articles in political science in the fields of political theory, American government, and public policy.

The Will Mann Richardson Lectureships were endowed by gifts from Will Mann Richardson and his wife, Gertrude Anne Windsor Richardson; his mother-in-law, Gertrude Buckley Windsor; and his children, William Windsor Richardson, John Marshall Richardson, Gertrude Windsor Richardson, and James Windsor Richardson. The series brings outstanding individuals to the campus to discuss pertinent issues in economics and banking, law, and government.

Wolfgang Kubin Discusses Chinese Language and Literature

Wolfgang Kubin, renowned scholar on Chinese language and literature from the University of Bonn in Germany, presented an April 9 lecture, "From Theology to Sinology, from Germany to China," that highlighted his experiences as scholar, translator, and writer.

"Dr. Kubin is the most controversial, yet probably the most beloved sinologist, in China," said **Anne Xu**, assistant professor of Chinese at Austin College. "His view that contemporary Chinese literature, in contrast to classic and modern Chinese literature — which he studied and published on voluminously over the past 40 years — is in a deplorable state is known to virtually everyone in the Chinese literary scene. His strong views have made him many enemies as well as friends."

Brigadier General Speaks on Ethical Leadership

Howard Prince, director of the Lyndon B. Johnson School's Center for Ethical Leadership and retired brigadier general of the U.S. Army, spoke on ethical leadership on April 14 for the Posey Leadership Forum. "His commentary was about the leader's journey, how personal values and circumstances dictate the decisions you make, and ethical leadership in terms of understanding what the right thing to do is and having the fortitude to do it," said **Pete DeLisle**, director of the Posey Leadership Institute.

Students Shave Heads to Raise Funds for Childhood Cancer Research

Austin College Rotaract members and several students and coaches joined forces in April to raise almost \$2,000 through online and campus donations for cancer research. Three student-coach teams agreed that the team members who raised the most in donations would shave their heads. **Carolyn Stone** '11, event organizer for Rotaract, and women's softball coach **Edie Fletcher** raised the most, though the student-athletes from the other teams, **Neal Spradlin** '10 and **Ronal Rivera** '11, still shaved their heads in support. Several other students also shaved their heads for the cause.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE SENOR



"Shaving my head for cancer is something that I have been thinking about for a very long time, and bringing St. Baldrick's Day to Austin College is something that I'd been telling my friends about since my freshman year," said Stone, a Rotaract officer and softball team member.

Proceeds from the fundraiser went to the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which coordinates worldwide head-shaving events that raise money to support childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's, a fusion of "St. Patrick's Day" and "bald," began in 2000 when three executives from New York City turned their annual St. Patrick's Day party into a fundraiser, shaving their heads in solidarity with children with cancer.

Already Rotaract members are planning for a repeat event during the next academic year.

Neal Spradlin, Dallas Key, Carolyn Stone, and Ronal Rivera, left to right, were four of 10 "shavees" for the cause of cancer research. Campus donations totaled \$483.50 and approximately \$1,500 was donated online through the St. Baldrick's site.

Prince, whose experience as a leader began as an infantry officer in the 1960s during Vietnam, has been involved in laying the groundwork for formal leadership programs, the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and as founding dean and professor in the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies, the first undergraduate leadership degree program in the world.

Annual AIDS Quilt Program Includes Fundraiser

The annual ACCARES Spring AIDS Quilt program was held April 20 with local AIDS quilts on display. **Roger Platizky**, professor of English and event organizer, said the program included poetry readings, prayers in various languages, and discussions about some of the issues surrounding AIDS, as well as tributes and remembrances of those who have died from the disease. All proceeds from the evening's raffle sales were sent to the Simbaradenga Children's AIDS Orphanage in Zimbabwe, Africa. ACCARES sponsors this orphanage with the Callie Clinic of Sherman.

Music Department Offers Full Schedule of Spring Events

The Austin College Department of Music presented the Chamber Ensemble and Greater Texoma Jazz Ensemble annual spring concert April 20, with the chamber portion featuring an arrangement by director **Ricky Duhaime** of "Antique Dances and Airs," by the modern Italian composer Ottorino Respighi. Duhaime also completed an original arrangement for the 20-piece big band Jazz Ensemble.

The annual Spring Choir Concert on April 26 included a wide variety of music styles performed by the A Cappella Choir, the Austin College Chorale, the Consort, Descant,

and the Quartette. The choral groups at Austin College are directed by **Wayne Crannell**, associate professor of music, and **Sylvia Rivers**, adjunct instructor in music.

The Concert Band also presented an April performance of orchestral music. as written by prestigious band composers and arrangers, said **Bob Archer**, director. The concert included three solo pieces, "Mr. Nice Guy" featuring **Joel Ingram** '10 on bass trombone; "Dreamsong" featuring **John McGinn**, assistant professor of music, on piano; and "Gemeinhardt Suite," featuring **Katelyn Peterson** '10 on flute.

The Sherman Symphony Orchestra, directed by **Daniel Dominick**, presented a concert May 5. The concert, which honored **Oscar** and **Anna Laura Page**, included performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and featured Dominick on piano and guest conductor **Wayne Crannell**.

Theatre Students Perform *Peer Gynt*

Austin College theatre students presented Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* April 23-25 in the Beardsley Arena Theatre of Ida Green Communication Center. **Kirk Everist**, assistant professor of communication studies, directed the production of what originally was written as a lengthy fantasy poem, then adapted for the stage by Ibsen in 1876. Everist adapted the script from seven variant translations.

Everist said that *Peer Gynt* (pronounced pear gihnt) follows the fantastic life of a storyteller so adept at changing himself to fit the moment that he loses all sense of identity, and spends his life running away from his calling. "Peer's tale becomes a remarkable conundrum in which to contemplate the power we exert over ourselves through stories — and the ominous extent to which we can ignore the importance of our stories for each other."

Greg Hernandez '09 played the title role as *Peer Gynt*.

October History Symposium Will Focus on “Mr. Sam”

U.S. Congressman Sam Rayburn, who represented the fourth U.S. Congressional District for half a century, will be a focus of an October symposium hosted by the Austin College Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies. The statewide conference on the history of Texas political leadership also will analyze the nature of Texas political leadership during the 20th century.

The symposium, co-sponsored by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History of University of Texas at Austin, will include events in Bonham, Texas, at the Sam Rayburn

Library and Museum, which is operated by the Briscoe Center.

Campus events will be held October 1 with an 11 a.m. keynote lecture by Robert Remini, official historian of the U.S. House of Representatives, in Hoxie Thompson Auditorium of Sherman Hall. Presentations later that day will feature noted political historians Patrick Cox, Kenneth Hendrickson, and Michael Collins.

For additional information and event schedules as they become available, check the News & Events section of the Austin College Web site or email **Susan Storan**, regional studies secretary, at sstoran@austincollege.edu. 🐾



SAM RAYBURN PAPERS, UNIV. OF TEXAS, BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

Sam Rayburn and members of the Texas Delegation at the Democratic National Convention in 1956.

Low Lectures Include “A Narrative for Peace and Justice”

The Austin College Lowe Lectures for 2009 featured Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., the first American university to hire a full-time Muslim chaplain. He visited Austin College April 28 to join Austin College chaplain **John Williams** '84 in the forum “A Narrative for Peace and Justice.” Hendi also spoke with students in a second session, “Loving Your Neighbors as Yourself.”

Hendi said he believes Jews, Christians, and Muslims must celebrate their differences and rejoice for their similarities, and that the ability to engage each other in healthy relationships does not mean to compromise the values of one another. He said he believes that all the religions of the world have to peacefully coexist and share the resources of the earth.

Gender Studies Program Offers Lecture

The Austin College Gender Studies program sponsored the presentation “Tools of War: Sexualizing Violence, Constructing Gender, Imaging Power” by Davina Lopez on April 30. Lopez is assistant professor of religious studies and coordinator of Women's and Gender Studies at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Todd Penner, associate professor of religious studies and director of gender studies at Austin College, said Lopez's interactive multimedia presentation explored ways in which ideologies of war and violence are enforced by gendered and sexualized language, innuendo, and imagery, as well as how paradigms of gender and sexuality are managed by the use of violence, intimidation, and domination.

Aussie Dance Team Presents Spring Show

The Austin College dance team, the Aussies, held its annual Spring Show May 1. The show included a variety of dance styles, choreographed and performed by the Aussies, as well as skits and presentations by the Joeys, a group of male students who joined in the opening and closing numbers. **Elise Koestner** '10 served as announcer for the evening.

Sarah Campion '10, captain, leads the team, assisted by lieutenants **Kaleigh Kelley** '10 and **Divya Mallela** '11.

Emily Austin Is Subject of New Book, Film

Austin College History Professor **Light Cummins** and student film-maker **Austin Tooley** '09 presented projects on the life of Emily Austin, sister of Stephen F. Austin, on May 7.

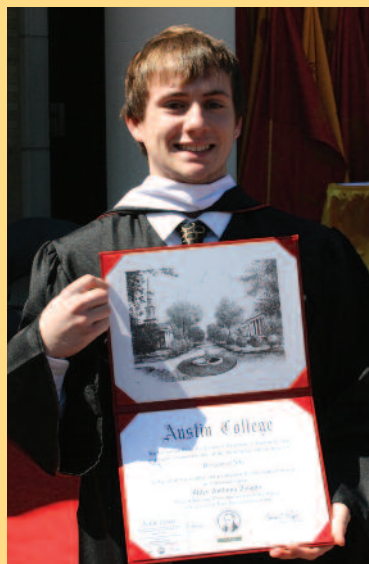
Cummins, Guy M. Bryan, Jr., Chair of American History, has written a biography of Emily Austin, who became one of the most prominent women in pre-Civil War Texas and an astute businesswoman. The book, *Emily Austin of Texas, 1795-1851*, was published in April by the TCU Press as part of its Texas Biography Series.

Emily, the daughter of Moses Austin and the sister of Stephen F. Austin, gave the Reverend Daniel Baker the first financial donation to what would become Austin College in memory of her brother Stephen.

Based upon Cummins' book and his own interviews with historians and Austin family descendants, Tooley produced a 30-minute documentary film, *Emily Austin: Sister to an Empire*. Much of the footage was shot at the historic Peach Point Plantation and other locations associated with the life of Emily Austin. The film was undertaken as Tooley's senior honors project and was sponsored by the Erwin E. Smith Foundation and the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

PHOTOS BY JOSH BOWERMAN AND VICKIE S. KIRBY





Giving Her Best

On the basketball court, individuals are given every opportunity to shine. At its core, though, basketball is a total team sport. One player can achieve success, but without the support of teammates, individual success matters very little when it comes to wins and losses. Being part of a team isn't just about individual improvement, but also helping others become the best that they can be. Throughout her career **Maegan Fitzgerald** '09 not only fully understood and embraced that concept, but continues to work to apply it to every aspect of life.

"I am a perfectionist and when I commit to something I try to do the best I can," said Fitzgerald. "This goes for both academics and athletics. When I commit to things it means I have to make sacrifices elsewhere and weigh what will be most beneficial, not only to me but to those around me."

Over the course of her Austin College career, Fitzgerald excelled both on the hardwood and in the classroom. Quickly earning a reputation as one of the top sharpshooters in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, Fitzgerald was able to expand her overall game and become one of Austin College's top overall players.

In her final season this year, Fitzgerald was one of two players to average double figures and was honored by her teammates with their selection of her as Co-Most Valuable Player, an honor she shared with **Katy Williams** '10. "It was even more special to share what is normally a one-person award because it brings to the forefront the team concept of our sport," said Fitzgerald. "If basketball was an individual sport we would not be discussing this award at all. For me, it is recognition for having contributed to the wins but also the losses. I was blessed this season to be part of a dynamic team that has an immense amount of heart, talent, and potential for next year."

Fitzgerald has reveled in the opportunity to participate in so many diverse lectures, forums, and seminars, and she has especially appreciated the ability to "interact with professors and students at an intimate level that would not be available at larger schools."

Fitzgerald completed majors in environmental studies and religious studies, and long has "been fascinated with how the natural world functions," she said. "I spent most of my time outdoors when I was younger and learned to appreciate the environment." However, it was an Austin College religious studies class that ultimately steered her onto the path she plans to follow next.

"I found it very engaging," said Fitzgerald of the course. "Religion is very important to me in understanding how the world has come to be as it is, including human interaction with the environment."

Maegan Fitzgerald

This fall, Fitzgerald will further her passion to better serve others as she attends seminary. "I traveled to Kenya to work at an orphanage for a little over a month," said Fitzgerald of a summer experience. "I was awestruck by the joy present in the children, though there was so much pain and corruption all around them. I developed a strong passion to understand the impact that society and religion can have on youth. After further reflection on my experiences in Kenya and throughout my life, I knew that seminary could be a great place to study and apply my faith academically."

Fitzgerald has not decided which seminary to attend this fall or what paths she may take in the future. "I have a passion for Christ, youth, international development, and the outdoors," she said. "How these passions will culminate in the 'real world' I am not sure, but I am definitely excited."



Athletes Honored for Achievement, Effort

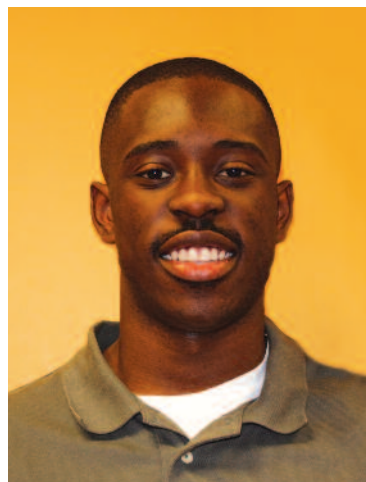
Kola Alade '10 and **Helen Heres '09** received top honors as the Athletes of the Year at the 2009 Athletics Awards Convocation in May.

Alade, a three-year member of the 'Roos basketball team, received the Pete Cawthon Male Athlete of the Year Award after being named Second Team All-SCAC from his guard position and leading the basketball team to its second straight SCAC tournament appearance. Alade is a two-time All-SCAC honoree and finished the season among the leading scorers in the conference, averaging 15.9 points per game and adding 5.5 rebounds and 3.1 assists. He also was selected by his teammates as the 2009 Pat E. Hooks Most Outstanding Player.

Heres, a three-year member of the soccer team, received the Gene Day Female Athlete of the Year Award after being named Second Team All-SCAC in soccer in 2009. Heres proved to be the heart and soul of the 'Roos at her defensive midfield position, playing outstanding defense while scoring three goals and adding a team-best six assists. She is a three-time All-SCAC performer and was selected by her teammates as the Carole Lamongino Women's Soccer Most Valuable Player.

Coaches will look to the outstanding freshman athletes for excellence this fall in soccer competition. **Shelley Casey '12** and **Luis Castillo '12** received the Tim Jubela Freshman Athlete of the Year Awards. Casey started 16 games and immediately proved to be one of the soccer team's most reliable scorers, netting five goals on the year, including a team-best three game-winners. Castillo was named the SCAC Newcomer of the Year and a Second-Team All-SCAC selection, after leading the 'Roos in scoring with seven goals and four assists.

More than 40 athletes were honored by coaches and teammates at the annual awards program. In addition, the T. Ellis Lockhart Spirit Award for the most supportive faculty or staff member was awarded to President Oscar C. Page.



Kola Alade



Helen Heres



Shelley Casey



Luis Castillo

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Bo Miller Scholar Athlete Award is given to the male and female senior athletes with the highest grade point average. This spring, tennis player **David Shanafelt** shares the title with **Maegan Fitzgerald**, center, of basketball and **LeAnne Nguyen** of soccer.

A woman in a white tennis outfit is captured in a dynamic pose, swinging a tennis racket. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

Women's Tennis Team Plays Solid Season, Men Falter

The Austin College women's tennis team had a solid 6-5 season while the men had a bit of a tough year, finishing the regular season with a record of 1-10. The women were led by **Kelly Lewis '11** and **Minnie Satyavada '11**, and the men featured the strong pairing of **Nate Navey '09** and **David Shanafelt '09** throughout the year.

The women opened the year with two wins in their first three matches, topping McMurry 5-4 and the University of the Ozarks 8-1 before dropping a pair of matches to fall to 2-3 overall.

The 'Roos got back on the winning track with a big 5-4 victory over the University of Texas at Dallas and followed up with a 6-3 win over Schreiner. The 'Roos fell to Dallas Baptist before closing the regular season with a decisive 9-0 win over Millsaps.

The 'Roos fell 7-2 to Hendrix in the opening round of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament, but, on day two, topped Oglethorpe University 6-3 to finish the season in ninth place in the conference. **Catherine Dolan '12** and **Margaret Edwards '12** earned All-Tournament honors for their strong play.

Lewis and Satyavada, who teamed to form one of the strongest doubles teams in the region and were equally strong as the team's top to singles players, were named Honorable Mention All-SCAC.

On the men's side, the 'Roos dropped their first five matches before picking up a dominant 6-3 home victory over Schreiner on March 13. The men dropped their final three regular-season matches against some strong opponents, including Dallas Baptist and Southeastern Oklahoma State, to head into the conference tournament with a 1-8 record.

The 'Roos met Southwestern University in the first round of the conference tournament, and, after falling to the Pirates, faced Millsaps for the second time in the season. The Majors proved to be too much for the 'Roos, handing Austin College a 9-0 loss and ending their season with an 11th place finish.

The 'Roo women return a strong nucleus and should continue to rise up the standings in the SCAC next season, while the men will look to rebound and take a big step forward. **Andrew Gannon '04** has coached the 'Roos for five seasons.

Baseball Squad Falls Short of Postseason Play

For the first time in four years, the Austin College baseball team found itself out of postseason play, finishing the year 15-24 overall and 5-15 in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. The 'Roos played what was considered one of the most challenging schedules in the nation in 2009, including multiple games against nationally ranked opponents.

After a slow start, the 'Roos won four of six games, including wins over Trinity University and Hendrix to get to 5-5 before a six-game losing streak left them at 5-11 and facing an uphill battle. The team battled back to an 8-11 record before a nine-game skid, which included three games against teams ranked in the top three nationally. Those losses put the record at 8-20 overall and ended players' hopes of a berth in the SCAC tournament. The 'Roos did end the season on a high note, winning five of their last six games and ending the year with a 17-4 rout of East Texas Baptist University.

The 'Roos were led offensively by **Bennett Herrick '10**, who batted .366 with 12 doubles, two triples, three homers, and 38 RBIs. He also scored 27 runs on the year. **Jordan Robison '10** and **Patrick Ray '09** also had strong years at the plate, hitting .364 and .360 respectively. Robison added nine stolen bases and Ray had 10 doubles on the year and drove in 21 runs. **Bobby Schleizer '09** finished among the conference leaders with seven home runs and added 25 RBIs.

Will Chermak '10 led the 'Roo pitching staff all season, finishing with a 5-5 record and a 3.78 earned run average. He also led all SCAC pitchers with 85 strikeouts in 85.2 innings of work and threw three complete games. **John Schulmeister '12** had a solid first year for the 'Roos, picking up three victories while appearing in 17 games and striking out 24 batters. **Tyler Steed '11** picked up a pair of wins on the mound and struck out 50 batters in 14 appearances, including 11 starts.

The 'Roos look to rebound in 2010 and, between returning players and a strong recruiting class, boast the talent both offensively and on the mound to get back into the postseason and challenge for the top spot in the SCAC.

Patrick Ray '09 and **Bennett Herrick '10** were named First Team All-SCAC. **Bobby Schleizer '09** was named Honorable Mention All-SCAC.

Softball Team Loses Steam at Season End

After looking like a lock for a spot in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) tournament for the second year in a row midway through the season, the Austin College softball team faded down the stretch, dropping seven of its last nine games to finish 12-24 overall and 7-9 in conference play and miss a postseason berth.

The 'Roos started the season with a 4-12 record in their first 16 games but a four-game sweep of Colorado College, the first series sweep in the young history of the program, put the team at 8-12 overall and placed the 'Roos atop the SCAC West with a 4-0 record. However, the 'Roos took just one of four games from Southwestern, Hendrix, and Trinity to close the season, costing them their spot in the SCAC tournament.

Bobbi Schulle '10 led the 'Roos with a .325 batting average and scored 30 runs, stole 13 bases, and had seven doubles on the year. **Stefanie Faith** '11 hit .320 with a team-best six homers and added 25 RBIs and eight doubles. **Suzanne Beltran** '12 made a big impact early in her career and finished the season with a SCAC-best 16 doubles. She added a .318 batting average and five home runs and finished among the conference leaders with 37 RBIs.

Also performing solidly in 2009 were **Sam Smith** '11, who hit seven doubles, three homers, and knocked in 15 runs, and **Carolyn Stone** '11, who added five doubles, a home run, and 17 RBIs. **Kali Gossett** '10 led the team with 93 defensive assists and was among the conference leaders in turning 10 double plays.

Ashley Johnson '11 won seven games on the mound while striking out 32 batters and threw 16 complete games. Early in the season, Johnson was named the SCAC Pitcher of the Week. **Kiely Harrison** '12 performed well in her first year, winning three games and posting a team-best 4.31 earned run average in 10 appearances. **Amber Pemberton** '12 added a pair of victories in 15 appearances, including 12 starts. She struck out 29 batters on the year.

Coach **Edie Fletcher**'s team returns everyone next year and will look to rise to the top of the SCAC West and earn back its spot in the conference tournament.

Stefanie Faith '11 was named Second Team All-SCAC, and SCAC Honorable Mention recognition went to **Sam Smith** '11, **Carolyn Stone** '11, **Kali Gossett** '10, **Suzanne Beltran** '12, **Abbey Hayes** '11, and **Bobbi Schulle** '10.

Gage to Be Inducted to THSCA Hall of Fame

Austin College head football coach and Texas high school coaching legend **Ronnie Gage** has been selected for induction to the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) Hall of Fame for 2009, the THSCA announced this spring. Gage is one of five inductees.

Gage, a two-time Texas 5A State Champion winner at Lewisville High School, will be inducted at the THSCA convention in San Antonio, Texas, in July. He served as the head coach at Lewisville from 1991 to 2005 and was named the District 5-5A Coach of the Year three times and District 6-5A Coach of the Year twice.

Before coaching at Lewisville, Gage earned District 5-4A Coach of the Year honors at Northwest High School, where he served as the head coach from 1987 to 1990. Over the course of his 18-year high school head coaching career, Gage compiled a record of 137-60-9. His teams won five district championships, qualified three times as area finalists, and twice made it to the regional finals.

Gage served as the president of the THSCA in 2004 and 2005, and was the regional director in 1999. In that same year, he received the Fox Sports Coach Who Makes a Difference Award and twice was named the Texas Sportswriters Coach of the Year. In addition, Gage was a two-time Northeast Tarrant County Coach of the Year and was named the Dallas All-Sports Association Coach of the Year in 1996, after leading Lewisville to a perfect 15-0 season and a state title.

Gage became head football coach at Austin College in 2006, and in his first three seasons, the Kangaroos have led the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference in rushing and finished among the national leaders each year. 🦘



Ronnie Gage

PHOTO COURTESY OF ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Alumni College Friday, October 16 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

“The Most Extreme Places in Our Solar System”

David Baker, associate professor of physics

Explore the most extreme places in our solar system: a massive volcano three times higher than Mt. Everest, a hurricane that lasts for over 340 years, and harsh environments where alien life may exist. This talk will feature remarkable images of NASA's most recent discoveries, as well as highlight unresolved mysteries. Participants may never look at the solar system the same way again!

“If I’ve Gotten What I Want, How Come I Don’t Want What I’ve Got? Some Paradoxes on Happiness”

Mark Hébert, associate professor of philosophy

Everyone surely knows best what will bring about their own happiness; hence, the more freedom to choose pursuits, the greater the likelihood of happiness, provided people actually get what they want. Sadly, the data doesn’t bear this out. Specifically, having more choices often makes people *less* happy with the choices made. Is happiness achieved as much by mistake as by design? Are happy people happy because of choices made — or in spite of them?

“Barack Obama and the World”

Shelly Williams, professor *emeritus* of political science

President Obama campaigned in 2008 to end the war in Iraq, restore the United States image abroad, negotiate with rogue states, and return the U.S. to international leadership. By Homecoming we will approach the one-year anniversary of his election, and will consider how his team has done in meeting these goals and what new challenges face him — and us?

Registration will be available online in August.

HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND



Legends 2009

Saturday, July 18

Reunion of Champions

All invited to honor 100 years of Basketball 1909-2009.
Austin College, Wright Campus Center
Pouch Club, 7 p.m. (cash bar)

Sunday, July 19

Dinner and Awards Presentation

Austin College, Mason Athletic Complex,
Sid Richardson Center
5 p.m., \$50 per person

Athletic Hall of Honor 2009 Inductees:

Billy Bookout '56 (posthumously)

Mark Cunningham '97

Aaron Kernek '01

Jack Manes '60

Amy Meschke Porter '98

Honorary Inductees:

Carlisle Littlejohn (posthumously)

Ann Biggerstaff Mason '53

Kate Moore McCord '50

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

Gayno Shelton '60

Monday, July 20

27th Annual Slat's McCord Golf Tournament

The Tribute Golf Club, The Colony, Texas
8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start \$125 per golfer

Advance registration with payment is required by July 10.

More details and registration information online:

www.austincollege.edu/legends

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"My study abroad experiences not only were numerous but so diverse! As an English major, I never thought that I would be visiting ancient Materan frescoes, discussing the role of cinema in the decolonization of France, interviewing Spanish people about their life under Franco's regime, and visiting a Japanese spa as part of my curriculum. I know all my friends had experiences like these, too. I actually can't think of anyone I knew at Austin College who didn't study abroad at some point!" — Ciarra Chavarria

These days Manhattan corporate lawyers could easily let the world get them down. The occupation is notorious for receiving unfavorable marks when measuring the public's perception of trustworthiness (lawyers still ranked as one of the five least trusted occupations in the most recent 2006 Harris Poll). Compound that stereotype with living in an area hammered by deflated real estate prices and trying to recover from steep increases in unemployment, and the morning paper (probably struggling with its own business model) isn't a delightful read.

Yet, Manhattan corporate lawyer **Ciarra Chavarria** '03 still sees the world as her playground, a fact largely unchanged from her days as an English major on the campus of Austin College. Chavarria, who grew up in Irving, Texas, admits her first considerations for college were places like Duke and NYU, but after learning about Austin College from her brother-in-law, an alumnus, her choice became easier. "The biggest factor for me was the fact that 70 percent of students studied abroad at some point during their four years," she said. "I remember hearing that number and thinking, 'Wow! I've got to go there.'"

Sherman became just the first of many places Ciarra went. She spent her first two years at Austin College like most college students: going to class, studying, and working on projects, but she also was preparing for the study abroad opportunities that enticed her throughout courses in French and Spanish. During her sophomore year, she dipped her toes into international study with a JanTerm Heritage course studying art and architecture in Italy and France.

Ciarra then spent her junior year abroad, one semester in France and one in Spain. By the end of her semester in France, "I could hold my own pretty well in Paris, both in the

language and geography," she said. "I came home for Christmas and was soon off to Salamanca, Spain." Her year abroad didn't sate her appetite for travel. During her senior year, Ciarra did an independent JanTerm study in Japan, comparing herbal and Western medicine, healthcare systems, and cultural views of healthy lifestyles.

Ciarra's stint as world traveler didn't end after graduation. She spent a year teaching English in Beijing, China, before entering law school at the University of Chicago in 2005. After taking the bar exam in 2008, Ciarra revisited Beijing for the Olympics and a semester-long immersion in Mandarin. In January 2009, she returned to the U.S. to take a position with the law firm of Dewey and LeBoeuf in Manhattan. "My language study at Austin College encouraged me to pick up Mandarin, a skill I already have used and hope to use more in my career as a corporate lawyer with international clients," she said.

Ciarra continues to pursue her passion for Chinese language and culture with Chinese-speaking friends and coworkers and myriad activities like rollerblading, reading (a broad range of books from F. Scott Fitzgerald short stories and C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* to the popular Shopaholic series by Sophie Kinsella), and trying her hand at writing children's books.

"My travels abroad at Austin College and after made me a more well-rounded, unique, and interesting person," Ciarra said. "I really believe that in today's world you can't have a true education without knowing what goes on in the world beyond what's right in front of you."

COURTESY PHOTO



Ciarra Chavarria

Ask the Alumni

Five alumni returned to campus in April to participate in a panel for the Office of Admission 'Roo Camp. Who better to answer the questions of prospective students and parents than graduates who had very active and well-rounded college experiences and now have begun successful careers? Panelists, as pictured, left to right:

Tom Buttine '07 a consulting analyst for Accenture, a global management and information technology consulting firm. Assigned to the San Francisco, California, office, Tom lives in Dallas, Texas, and works in Phoenix, Arizona.

Sarah Russell Duff '04, an attorney with Wolfe, Tidwell, & McCoy in Frisco, Texas

Carrie Tibbals Rios '06 and **MAT '07**, a sixth-grade science teacher at Robinson Middle School in the Plano Independent School District

Michelle Thomas Shiller '96 an osteopath and third-year resident in anatomic and clinical pathology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Next June, she will begin a two-year fellowship in molecular pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Jason Duff '04, attorney, the Law Office of Jason A. Duff in Greenville, Texas



Tom Garrison '96 and **MAT '98**, assistant principal at Jesuit Preparatory School in Dallas, Texas, has spoken to prospective students and parents at 'Roo Camp for several years. He returned this spring, presenting "What's Next? Forewarned Is Forearmed."

50-Year Reunion: Class of 1959

Members of the Class of 1959 gathered for 50-year reunion events were, left to right, front row, Pat Myers Polk, Patricia Martin Nichol, Shirlee Dirr Huser, Phoebe Slate Hicks, Nancy Mitchell Scott, and Rowena Taylor Britt; row two, Perry Morris, Dorothy Kelly Green, Amelia Poole Sudderth, Laura Jo Fojtasek, Lucy Nance Croft, Mary Bullock Beck, Marilyn Cowles Sweeten, and Dorothy Rodina Williams; row three, Richard Ortiz, Frank Seaman, Jim McCall, George McCall, Bill Jarvis, Darrell Murff, and Tom Huser; and row four, Chester Story, Wally Reddick, Joe Sudderth, Curtis Singleton, Louis Manz, Fred Minter, Eddie Polk, and Don Kiser.

More photos from the reunion are available online.



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Numbers in color after alumni names correspond with photos on page 45.

Alumnus Named to Iota of Texas Phi Beta Kappa Chapter

Musicologist **Michael Broyles '61** was selected as the alumnus inductee to the Iota of Texas Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Austin College in April. He also was the speaker for the evening. The Phi Beta Kappa Society allows chapters to induct alumni who have graduated at least 10 years ago.

A visiting professor of musicology at Florida State University College of Music, Broyles is particularly interested in placing American music in American history and culture, and he previously held an appointment as Distinguished Professor of Music and professor of American history at Penn State University.

A widely published expert on American music and music of the Classic era, particularly Beethoven, Broyles is writing a book, *Beethoven in America*, on how the legendary composer and pianist is viewed, interpreted, and used in American culture, both in the scholarly world and in popular culture. He writes for many journals and professional publications and is the author of six books, including *Mavericks and Other Traditions in American Music*, 2004, and *Music of the Highest Class: Elitism and Populism in Antebellum Boston*, 1992. Broyles and his wife and colleague, Denise Von Glahn, wrote the biography *Leo Ornstein: Modernist Dilemmas, Personal Choices*, 2007, which received the Society for American Music 2009 Irving Lowens Memorial Book Award.

Broyles earned a master's degree in music theory and a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Texas at Austin. He has received numerous awards, including two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships. He is a member of the American Musicological Society, the Organization of American Historians, and the Society for American Music, which he serves as past-president.



Michael Broyles
and his wife,
Denise Von Glahn

COURTESY PHOTO

59

Members of the Class of 1959 celebrated their 50-year reunion on campus during Commencement ceremonies. (See the photo on page 42.)

62

Emory Glover (11) is serving his community this year as president of the Willow Meadows Civic Club in southwest Houston. A broker associate of Keller Williams Houston Metropolitan Realty, he also teaches English in the Berlitz Language Center and is frequent pulpit supply for the Thai Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church.

63

Richard Hull is finishing his fourth year as executive director of the Text and Academic Authors Association, a nationwide organization of academic and textbook authors. Membership has increased from 642 to more than 1,900. The organization offers grants to authors, teleconferences on a variety of topics, campus-based workshops on academic and grant writing, mentoring of faculty engaged in writing projects, and campus-based chapters of individuals interested in group support of academic writing

82

Charla Aldous (2) earned a spot on *D Magazine's* listing of the "Best Personal Lawyers in Dallas 2009." Founder of the Aldous Law Firm in Dallas, she was selected by her peers as one of the best personal injury attorneys in the city. To compile the list, the magazine editors solicited nominations from attorneys across the city, then a panel of attorneys and magazine staff determined the final list, which honors 94 of Dallas' top lawyers who devote most of their practice to representing individuals. The complete list was featured in the May edition of *D Magazine*. "Dallas is home to many of the finest attorneys in the country, and I am honored that others view me among the best in the city," Aldous said. She earned the 2008 "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award from the Texas chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2007, *Texas Lawyer* newspaper featured her as one of the top five personal injury attorneys in Texas, and *The National Law Journal* profiled her in 2005 as one of 10 "winning" lawyers in the nation. ■ **Lauren Brand Jordan** is a certified sex therapist through the America Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists and is licensed in Texas for independent practice. She has written the book *No Room For Sex: How To Boost Your Low Libido*. A licensed clinical social worker, she has been a psychotherapist in private practice in Dallas since 1986.

87

Jennifer McFarlane Ware (5) has been named CEO of YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas. She has spent the past 20 years in Dallas non-profit organizations, most recently as the chief development officer with the Girl Scouts.

91

A son, Beckett Hollis, was born February 15 to Matthew and **Julie Eli Lugar**. He joins his big brother, Ellis Mattheson, 3. The family lives in Redwood City, California.

92

Jarrold Foerster was appointed in April as a senior vice president of Flagship Properties Corporation in Houston, Texas. His responsibilities include development and execution of the company's investment strategy as well as service as a member of the investment committee. Foerster previously served as vice president for investments with the company from 2003 to 2007 and re-joins the firm in this new position. ■ **Chris Thompson** was named one of *Texas Monthly* magazine's "Rising Stars." The publication was released in April.

95

John Spencer Finnell has been awarded a prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, funded by the National Institute of Health Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. During the award period, he will complete a Master of Public Health Genetics degree at the University of Washington and conduct a clinical trial that will elucidate the effects of Vitamin D supplementation on the expression of Klotho, a novel protein shown to exhibit anti-aging effects. In 2008, Finnell graduated with a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine degree and a Master of Science in Accupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree from Bastyr University in North Seattle, Washington. He maintains a clinical practice in Seattle and focuses on environmental medicine, endocrinology, mental health, pain management, and clinical research. After graduating from Austin College, he completed a master's degree in environmental engineering and sustainable infrastructure at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

96

A daughter, Savannah Elizabeth, was born on December 8, 2008, to Dave and **Erin Summerlin Bauer** (10). ■ A son, Bryce Eriksen, was born in March 2008 to Jonathan and **Jennifer Kisler Kenworthy**.

99

A daughter, Julianne Hope, was born on February 6 to Dianne and **Justin Miller** (7). The family lives in Falcon Heights, Minnesota.

00

A daughter, Jane Ann, was born on April 5, 2008, to **Jack** '98 and **Amy Scull Skaggs** (8). The baby's brother, Samuel, 3, welcomed her home.

01

Tanya Eustace (3) was ordained a deacon in full connection in the United Methodist Church in June 2008. She is associate pastor of children's ministries at Tarrytown United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas, where she began in 2004. She will leave the church at the end of July to move to Chicago and in September, will begin doctoral studies in Christian education at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Tanya

ran her second Austin marathon in February with Team in Training, an organization that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In addition to training for and completing the event, she also served this year as a mentor, helping others in their training and fundraising. "It's an amazing experience not only to run, but to know that I'm helping make someone else's life better through my training is empowering and a blessing," she wrote. With Tanya in the photo on page 45 are her parents, **Tom** '66 and **Natalie Bencowitz Eustace** '68 and Tanya's brother-in-law and sister, Daniel and **Natasha Eustace Benkendorf** '97. ■ A daughter, Ryleigh Nicole, was born on December 18, 2008, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Rick and **Gere' Feltus-Layne** (6). The couple was married on March 15, 2008, in Dallas, Texas. Gere' graduated from medical school at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and started her residency at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

02

A daughter, Isabella Renee, was born on March 24 to Robert and **Omi Boggus Ford** (4). The family lives in Houston, Texas.

04

Tracy Allison Hale was promoted to chief prosecutor in County Court at Law #2 for Kaufman County, Texas, in January. She became an assistant district attorney for the county in February 2008. A Hatton W. Sumners Scholar at SMU Dedman School of Law, she graduated *cum laude* in May 2007 and passed the bar exam that July. ■ A daughter, Jamieson Harlan, was born on December 8, 2008, to Murdock and **Katy McCormack Scott** (9) ■ **Chelsea Turner** and **Ross Sanderson** (1) were married December 14, 2008, in Negril, Jamaica. They were joined by family and friends including **Holly Ramsey** '05, **Patrick Blaydes** '05, **Allison McBee** '03, **Greg Dawson** '05, and **Kellie Wilcox-Moore** '04. Chelsea graduated from Baylor College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program in December 2008 and is employed with RediClinic. Ross works at US Oncology as a valuations and financial planning analyst. The couple soon will move to Austin, Texas, where Ross will attend the University of Texas McCombs MBA Program.

07

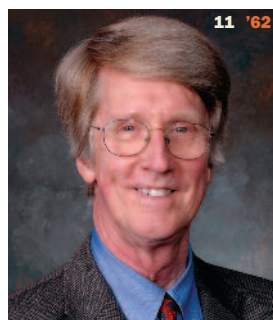
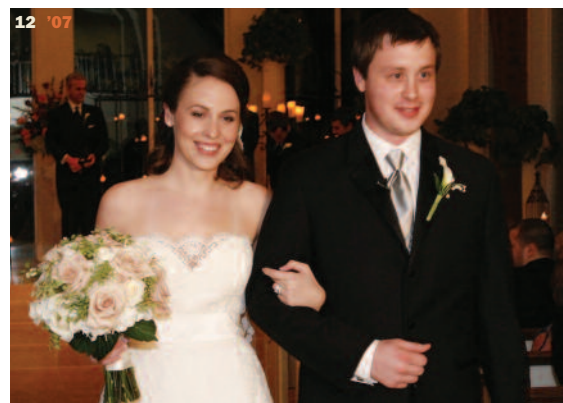
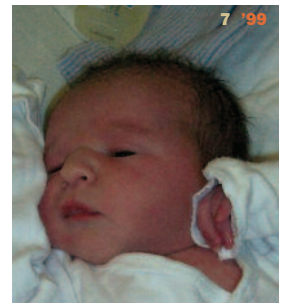
Tricia Emmett and **Ben Homesley** (12) were married January 27 in Houston, Texas, with alumni attending. The couple lives in Houston, Texas. 🐶

A Family Affair

Rebecca Rawlings '09, at center, celebrates her graduation with a large family contingent — all alumni or students at Austin College. Left to right, Rebecca's mother, Kary Wilshusen Rawlings '77, who offered the Commencement invocation; Rebecca's brothers, Sam '13 and Philip '11; Rebecca; her cousin Katie Wilshusen '11; and Rebecca's aunt and uncle (and Katie's parents), Leslie McFarlane '79 and Fred Wilshusen '79.



Numbers in color after alumni names correspond with photos on page 45.





Gone Too Soon

Mary Gwen Chapin Hulsey '68 had just suggested in March the name of **Pablo Salcido** '78 as an excellent candidate for an alumnus profile. Mary Gwen described Salcido as "a truly wonderful, kind, charming man who happens to be an Austin College alumnus who would make us all proud." She only recently had met Salcido, who in June 2008 became president and CEO of the business enterprises of the Tigua Indians in El Paso, Texas. "His wonderful smile, his open heart, and his loving spirit emanated from him just in that one-time encounter," she said.

The name Pablo Salcido was familiar. In 1987, he was awarded an Austin College First Decade Award for outstanding accomplishment in the first decade after graduation. His experiences of the past 20 years surely would have made a great profile.

Sadly, Salcido's battle with cancer became too overwhelming for an interview. He died April 18 at age 52 after fighting cancer for nearly 10 months. In his obituary, family members wrote of his passion for service. "His high energy style, broad perspectives, and belief that one person could change the world became part of him after he graduated from Austin College with countless friends and his Chi Delta Eta fraternity brothers."

Salcido had been a Peace Corps volunteer; a member of the staff for San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros; the first economic development director for El Paso; director for international city management associates, responsible for projects in Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua; general manager for a Spanish language Univision station, and many other positions through which he served his communities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pablo Salcido

IN MEMORIAM

Austin College has received word of the deaths of the following alumni.

'30	Mary Alice Skaggs	March 18, 2009
'33	Gladice Flora Belden	May 11, 2009
'41	Ople (Mills) Richardson Collard	March 15, 2009
'43	Delbert "Mac" Keene McCraw	March 12, 2009
'46	James E. Easley	March 18, 2009
'47	Hugh Wilburn Campbell	March 9, 2009
'50	Clyde E. Hale	March 2, 2009
'50	Billy M. Newell	March 10, 2009
'51	Rob Roy "Tommy" Thompson	March 28, 2009
'52	Quintin Geoffrey Boone	March 12, 2009
'54	Gerald L. Hill	January 10, 2009
'57	James (Jim) John Hart	March 27, 2009
'59	James Clifford Wilson	March 6, 2009
'64	Phyllis Rachel Sweeten	April 8, 2009
'67	Susan Lund Harris	May 8, 2009
'67	Drusilla Jean Von Schweinitz	July 15, 2008
'68	Rachel R. Eutsler	September 6, 2008
'68	Sharan Fry	April 23, 2009
'78	Pablo Salcido	April 18, 2009
'82	Patricia Fauntleroy Cohen	February 24, 2009
'83	William Alexander "Bill" Green	March 14, 2009
'91	Mike D. Nason	October 14, 2008
'02	Michael Scott Bean	April 5, 2009

Friends We Will Miss

Former staff member in Campus Police, **Johnnie Lee Clark, Sr.**, died March 2, 2009.

Former staff member in Business Affairs, **Betty (Brackett) Higgins**, died March 19, 2009.

James Scott Buchanan died May 8, 2009. During a 15-year tenure at Austin College during the John D. Moseley presidency, Buchanan held several positions, including associate professor and vice president of university advancement.



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James Hartnett '79, Dallas, Texas	Stanley M. Woodward, Dallas, Texas
Charles Hendricks '61, The Woodlands, Texas	Michael G. Wright, Dallas, Texas
Kelly Hiser, Sherman, Texas	

Luan Beaty Mendel '76 has found non-traditional education exciting since spending her senior year of high school on the road traveling, performing, and completing her high school studies in the U.S. and abroad with the musical group Up With People. "My own unconventional educational experiences taught me what learning could be versus what it was and is in a more traditional setting," Mendel said.

After spending her freshman year at a women's college in Colorado, Mendel discovered Austin College and its five-year program in education resulting in a master's degree. "I was impressed with the outstanding teacher education program and the availability of independent study and interdisciplinary studies," she said. "Class size also was important. I had benefited tremendously from small student-to-teacher ratios in my year with Up With People."

Mendel feels that her professional background in education, her work with the Latino community in California, and even living in Palos Verdes, California, bring a different and useful perspective to the board as Austin College faces changing college demographics and, more recently, the country's economic challenges. "I am still passionate about education in general, and more specifically, because I believe the College continues to offer a unique educational environment," she said.

"I think all of us understand that current economic circumstances necessitate sacrifices at every level, but I also believe that the trustees, along with Dr. Page and Dr. Hass, are determined to see that the reputation of the College and the outstanding education we offer is in no way compromised," Mendel said. "As difficult as this situation is, we are learning how to do more with less — always a good lesson."

On a personal level, Mendel continues to study and learn as a life philosophy. "Austin College gave me a love of learning that has driven me to undertake all kinds of projects from getting my private pilot's license to starting a non-profit organization," she said. "My latest venture involves fiction writing, which has allowed me to pursue the things I love most — reading, researching, and writing." 



COURTESY PHOTO

Luan Beaty Mendel

Mendel's yet-unpublished book is Yard Sale, (a term skiers use to describe a bad fall that leaves gear strewn all over the hill). Set in a small mountain town slated to become a major ski resort, the book is about two middle-aged people struggling to deal with dramatic changes in their lives.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 1 President Marjorie Hass Begins
- 18-20 Legends Celebration

August

- 27-30 New Student Orientation
- 30 Returning Student Check-In
- 31 Opening of School Convocation

September

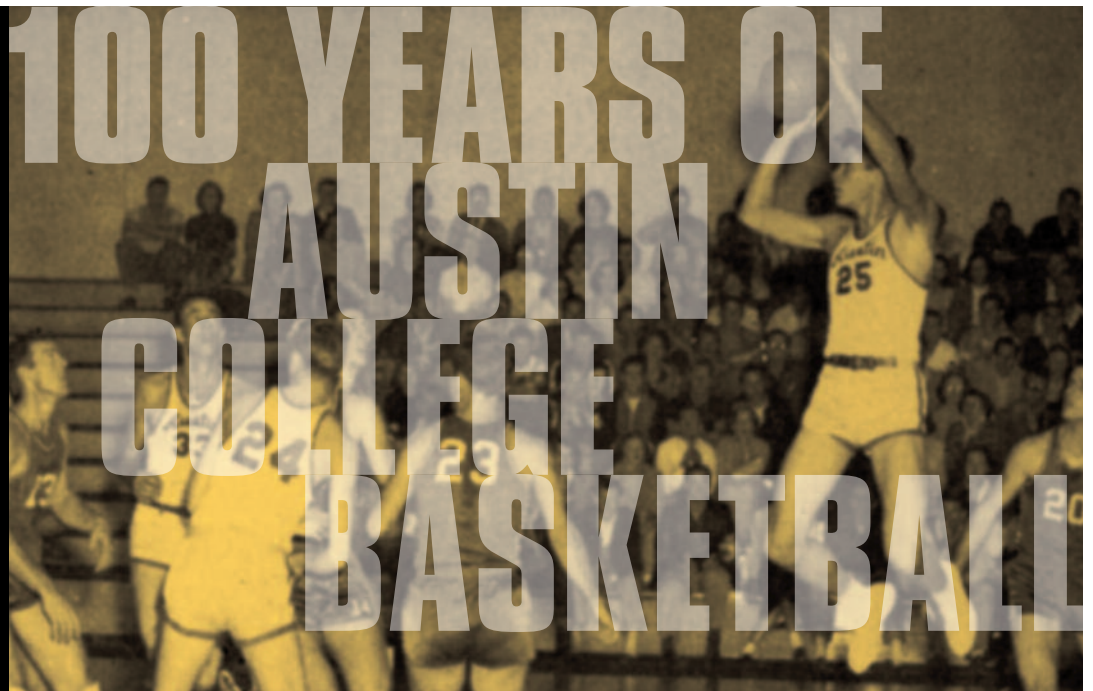
- 1 Classes Begin
- 17 Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecture



Austin College's 15th president, Marjorie Hass, begins her leadership of the College on July 1. She and her husband, Lawrence, at her left above, and their children, Jessica and Cameron, will make Sherman their home in late June.

*Celebration
coming in the
2009-2010 season*

Watch for details.



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Austin College has an excellent reputation for pre-professional preparation in health sciences, engineering, law, and theology.

Class of 2009 graduate Jaisy Joseph knows about that. She is heading to Harvard Divinity School.

Jaisy Joseph '09

Hometown: Irving, Texas

Majors: Religious Studies and Psychology, with Honors in Psychology

This fall, Jaisy will begin study at Harvard Divinity School, where she has received a full-tuition scholarship and stipend for the Master of Divinity degree program.

"I would describe my entire experience at Austin College as one of exploration and discovery, not only of various fields of study, but of myself.

"I believe that the emphasis on exposure to a variety of perspectives has allowed me develop both a greater awareness of what is going on in the world and a sense of humility in recognizing what is left to be learned."

Jaisy plans eventually to complete a Ph.D. and teach religion at the college level.

Jaisy Joseph



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A Beautiful Day for a Graduation



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Class of 2009 graduate Jonathan Hersh, at right, poses near the fountains of the Austin College Sandra L. Williams Founders Plaza with his grandmother, center, and, at left, Anna Shields '10 after Commencement ceremonies.

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