

# Austin College Magazine

Spring 2012



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## From the President

Spring has definitely arrived on campus. The sun is shining, students are completing honors thesis and final projects, and faculty members are planning summer research projects.

It has been a very special Passover season for me. Our Jewish student association and a group of multi-faith students who had studied Exodus and Passover with me and our college chaplain John Williams, co-hosted a lovely campus community Seder. We had almost 200 'Roos eating Matzah and dipping parsley in saltwater (to symbolize the tears of slavery)!



In the midst of Passover, we hosted Marion Wright Edelman, CEO and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. She gave an impassioned presentation to a packed room of students and community leaders and then met with individual classes and talked over lunch with students. That evening, she received the 2012 Austin College Posey Leadership Award. Among other things, she talked about the role that studying abroad had played in her personal and professional development. That is something she has in common with many Austin College students.

Today, I am planning to take some time to enjoy the simple pleasures of Austin College in the spring. I'll sit for a bit by the Jonsson Fountain outside Mason Complex where I can see the latest work being done on the construction site for the IDEA Center. Two floors already are up, and the third big concrete pour takes place later this week. Then I plan to catch a few innings of play as our women's softball team takes on one of our SCAC competitors. After that, I will wander over to see some of the art exhibits our senior art students have begun to display. Hmmm ... maybe Larry will agree to grill some Texas steaks for dinner. Doesn't that sound like a perfect day?

I hope you will come visit campus during this lovely season. We would love to show you around!

**Marjorie Hass**  
**Austin College, President**

# Postcards From Abroad

Every year, Austin College students travel to magnificent sites around the globe. Thankfully, they can share a bit of their experiences with family and friends through their photography.

Each year, the College's Center for Global Learning sponsors a photography contest for those images captured abroad. This spring, several "winners" were announced, though all the entries were quite nice—and to have the opportunity to visit and experience other cultures in the global neighborhood makes all the entrants obvious winners.

The photos are entered and judged in three categories: landscape/environmental images; cross-cultural images that display unique aspects of a particular area; and cityscape/urban shots.

The winning shots for 2012, along with comments from the students, are displayed below. First, the contest results:

## Austin College 2012 Photo Contest

### Landscape/Environmental

- Winner: Lucy Li ("Exploring with Monks")
- Runner-up: Kinsey Wuensche ("The Path Less Traveled")



### Cross-Cultural

- Winner: Anne Deming ("Sidewalk Painter")
- Runner-Up: Madison Messinger ("You are Here")



### Cityscape/Urban

- Winner: Madison Messinger ("Another Day at the Castle")
- Runner-Up: Taylor Smith ("Good Night Wellington")



See all the entries on the [Austin College website](#).

Read next about the photographers of these winning shots.





## Lucy Li

I can definitely tell you about my experience there and what I enjoyed the most. I decided to go in order to further develop my Chinese reading and writing skills because I am fluent in the spoken language. We had 3 hours of instruction everyday along with quizzes every morning and 40 new characters a night. We also had a test every other week and we even had to go interview local Chinese people on the street and practice our conversation skills. The best part was definitely all the weekend excursions to places such as the Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, etc. Another wonderful part of my experience was my internship at an NGO called Beijing Huiling that specialized in helping adults with mental disabilities. It was an eye-opening experience to see how different the lives of the handicapped are from the US. It was such a pleasure to work with everyone there and I loved to hear their stories, teach them English, and host art/music lessons with them. I was always greeted with smiling faces everyday I went into my internship even after an hour commute in the hot and humid Beijing Weather. I always looked forward to my afternoons at courtyard style home with the adults and the activities planned that day. I met so many people including other Chinese college students, teachers, tour guides, and students from all over the United States. I also really enjoyed our mini-vacation mid semester. We went to Gansu province in far west China, which is a place most foreigners don't travel. It was amazing to see how different the people are on opposite sides of the country geographically. We had a chance to see monasteries and meet monks and experience the life of the locals there. Overall, I can't really pinpoint one thing that made the trip amazing, but it was a combination of everything with all the friendly people that made it unforgettable. I hope this helps. I've attached a picture of me eating the famous Lan Zhou hand-pulled beef noodle soup while I was in Lan Zhou (the capital of Gansu). Instead of staying in the hotel to rest up from our 17 hour train ride, my roommate and I went off on our own to explore and taste all the goodies the city had to offer!

## Taylor Smith

"My semester abroad took me about 7,000 miles outside of my comfort zone where I became a person I never thought I could be: brave, fearless, and completely independent. Six months in New Zealand, on my own, with nothing but a few of my belongings, was by far the most rewarding experience I have ever had; the entire experience has provided me with wonderful memories no one can ever take away."





## **Madison Messinger**

My favorite part of studying abroad is the cultural interaction. This may seem cliché, but in the process of immersing yourself in a foreign culture you are able to better understand your own. When I went to Taiwan for my GO Fellowship I lived with a host family for the first time, and I encountered numerous challenges. I was prepared for some, and I was unprepared for others. However, the most important part of the whole experience was the process of adapting. Study abroad is a perfect example of “it’s the journey, not the destination.”

People are forever changed when they visit foreign countries because you gain a new perspective that is unattainable in the United States and also completely unforgettable. I hope I continue traveling for the rest of my life, because I think travel brings out the best in people. There is something completely satisfying about immersing yourself in another culture and returning to the United States a better and more open-minded person.

## **Kinsey Wuensche**

The best part of my travel experiences has been the people I’ve met. I became a regular at a cafe when I was in Rome and when I returned a year later, the baristas recognized me and welcomed me back! I’ve learned about different cultures and values of new countries by participating in study abroad opportunities. I hope every student takes the opportunity to experience a new country because it opens up the world and new possibilities. The chances to experience a new culture, see ancient history up close, try new foods, and learn a different language have inspired me to return abroad to work when I graduate.



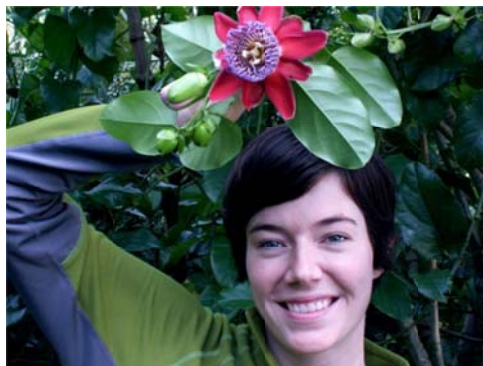
## **Anne Deming**

I spent the entire year in China. I only planned to stay for a semester, but decided to stay for the year. 10 days after returning from China I went on the choir tour to France. 10 days after returning from China I went on the choir tour to France. I have accepted the job, I’ll be starting work the day after graduation with the Osgood Center for International Studies in DC. I’ll be the assistant director under Shelly Williams and will be assisting in organizing programs, many geared towards international students. First thing I’m doing is traveling to Hong Kong and China for a Model APEC conference.

**See the Top Asian Photos as selected for Asia Week 2012.**

## Costa Rica Sisters

**Amanda Newton Kisselle** '04 studied abroad in Costa Rica as an Austin College student, she lived with a family there that truly became family to her. She has visited many times since her first summer there for an intensive language program. Today, Amanda is a director of admission for Austin College. Her Costa Rica story gained another chapter in fall 2011 as her Costa Rican “sister” **Melissa Guzman** came to Austin College to serve as the native speaker in Spanish for Jordan Family Language House. Read their stories.



### Amanda's Story

When I arrived in Costa Rica for the first time in the summer of 2003, I planned to stay for four weeks, attend some classes, and earn the Spanish credit that I needed to graduate. I had no idea that I would discover a second language, home, and family.

I first met Melissa when she and her dad picked me up from the airport. I was assigned to live with their family for the next month, and I realized on the car ride back to their house that my speaking and comprehension skills were worse than I thought. Luckily, Melissa was learning English in school, so between the two of us, we managed to communicate on a fairly rudimentary level. At the end of the month, I was starting to get the hang of things, so I stayed another month, and over the course of the summer, I developed a relationship with my host family that I wanted desperately to maintain. My love of Spanish grew out of my desire to keep up at the dinner table and engage this family in deeper conversation.



I returned to Costa Rica the following January to help prepare for and attend Melissa's quince años celebration. We made hundreds of empanadas, decorated the banquet hall, and had our makeup done; I felt so fortunate to be present on such an important day in her life.

After graduation, I bought a one-way ticket to Costa Rica and stayed for a year. I took part in dozens of family outings and truly felt like I belonged. I tearfully returned to Texas in 2005, but I have been back to visit several times.

When the opportunity arose for Melissa to spend a year here with me in Sherman, I knew we had to make it happen. She and her family have done more for me than they will ever know, and this was my chance to pay a fraction of it back. It took a few weeks for me to adjust to seeing her around the Austin College campus, but it has been an absolute joy to have her here.

We've had an action packed year full of cooking, shopping, camping, gardening, going to sporting events and concerts, and a dozen other things. Her family members made their first trip to the U.S. over the holidays, and we traveled to the Grand Canyon and Disney World. I always dreamed that they could visit me in Texas someday, but never in my wildest imagination did I think that we'd be riding Space Mountain together!



I will miss Melissa when she goes back to Costa Rica in May, but I will cherish the time that we had together this year and know that she will always be my sister.

## **Melissa's Story**

Once upon a time, a young girl, Melissa, and her family received an exchange student. One day in 2003, this family received a phone call from a program telling them that a new student called Amanda Newton, from the United States, would arrive in Costa Rica soon, and that she will live with them.

The day for the family to go to the airport came. Melissa wanted to go with her dad and pick up the new student, but the hours passed and nobody came. Nobody called. Amanda Newton arrived, so they went back home and later that day, the family received a phone call from the program saying that the student missed her flight and that she would take the next flight to Costa Rica, which was at night. So at night, the girl went with her dad again to the airport and waited for the new student. A tall lady came to the girl and her dad and told them she was Amanda Newton. On their way back home, the girl and her dad asked a lot of questions they were used to asking new students, for example, where are you from? Do you have siblings? Do you have a pet? And so on.

Days passed and Melissa enjoyed hanging out with Amanda, talking to her, and helping her with her homework, so that she could also practice the few English words she knew. Amanda was really funny, full of energy, and always ready for new cultural experiences. For example, Amanda was always ready to go with her new family to all of their parties to enjoy dancing and eating with new people that she would probably never see again. These two young ladies started a nice friendship; they went together to concerts and many other activities in order to have fun and enjoy their time. However, Amanda had to go back to her country, which was really sad not just for Melissa but also for her family.

A few months passed, and the family received great news: Amanda was going to visit them again. The second time she went to Costa Rica, the family was going to have a big party. They

were celebrating Melissa's "Quinceaños" and, of course, they invited Amanda since they were really close. Amanda and the girl had fun those days getting ready for the party. They went shopping because Amanda needed a nice and fancy dress for the celebration. It was a big party since the girl's family is so big. There were more than 150 people invited to the celebration, so the family had a lot of work to do, like cooking for all those guests. Amanda, of course, helped the family cook and prepare.

Amanda went to Costa Rica one more time, but now she wanted to stay there, to live and work in Costa Rica. She wanted to improve her Spanish or maybe she just was in love with the country, people, and their culture. Amanda lived in Costa Rica for a year, but after some time she decided to go back to the United States.

The girl and her family didn't hear from Amanda for a while, but one day they received a phone call from Amanda. She was going to visit them during Christmas but this time she wasn't alone—she was traveling with her husband, Keith. The family was happy to see her again and welcome a new member of the family.

Melissa now was studying English in college, and she was looking for a scholarship to study abroad in an English-speaking country in order to improve her language skills. When Amanda asked her what was she studying or doing at the time she told her, and also said she was interested in studying abroad. Amanda told the girl that in the college where she worked, they have a program where they need native speakers from different languages and that she will ask the professors about this program and the requirements, so maybe Melissa could go and work at her same college and have the same experience she had.

After a few months, Melissa received a phone call from Amanda. She told her about the program and the scholarship, and they spoke about every detail. Amanda gave her the email address for the professor in charge of the program the next year so they could communicate and settle everything. Melissa was so happy that finally, and thanks to Amanda, she would accomplish her goal of studying abroad and improving her English.

They kept in contact to prepare for the trip, making sure every single detail was taken care of; it was just incredible that the girl would go and visit Amanda in her country, in the same town, and work at the same college. Time flew and before they knew it, it was almost time to see each other again.

On August 20, Melissa had to leave her country and start a new experience, a trip full of adventures, new people to know, new places to go and visit, a new life.

And here I am, happy and thankful for all the people that made my dream come true, especially Amanda. Here I am enjoying my adventure, improving my English, and of course appreciating the time that I have with my older American sister, Amanda.

## More Sisters

**Samantha Sands** '11 traveled to Heredia, Costa Rica, during JanTerm 2011 where she lived with a host family—and also gained a little sister, Ximena.

“Costa Rica is such a beautiful place and I could not have asked for a better host family than Ximena’s,” Samantha said. “They were so welcoming and selfless; they even threw a going away party for our JanTerm group when we left Heredia.”



Samantha definitely found benefits in her experience. “My time studying in Costa Rica gave me the opportunity to become more well-rounded and to improve my Spanish in a real environment where I was forced to use the language. I experienced Costa Rica in a way that most never will; for that I am very thankful because it is an experience I would not change for anything!”



Her Costa Rican little sister Ximena, now 15, also wanted to experience the benefits of study abroad and visited Samantha in Texas during January and February. Ximena attends Castella arts high school, where she studies art and theatre. She also studies English and came to visit with hope to become fluent.

“I had so much fun learning about the culture in Costa Rica,” Samantha said, “and it was very nice to be able to help Ximena experience the culture here.”

Samantha studied in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina during another January Term and completed a study abroad semester in New Zealand.

In May, Samantha will move to Austin to begin the master’s degree program in science and nursing at University of Texas. She plans to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Since graduating with majors in business administration and biology, she has lived worked in orthopedic surgeon’s office in Plano.



# Texas Super Lawyers



When the 2011 Texas Super Lawyers were announced in *Texas Monthly* at year's end, 34 Austin College alumni showed up on its listing of the top 5 percent of lawyers in the state—and two alumni could be deemed “super stars,” named to the Top 100 Lawyers in the state. (Considering Texas has 90,000+ attorneys, that's a pretty impressive feat!)



The Austin College super stars are **Charla M. Aldous '82** and **William R. Allensworth '68**. Charla, owner of the Aldous Law Firm in Dallas, also was named among the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Texas. Allensworth is founder of Allensworth and Porter firm in Austin. Both have been included in numerous annual Super Lawyer listings.

The alumni recognized on the Super Lawyers list follow in alphabetical order, along with the locations of their firms. The listing also included some regional rankings as included below.



- Richard M. Abernathy '74, McKinney
- Charla M. Aldous '82, Dallas (Top 100 Lawyers in Dallas/Fort Worth)
- Michael D. Allen '73, Tyler
- William R. Allensworth '68, Austin (Top 50 Lawyers in Central and West Texas)
- Arthur J. Anderson '79, Dallas
- Robert L. Barrows '74, San Antonio
- Craig Deats '75, Austin
- Fred R. Files, Jr. '60, Tyler
- Craig B. Florence '84, Dallas
- Stephen A. Goodwin '73, Dallas
- David Griffin '84, Victoria
- Rick Hagen '86, Denton
- James J. Hartnett, Jr. '79, Dallas
- Steven K. Hayes '77, Fort Worth
- R. Keith Hopson '73, Austin
- Russell D. Hunt, Jr. '91, Georgetown
- Michael E. Jarrett, Sr. '84, Tyler
- Don Bradley Kizzia '77, Dallas



- Robert Matt Kyle '88, New Braunfels
- Stephanie L. Loomis-Price '89, Houston
- John R. Mercy '79, Texarkana
- William R. Mureiko '86, Dallas
- Timothy D. Newsom '89, Amarillo
- Jesse R. Pierce '71, Houston
- J. Michael Price II '92, Dallas
- Julie F. Quaid '78, Dallas
- Molly Buck Richard '77, Dallas
- James A. Rolfe '65, Dallas
- George A. Rustay '67, Houston
- Berry D. Spears '79, Houston (Top 100 Lawyers in Houston Region)
- Kevin Spencer '89, Dallas
- G. Thomas Vick, Jr. '77, Weatherford
- David B. West '73, San Antonio
- R. Laughton Whitehead, Jr. '60, Longview



Two members of the Austin College Senior Board of Trustees also showed up on the list. Harry E. Bartel and Karen H. Gordon, both of Fort Worth, were included.



Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Lawyers from all firm sizes are included. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations. The top 100 lawyers within a region also were ranked and three alumni recognized as such are noted among the list. For more information, see **Texas Super Lawyers**.

## An American in ... Bucharest

*Andra Troncalli, associate professor of physics, spent a Spring Term 2011 sabbatical in Romania. Returning to campus for Fall Term 2011, she offers some reflections on her experience.*

**At right:** Visiting the Huniad castle, a Gothic-Renaissance castle in Hunedoara, Transylvania, Romania.



When deciding on a research project for my spring 2011 sabbatical, one that would take place in Bucharest, Romania, seemed like the obvious choice: the national research lab I was considering had the right equipment for my project, and I grew up and lived in Bucharest until I left for graduate school in 1994, so I was familiar with the culture.

So there we were: I and my two Texas-born-and-raised children, aged 5 and 6, arrived in Romania on a cold winter day a little before Christmas in 2010. Over the next seven months I went through every possible emotion regarding my trip there. There were moments of great joy, when hearing my kids talk Romanian, or visiting with relatives and friends I had not seen in nine years or more. There were frustrating times, such as when the train that was supposed to take us to a mountain resort stopped about 15 miles away from our destination due to a power outage. We had a few scary moments, too, such as when my older son had stitches put in his chin without anesthetic after falling while ice skating.



Conversations with taxi-drivers were amusing: not knowing that I have not lived in Romania during the previous 16 years, they would point out residences of media personalities that I've never heard of or wanted to engage me in political discussions. There were maddening moments, too, when a simple procedure became impossible once in the hands of a large and inefficient bureaucracy.

The research proved to be a very positive experience: my collaborator at the Romanian National Institute of Materials Physics, Dr. Lucica Miu, was very helpful. He gave me access to the **SQUID** (Superconducting QUantum Interference Device) and we took magnetic measurements in order to study the role of anisotropy in high temperature superconductors. Our samples had columnar defects introduced by irradiation with heavy ions, and our study involved looking at

the interaction between the columnar defects and the layered structure of the material. It was exciting working with researchers who, like me, study superconductors.



The people we interacted with at the lab and outside were wonderful: a graduate student there, Ion Ivan, would give me rides to the lab in his car; an eight-hour trip by train turned out to be fun—other passengers took time to entertain my two little Texan boys; so many relatives would await excitedly for us and sit us down to a feast; we were treated with kindness and generosity by people who did not have so much for themselves.

Overall, it was a very rewarding experience: I could tell that Romania has changed a lot since I left. There is still a lot of poverty there, the democracy is still young, and there are still many challenges. Hopefully life improves for Romanians over the next few years.



Being back in Romania made it clear to me, though, how much I've changed. I hadn't necessarily felt that I was an American because I had an American passport or because I have the right to vote in the U.S. elections. During this trip, I did realize, though, how much my way of thinking has become that of an American and that while there I, indeed, was an American in Bucharest.

## My Internship in Congress: More than Resumé Filler

*Eristeo Perez '12 spent Fall Term 2011 in the Washington Semester. He writes here of his adventures during the experience and his changing thoughts about his future career.*



You might have wondered – as I did for several semesters — what one does with a political science degree. Many assume that political science majors work on campaigns or run for public office. Although I currently am doing both of these, they are not the normal careers of political science majors—which is what I confirmed in my semester in Washington, D.C. Three other Austin College students and I studied in D.C. this last fall at the American University Washington Semester Program, which offers a sort of study abroad experience for Washington, DC. In this competitive program, I took a variety of political “insider” classes while receiving course credit by interning for the Office of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

As my class explored the city and the various components of American government and politics, I was able to meet influential people and learn about various careers in politics. First, we met the longtime speechwriter of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Lissa Muscatine. Then, we visited the White House Complex, where I met Stephanie Cutter, the deputy senior advisor to President Barack Obama. From these two women I gained valuable insight into a potential career in campaigns, which have been a personal interest for several years. Although campaign life is fast paced and exciting and rewarding, it is also inconsistent, unstable, and requires great personal sacrifices. These professionals explained that there are more men than women in this profession because of the difficulty of being a mother on the campaign trail. Although I will never be a mother, I soon realized that I actually value stability and consistency in life.

Throughout the semester, not only did I carefully consider possible political careers, but I also considered how I wanted to define my life. I do not want to spend the rest of my life in just any career in politics. So I first learned in D.C. that I wanted a career that would provide stability and consistency. By the end of this semester, I came to two more realizations. I desire a career in which I will have ongoing passion, while also wanting a career that is enlightening and fulfilling.



My interest next shifted toward law. Our class visited the chairwoman of the Federal Elections Commission, Cynthia Bauerly; then, we met Melissa Arbus Sherry, the Assistant Solicitor General, who argues cases in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Federal Government. With Chairwoman Bauerly, we discussed the recent Citizens United ruling; and with the Assistant Solicitor General, we discussed the legal future of the health insurance mandate. At this point, I considered going to law

school and pursuing an ambitious career in law like these women, where I could pursue money and legacy. My passion for a career in law peaked around the time that I started sneaking into Georgetown Law classes.

Oddly enough, my attitude toward law changed when I met Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer, who opened my eyes to the less glitzy side of a legal career. A distinguished career in law requires a life commitment to law. Although I am willing to work hard, I do not want to define my life and its accomplishments by an expert legal knowledge. I simply could not foresee myself continuing my passion for law much later in life; I needed something more out of a career. This probably explains my preference for liberal arts schools.

I began to doubt that I would ever find a career in politics where I could also find sustained passion. Luckily, my congressional internship in the Office of Congresswoman Giffords revealed to me the mechanics of the legislative process and the behind-the-scenes action of politics. Because of this internship, I better understand certain aspects of politics, like the complacent relationship between the media and public officials. I saw first-hand the loss of comity between the two parties. In addition to these experiences, I had fun as an intern. Sometimes I would write and post tweets on the official Twitter account, or attend a committee hearing and write memos for my superiors. At these hearings or in the hallway, I would see figures like Alan Greenspan, Senator John McCain, Speaker John Boehner, Senator John Cornyn, and so many more.



The Hill environment was as fast paced as it was fun. There was something intangibly fascinating about walking down the halls of Capitol Hill in a suit and mastering the complex maze of underground tunnels and subways. Although I was only an intern, my ID badge gave me after hours access to the Capitol building—where I would explore and take photos without the usual herds of wandering tourists.

Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet Congresswoman Giffords in person since she was recovering from severe brain injuries sustained from the January 2011 shooting in Tucson. Nevertheless, I felt honored to serve her and Arizona's 8th District as an intern. Most of the more fascinating moments also are too sensitive to discuss here, but I can address what it was like to work in the office. Since all interns are given the grunt work within all congressional offices, most of my internship was no different than most. However, Congresswoman Giffords' Office did have an atmosphere of notoriety.

Depending on one's knowledge of Congress, there are around two to 20 well-known members of Congress—and Congresswoman Giffords is usually one of those members. It was especially a privilege to write tweets for the official Twitter account, considering the Congresswoman was one of the most followed members of Congress. Another assignment required that I contact all of the major

news outlets to compile a list with direct contact information for editors for all of the major news organization. I was actually surprised that simply introducing myself as an intern with the office of Congresswoman Giffords would grant me access to this sensitive information.

Congresswoman Giffords' office was both different and similar to the other offices in Congress. If you didn't know, Congress only has a 10 to 15 percent approval rating—and this disapproval is marked by angry letters, emails, phone calls, and protests. Sadly, our office, like all other offices, would receive offensive correspondence, personal attacks, and sometimes death threats. To say the least, America let me down on that part. On the positive side, polite people were especially polite; most people would immediately ask some variation of “how is she doing?” Because this question was so ubiquitous, my office scripted our response: “She is working to make progress” and “She is devoting all of her time and effort to her recovery.” The less polite people would then ask, “When is she going to step down?”

This fun, challenging, and unique internship would eventually spark my interest in a possible career on the Hill. So I began to ask around to learn about the career path for the Hill—the *cursus honorum* of the legislative staff hierarchy. Fortunately, my inquiry revealed important negative aspects. Not only is D.C. cutthroat, but the ability to find a job is almost entirely dependent on who you know. While many professions may operate similarly, no one in D.C. will even look at your resume without a connection. Also, it is not really viable to live without employment in one of the most expensive cities in America. As a cautious person by nature, it did and still does not seem worth the risk to pursue a career with such high stakes placed in connections and luck.

Although D.C. is an amazing town, it did not seem to have a suitable career for me. Toward the end of the semester, my fellow co-workers seemed to notice my incompatibility with D.C.; they would sometimes refer to me as “the professor.” Coincidentally, I realized that my heart is in academia.

The only thing that I enjoy more than learning is teaching. This passion even revealed itself in my internship while giving tours of the beautiful Capitol building. Based on the concluding remarks of our guests, I seemed to particularly excel at giving tours; even better, I enjoyed giving them. With this realization, combining my passion for teaching and politics was the logical conclusion. This is how my semester in D.C. led me to pursue a career in academia as a professor in political science.

Becoming a professor will not be easy. I first have to find a Ph.D. program to accept me, where I will have to work to earn a Ph.D. in six or seven years. Then I will have to look for a faculty position at a college in a competitive job market. While difficult, this career path in academia will provide a life of stability and consistency, while satisfying my ongoing and fulfilling passions for American politics, learning, and teaching.

Besides the whole realizing-my-path-in-life experience, I had a blast in D.C. My favorite moment was seeing the First Family at the National Christmas Tree Lighting with **Adani Sanchez** '12. I have too many great experiences to write about, but I will include a short list. I saw the Constitution in the National Archives just after seeing Senator John Kerry speak in person about his perspective of the Supercommittee failure. The day that the American Jobs Act bill was released, I had the opportunity to discuss it with Congressman Paul Ryan, the current chairman of the House Budget Committee. I saw firsthand the encampment and operation of Occupy D.C., while wearing a suit. I also had a chilling elevator ride with Alan Greenspan. However, the *coolest* memory was on my 21st birthday when I had my first legal drink—scotch—in a Congressional office.

# Along Grand Avenue

## Commencement Celebrations Nearing

For the Class of 2012, **Commencement** is coming too quickly—and not quickly enough. Four years of classwork, reading assignments, tests, papers, lab work, and presentations are nearly over, but so is seniors' close-knit day-to-day life among the Austin College community that has become home.

But the end will come so plans are underway for a weekend of activities **May 12-13**.

Details are available online, but the highlights are:

### Friday, May 11

- \* Class of 1962 and **Golden 'Roo Reunion**

### Saturday, May 12

- \* Senior and Family Reception with President Hass, 2-3 p.m., Wright Campus Center, Living Room
- \* Baccalaureate Service with a sermon by the Reverend Dr. Robert Crilley, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine, Texas; 7 p.m., Mason Complex, Sid Richardson Center
- \* Senior Party for seniors and families, following Baccalaureate, Wright Campus Center, Mabee Hall



### Sunday, May 13

Commencement Exercises, including an address by Commander Stan Fornea, chaplain for the White House Military Office, and a student speaker, still to be elected, Sunday, May 13, 8:30 a.m., Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court

Honorary degrees will be awarded to the baccalaureate and commencement speakers, as well as the Reverend Dr.

**Carroll L “Bud” Pickett**, 1954 Austin College graduate, long-time Presbyterian minister, and former prison chaplain of the Huntsville Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice system.

Nearly 300 seniors from the Class of 2012 will receive Bachelor of Arts diplomas, along with 15 graduate students in the teacher education program who will receive Master of Arts in Teaching degrees.

Members of the Class of 1962 and other **Golden 'Roo**s (alumni whose classes graduated at least 50 years ago) will be special guests for the event.



## The Sports Legends Return

The Austin College Athletics Department has announced the selection of six outstanding individuals for induction to the Austin College Athletics Hall of Honor at the Legends Weekend July 13-15. Alumni and staff also will honor the late Sig Lawson as the Spencer Coach of the Year Award recipient. All the honorees will be recognized at the Legends dinner on July 14 on campus.

**Legends**  
**2012**

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



**Sig Lawson** had a stellar coaching career at Austin College, serving as the head swimming and diving coach for 23 years and as an assistant football coach for 12 seasons. He also was athletic trainer for the department. Lawson came to Austin College in 1976 and led his swimmers to many successes in the pool. He was equally committed to his teams' academic success and saw many of his teams named to academic honor roll listings.

Lawson's devotion to Austin College athletics was recognized in 1998 when he was inducted as an honorary member of the Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor.

Known to nearly all on campus as "Sig," Lawson died suddenly on May 29, 1999. Members of his family are expected to receive the Spencer Award on his behalf.

### 2012 Athletics Hall of Honor Inductees:

- **David Adams** '83 played offensive tackle for the Kangaroo football team. While a member of the 'Roos, Adams earned All-TIAA honors twice and was an All-District and All-NAIA All-American in 1982, and was a member of the 1981 Kangaroo team that won the NAIA National Championship.
- **Dale Anderson** '82 graduate was a four-year member of the tennis team, playing at number one singles and doubles all four seasons. Dr. Anderson was an All-Conference honoree all four years and in his senior year, partnered with Dave Phillips to go 24-3 in doubles play.
- **Brent Badger** '95 was a four-year member of the Kangaroo football team. As a punter, Badger was a four-time All-TIAA selection and a three-time All-American. He is in the record books for the longest punt in NAIA history with an 80-yard kick. Badger notched six of the 10 longest punts in NAIA football history.
- **Trey Crosthwaite III** '64 was a four-year member of the Kangaroo baseball team. A co-captain in 1964, Crosthwaite led the team in batting in 1963 with a .448 average, one of the best individual seasons in Austin College baseball history.
- **Tony Toro** '68 was a four-year member of the basketball team. In addition to helping the team to more wins during his junior year than any other year in the 1960s, Toro also was a star for the Kangaroo track and field team. Toro is a former Austin College "A" Alumni Association president.
- **Clyde Hall** '46 enters the Athletics Hall of Honor as an honorary inductee. Emeritus professor of economics and business administration, Dr. Hall has offered tremendous support for athletics and many years ago served as the school's golf coach.

The dinner also will honor the Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year. Read more details about **Legends Weekend**.

## Seeking Equality and Justice For All

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, offered a convocation address to a near-capacity crowd in Wynne Chapel on April 12. Edelman officially received the 2012 Austin College Posey Leadership Award that evening at the AT&T Performing Arts Center's Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.



Following a welcome from Austin College President Marjorie Hass, the campus convocation began with a Jefferson Elementary Honor Choir performance in honor of Edelman's visit. Following the children's musical number, Edelman was introduced by **Linus Wright** '49. Wright, a member of the College's Senior Board of Trustees, is a former superintendent of Dallas Independent School District and was appointed Under Secretary of the Department of Education by President Ronald Reagan. He also served as principal of Jefferson Elementary early in his career.

Edelman offered advice particularly directed to students in the audience. "I think all of us should be challenged to redefine success in America ... asking not 'how can I find myself,' but 'how can I lose myself in service to others?'" she said.

Edelman spoke on her upbringing and the influence her parents had on her beliefs. She exhorted the audience to take similar care in what they teach the next generation. "As a mother and grandmother, I think it is very important that we adults be clear in what we think is important," she said.

Edelman shared sobering statistics on child poverty, poor education, and a lack of health care and insurance coverage, particularly in Texas. She also spoke of high rates of incarceration, drug use, and teenage pregnancy that often create a continuing cycle of poverty and crime. "It is reprehensible that states spend three times more on prisons than they do on education," Edelman, the longtime child advocate explained.

"We must and can do better," she said. She closed with specific advice for young people in the audience, including:

- "Don't assume a door is closed. Don't assume a door that was closed yesterday is still closed today. Push on it."
- "I hope each of us will put our money and time behind our rhetoric on helping poor children. We don't have a money problem in America; we have a profound values and priorities problem."
- "Listen for the sound of the genuine within yourself."

The Austin College Posey Leadership Institute was founded in 1995 to give aspiring student leaders extraordinary opportunities to train for lives of leadership and service. The Institute provides a venue for dialogue and study of leadership that engages interested students and

professionals in thoughtful investigation, demonstrated service, and critical reflection on the roles, responsibilities, and actions of effective leaders in society.

The award was created through the generosity of Sally and the late Lee Posey, founder of Palm Harbor Homes. Previous recipients include Wendy Kopp (2006), founder of Teach For America; Dr. Paul Farmer (2007), Harvard professor, medical anthropologist, physician, and medical activist; Geoffrey Canada (2008), president and CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone; Greg Mortenson (2009), educational activist and author of *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*; Muhammad Yunus (2010), Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of Grameen Bank; and Zainab Salbi (2011), founder of Women for Women International.

More about Edelman's visit will be included in the Summer 2012 *Austin College Magazine*.

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## Heading Back to School: JanServe

Austin College students headed to the classroom in January—this time not to learn, but to teach. Students participating in JanServe spent the afternoon with students at Dillingham Intermediate School and Piner Middle School in Sherman.



JanServe is an annual service project organized by the student-led Service Station. **Naureen Dharani** '13, Service Station Board member, said that though many of its service programs have outreach to the children of Sherman ISD, the board decided to team up with the schools for service in an educational experience.

Austin College students taught science lessons on energy and temperature in a program the Service Station Board called "Science Rules: Let's Heat Up the Schools."

**Al Hambrick** '79, superintendent of Sherman ISD, spoke to the Austin College students before they boarded school buses to travel back in time to fifth grade and junior high.

JanServe is just one of several all-campus projects the Service Station Board coordinates each year, in addition to coordinating community service needs with available students throughout the year.



## Did You Miss These?

Did you miss these campus news items on the Austin College website?

- Professor John McGinn Takes His Music on the Road
- College Receives Gift for Science Endowment
- 'Roos Celebrate Student-Athlete Day and DIII Week
- Faculty and Staff Participate in April Fools for Cancer Parade
- College Hosts Annual Psychology Research Symposium

Check out more news from campus!



Do you receive the monthly @ac e-newsletter? Sign up today.



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## IDEA Center Construction Continues



Read more about the IDEA Center and  
see the Construction Photos!

# Home Team

## Three 'Roos Attend NCAA Conference

Three Austin College athletes—**Emily Brzuzy, Erika Higginbotham, and Deandre Holmes**—were among a delegation of 18 Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) players selected to attend the NCAA 2012 convention this January in Indianapolis, Indiana. Student athletes from nine of the 12 SCAC schools attended through an NCAA Division III grant. They took part in activities from education and business sessions to the NCAA Honors Celebration. The three are members of the Austin College Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC).



“I now have connections with many people around the country who I can contact in the future,” said Erika Higginbotham, a senior soccer player from McKinney, Texas. Completing a major in exercise & sports science and psychology, she has been accepted at Texas Tech University for fall 2012 for a master’s program in exercise & sports science with an emphasis in sports management. Those NCAA contacts will come in handy; she hopes to become an athletic administrator or work within a professional sports team.



“What I gained from this experience was insight into the business side of Division III sports and how athletics directors and college presidents see the correlation of sports and academics at their schools,” said sophomore Deandre Holmes of Watagua, Texas, who is completing a major in chemistry. A member of the Kangaroo football team and vice president Student Athletic Advisory Committee, he is considering two career options. He will continue his education through the College’s Austin Teacher Program and teach chemistry and coach football at

Haltom High School, or pursue a career as a pharmacist.

Senior Emily Brzuzy of Houston, Texas, said the convention expanded her knowledge of the NCAA. “Seeing some of the ‘inside’ of the NCAA and networking with the ‘big dogs’ gave me a lot more respect for the NCAA as a whole. I learned so much more than I ever thought I could about Division III athletics and the NCAA.” Emily was a member of the Austin College soccer team and volunteered with local soccer programs for children. She is completing majors in exercise & sports science and psychology as well as a minor in Spanish. She plans to move to her native state of Indiana after graduation and begin a master’s program in occupational therapy in 2013.

## Men's Basketball Squad Makes Fifth Straight Trip to SCAC Tournament

The Austin College men's basketball team put together a strong season in 2011-2012, finishing the year with a 15-11 overall record. That finish included an 11-5 mark in Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference play and the team's fifth straight trip to the conference tournament as the # 2 seed out of the SCAC West.

The 'Roos were led all season by forward **Josh Saunders** '12, who led the team with averages of 12.7 points and 6.5 rebounds per game. Saunders finished among the conference leaders in points, rebounds, blocked shots, steals, and free throw percentage, and was second on the team with 59 assists. Saunders was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-SCAC in recognition of his outstanding final season.

First-year forward **Antoine Thompson** '14 had an immediate impact, finishing second on the team in scoring with 11.0 points and adding 4.3 rebounds per game despite coming off the bench all 26 games. Guards **Ransom Okpala** '14 and **Jordan Hancock** '14 each put together solid seasons, finishing third and fourth on the team in scoring, respectively. Both Okpala, who was among the conference leaders in free throw percentage, and Hancock, who led the team with 76 assists, were named Honorable Mention All-SCAC.



The 'Roos also got strong contributions from forwards **Walter Phillips** '13, who averaged 8.6 points and 4.1 rebounds per game, and **Alen Michael** '13, who stepped into a starting role this season and averaged 7.3 points and 6.2 rebounds while shooting 52.8 percent from the field for the year. Graduate student **Greg Harrell**, a two-time 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-SCAC wide receiver for the Kangaroo football team, started 24 games this season and quickly became one of the team's key contributors and top defensive players.



Next season, head coach **Rodney Wecker** will be forced to replace Saunders and Harrell, but the 'Roos return the bulk of their squad and look to head back to the SCAC tournament in 2012-2013 for a sixth straight challenge for the conference championship.

## Injuries Create Tough Season for Women's Team

It was a tough year for the Austin College women's basketball team under second-year head coach **Michelle Filander**. What began as a promising year ended in frustration, due in large part to injuries that left the roster depleted for the majority of the season. The 'Roos were able to end on a high note, winning three of the final four games to finish with a 4-21 record for the year.



First-year point guard **Christina Kime** '15 made an immediate splash with the team, finishing among the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference leaders in points, assists, and free throw percentage, while logging more minutes of play than anyone in the conference. She was named 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-SCAC and was the runner-up for SCAC Newcomer of the Year in recognition of her outstanding efforts, which included a triple double in the final game of the season.

**Kersti Marusich** '12 put together a solid year, finishing second on the team with an average of 9.7 points per game and adding 4.8 rebounds per game. **Angeleena Young** '12 had a career-best year with an average of 9.4 points per game and finished among the conference leaders in both three pointers and three-point percentage.



Other players who stepped up this year included graduate student **Allison Taylor**, who started 15 games and put up career-best averages of 6.8 points and 6.0 rebounds per game, and **Lexi Beeson** '14, who started 17 games and chipped in 3.3 points per game. Lexi also knocked down a last-second, game-winning three pointer in a 61-58 win at Hendrix.



The 'Roos will be forced to replace Marusich, Young, Taylor, and **Allie Collyer** '12 next season, but led by Kime and bolstered by the return of **Erin Riley** '14, **Brooke Melton** '14, and **Shayna Clardy** '13, Austin College will look to challenge for the SCAC crown in 2012-2013.

## Teams Have Solid Year in the Pool

The Austin College men's and women's swimming and diving teams capped off their 2011-2012 season with a solid showing at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship meet in February, with the men taking seventh place while the women finished eighth.

Several swimmers on both sides performed well throughout the season, including men's swimmers **Tim Matthews** '13, **Josh Tignor** '12, **Jacob Robbins** '15, and **Mark Perez** '14, who set a new school record in the 200 freestyle relay at the SCAC Championship. Matthews, Robbins, Perez, and **Jacob Fenster** '13 also set a new Austin College record in the 400 freestyle relay at that event.



Matthews had a strong all-around performance at the meet, putting together a career-best performance to finish 16<sup>th</sup> in the 200 individual medley and also placing 14<sup>th</sup> in the 400 individual medley with a season-best swim. **Truman Word** '14 had a career-best performance in the 400 individual medley, Fenster had a career-best time in the 100 butterfly, and Perez had a career-best finish in the 200 freestyle as he placed 11<sup>th</sup> at the SCAC Championship.

The season also saw one member of the team make a miraculous comeback, as **Jeff Munn** '13 survived cardiac arrest at practice to not only return to the team but also to put together a season-best finish in the 500 freestyle at the SCAC Championship.



On the women's side, both **Alex Brown** '12 and **Kenzie Jones** '15 enjoyed outstanding seasons, highlighted by performances at the conference championship meet. Brown placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the 400 individual medley and 15<sup>th</sup> in the 200 butterfly, finishing with season-best times in both events. Brown also had a career-best time in the 100 breaststroke as she came in 14<sup>th</sup> in the event. Jones also had a lifetime-best performance at the SCAC meet, finishing 16<sup>th</sup> in the 200 backstroke.

Overall, it was a solid season for the men's and women's swimming and diving teams as the 'Roos overcame adversity to perform well throughout the year, including several swimmers setting season-best times at the Austin College Invitational, as well as the men getting a well-earned victory over Hendrix. The team is led by head coach **Brian Wright**, who joined the Austin College staff in 2008.

## **‘Roo Accolades**

### **Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) Awards and Honors**

Conference honors have been announced for fall and winter sports. The Austin College athletes recognized follow.

#### **FOOTBALL**

- Braydon MaQuar – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Jordan Schell – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Mitch Anderson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Ethan Tanner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Kenneth Eneh – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Sean Sweeney – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Mike Brown – Honorable Mention All-SCAC
- De’Andre Holmes – Honorable Mention All-SCAC
- Gregory Millerick – Honorable Mention All-SCAC
- James Roh – Honorable Mention All-SCAC
- Travis Zambiasi – Honorable Mention All-SCAC



#### **MEN’S SOCCER**

- Chris Melton – 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Edwin Cole – 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-SCAC

#### **WOMEN’S SOCCER**

- Kelsey D’Amore – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Ali Ryan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCAC

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

- Jessica Fleming – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-SCAC and American Volleyball Coaches Association National Player of the Week
- Adrienne Reynolds – 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-SCAC

#### **MEN’S BASKETBALL**

- Josh Saunders – 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-SCAC
- Ransom Okpala – Honorable Mention All-SCAC
- Jordan Hancock – Honorable Mention All-SCAC

#### **WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

- Christina Kime – 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-SCAC – runner up for SCAC Newcomer of the Year

## SWIMMING & DIVING

- Not yet known.

**SCAC Academic Honor Roll: 53 student-athletes**

**SCAC Players of the Week: 5 student-athletes**

### **2011-2012 SCAC All-Sportsmanship Team**

Each head coach within the conference elects one member from his or her team who displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season for the SCAC All-Sportsmanship Team. The Austin College athletes announced to date follow.

- Mitch Anderson '12, Football, Orange City, Florida
- Adrienne Reynolds '13, Volleyball, Arlington, Texas
- Guillermo Allande '13, Soccer, El Paso, Texas
- Gabby Mavelian '12, Soccer, Dallas, Texas
- Truman Word '14, Swimming, Anthony, New Mexico
- Pauline Nguyen '15, Swimming, Lewisville, Texas
- Alen Michael '13, Basketball, Mesquite, Texas
- Allison Taylor '12, Basketball, Krum, Texas

**Academic All-Region honorees: 2 student-athletes**

**(Chris Melton – men's soccer, Nicole Breckling – women's soccer)**

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## **Four 'Roos Recognized for Service**

Four Austin College athletes have received the SCAC Character & Community Award this academic year, recognizing those student-athletes who not only excel in athletic competition but also serve their campus and community. One male and female athlete within the conference is selected each week for this honor. The students are listed below along with the week of their recognition.



**Elton Skipper, Football,  
October 9, 2011**

**Elton Skipper, a junior from Azle, Texas,** is a defensive lineman on the Kangaroo football team, and, in addition to his commitment and hard work on the gridiron, has been an active member of the Austin College community since arriving on campus. He is involved with the Austin College Service Station and volunteers as a tutor for elementary school students in math and reading. He also is an RA and was named the 2011 Community Builder of the Year at the RA banquet. He is also a Dean's List student.

**Natalie Nelms, Women's Soccer,  
November 13, 2011**

Natalie Nelms, a junior from Dallas, Texas, is captain of the soccer team and was an All-Conference selection her first two seasons. She is an active member of Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity and in fall 2011, spearheaded an event helping to raise money to fight leukemia. Through her outstanding efforts, the women's soccer team joined forces with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help raise awareness and funds for research and patient research in the team's home finale in October.

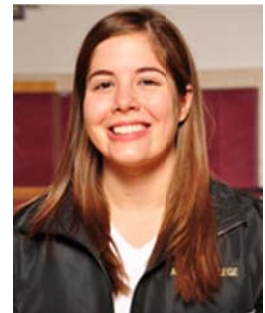


**Josh Saunders, Men's Basketball,  
January 1, 2012**

Senior Josh Saunders of Athens, Texas, will graduate in May with degrees in business and environmental studies. He is a starting forward and team captain for the 'Roos men's basketball team and was named to the SCAC All-Academic Honor Roll from 2008-2011, as well as to Who's Who Among American Universities Colleges All-America. He is a three-year National Association Basketball Honors Court selection. Since 2009, he has served on the Austin College Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Josh was an Austin College Global Outreach Fellow for 2011 and spent the summer as a volunteer, building homes in Costa Rica. He also serves the homeless at The Stewpot and Second Chance Café in Dallas, among several other volunteer activities.

**Dolores Johnson, Women's Swimming,  
January 15, 2012**

Junior Dolores Johnson of Frisco, Texas, has been one of the team's strongest competitors since arriving on campus and also has been active with several community efforts in Sherman. She helped organize a 5K 'Roo Run benefiting Grayson County's Grand Central Station (food pantry), as well as an art show benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Sherman. She also helped to organize the Purple Reign Masquerade benefiting Grand Central Station.



**Legends  
2012**

**Legends Weekend | July 13-15**

## ‘Roo Notes

### “Our Gang” for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Several friends from the Class of 1966 decided coming back to campus for reunions every five or 10 years let far too much time pass between gatherings. So Dan and Vivian Breazeale hosted a mini-reunion in their Lexington, Kentucky, a few years ago and the group decided to continue meeting every other year. Their most recent gathering was in Alexandria, Virginia, at the home of Scooter Merritt.

Several of the alumni offered updates.



**Scooter Merritt** spends a fair amount of his time with his retirement hobby, collecting and appraising early American furniture. He hit the pinnacle of his career last year with an opportunity to appraise some very early (1740s) and extremely well-crafted Philadelphia furniture. That appraisal led to one of his current passions, which involves research and scholarly writing about the furniture and the Philadelphia cabinetmaker who was believed to have made it. That research, however, takes a back seat for a few weeks to the research he must do in preparation for the three fantasy baseball leagues he belongs to. He loves baseball and as a season ticket holder to the Washington Nationals team, he tries to make at least 30 games a season. In addition, Scooter considers himself a professional community volunteer. He is the chairman of the Alexandria Public Health Commission and the Alexandria Coalition for Clean and Smoke-Free Air. In those capacities he is proud of the fact that he led the charge a few months back that convinced the Alexandria City Council to allow no smoking signs be placed in all city parks, playgrounds, and bus shelters. His next target is to try to reduce the exposure of young children to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing complexes. (Remember, Virginia is a major tobacco producing state.) Finally, he has plans for a major European vacation this fall, where he will visit his “step” children in Poland, and at the conclusion of the trip will no longer have to confess that he is “the only person in the world who has never been to Italy.”



**Dan and Viv (Chabas) Breazeale** were married before their senior year at Austin College and are married still and living in Lexington, Kentucky, where Dan is (and has been for four decades) a professor of philosophy and now Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences at the University of Kentucky, specializing in German philosophy from Kant to Nietzsche. Viv is now retired after many years teaching French in private secondary schools. Viv enjoys dancing and growing orchids and vegetables, and together they enjoy music, cooking, entertaining,

and frequent international travel. (Editor's Note: Dan also was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College in 2011.)

**Wilbur and Barbara Malloy Powell** live on a small farm with a pond in rural Grayson County. Barbara loves bird watching on their property, and Wilbur spends his time on landscaping, gardening, farm work, and house remodeling. He retired from the Mathematics and Computer Science Department of Austin College in May 2010, and when Barbara retired from teaching art in the public schools, she opened Art from the Heart, Art Center and Gallery in Sherman, Texas. She displays art she has collected and provides art classes. They can't stay away from the classroom though—Wilbur has been back on campus as an adjunct faculty member and Barbara has substituted in the public schools.

**Karl Johnson** retired in December 2010 and now lives in Georgetown, Texas. After Austin College he spent a year at Yale University as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and then attended the Graduate School of Business at the University of Texas. He spent his professional career working as a Certified Public Accountant, first for Touche Ross & Co. (now a part of Deloitte & Co.), then with the Texas State Auditor's Office, and finally with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Do you have an alumni gathering photo and story to share? Write [editor@austincollege](mailto:editor@austincollege).



## Driving Through the Museum

Last year at this time, **Kristy Peet '02** was working on her car. No, she's not a mechanic; she's an artist. And the car was the art.

Kristy was one of the artists preparing a car for the 2011 Houston Art Car Parade—one that looked like it had crashed its way through the gift shops and collections of the 100+ museums in Houston.



The car was headed for the American Association of Museums Annual Meeting and Museum Expo in Houston. After the parade, the car was on display at MuseumExpo Hall at George R. Brown Convention Center. The car was the brainchild of the former director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, who had died the year before. He hoped to create a car for the parade that showed the diversity of Houston museums—by driving right through them all.

The car's crew, a team of artists at **Skydive** art collective including Kristy, put out a call to area museums to send materials for the project—and ended up with posters, maps, reports, T-shirts, and memorabilia of nearly every sort from around the region.

The Health Museum sent a brain; the Maritime Museum a miniature colonial ship. Materials collected, it was up to the artists to create the moving museum. The photos below show something of the process and only a little of the fun.



When she's not creating art cars crashing through the city, Kristy lives and works in Houston as an artist. Her large format photographic work deals with psychological issues and has been shown in solo and group exhibitions across the country, including a solo exhibition at Dallas Contemporary. She also teaches photography at College of the Mainland in Texas City, and is a resident artist at Box 13 Artspace.

## **You Never Know Where You'll Meet A 'Roo**

*By Ann Gael and Jordan Faires*

**Ann Gael**, a 1967 graduate of Austin College, counseled in Presbyterian camps during summers between her Austin College years; the summer following graduation, while counseling at Cho Yeh she met a charismatic Native American and married him. She meandered through an MFA program at the University of Texas Department of Drama in history and criticism. After receiving her MFA, Ann and her husband took a freighter to Europe and lived in Geneva, Switzerland, for three years while she worked at the World Council of Churches and he did sculpture at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts de Geneve.



Meanwhile, in 1973, American Indian Movement activists took over the trading post at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Ann's husband was called back to help with the defense of those charged with crimes of that takeover. The couple moved to South Dakota, and then to Lincoln, Nebraska, until the International Indian Treaty Council was established. Then they moved to New York City to petition the United Nations for recognition of the unilaterally abrogated treaties.

Ann's husband had to raise funds for these endeavors, and she became acquainted with the world of foundations and fundraising, eventually finding work in foundations herself. While at the first of these jobs, she co-founded the Grants Managers Network. She served on its first national steering committee, then its board, meeting grants managers from all over the country.

A few years later, while sitting at dinner in a restaurant in San Diego, California, with a group of GMN board members, she found herself talking to a charming young man with an oddly familiar accent. Asking him where he hailed from and learning that the answer was Texas, she asked where he went to college. When he replied, "A small liberal arts college in north Texas," she knew she had to inquire further. "I went to a small liberal arts college in north Texas. Where did you go?" she asked. When the young man replied, "Austin College," she jumped up yelling, "I went to Austin College, too!"

As it turned out, Ann graduated exactly 20 years before **Jordan Faires**, whose path to that table in San Diego was similarly satisfying, albeit unique. After graduating from Austin College in 1987, Jordan complemented his liberal arts education with an MBA from the University of Houston. Although his original intention was to enter the business community, he followed his mother's career into the nonprofit world by first entering the family violence prevention arena, which included facilitating and coordinating batterer intervention groups, working on a statewide clemency campaign for family violence victims, working in legislative advocacy at the state and federal level, and administering programs. After several years of working in Houston



and Austin, however, Jordan wanted a change. So, he sold his car, leased his house, and set out to travel around the world.

Although Jordan didn't succeed in his goal of living and working in Europe, he enjoyed three months in Thailand and four months in Europe before running out of cash and returning to Houston. Not giving up on change, he chose not to return to Texas but moved to San Francisco with two suitcases and a few thousand dollars.

After several months of temporary work, Jordan landed a job working with homeless and runaway youth in downtown San Francisco. The work was fascinating and further developed his expertise with program and grants management. Shortly after landing the job in San Francisco, he was offered a grants management position at a foundation in Sacramento, where he learned the *other* side of grants management. While in Sacramento, he joined the Grants Managers Network, developed as a grants management leader, served as an independent consultant, and subsequently joined the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation in Los Angeles.

So, back to the Grants Managers Network conference dinner where Ann and Jordan met. When the colleagues learned that they were both from Texas, they were somewhat amazed to find that they both graduated from Austin College.

In hindsight, they wonder why they were so shocked. They had two things in common: Austin College and the Grants Managers Network. Both encourage talent, promote excellence, and are comprised of remarkable individuals. Both Austin College and the GMN have been influential forces in Ann and Jordan's lives, as they have for many others.

So, no, the 'Roos coming together wasn't so surprising after all. Two unique paths, fortified by two remarkable organizations, simply led to the same spot.



## Walking, Biking and Running for A Cause

***Editor's Note:** Since **Melissa Johnston '04** graduated from Austin College, she has emailed several updates on her activities—and it seems she always is writing about a marathon completed or a run in the near future. When asked for a summary of her experiences for possible inclusion in Austin College Magazine, the notes she sent were so interesting they are repeated here in her own words.*



**My Work**—After completing four unpaid internships in non-profits while at Austin College, I knew I wanted my professional life to make a significant contribution to either the local, national, or global community.

When I graduated from Austin College in 2004, I briefly worked for Shadowcliff, a non-profit lodge in the Colorado Rockies dedicated to sustainable living and affordable accommodations for those wanting to enjoy the mountains. During the summer of 2004, I was able to hone in on what made me tick and where I wanted to invest my professional energies.

I was grateful to find a position with the South Central Texas Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in fall 2004 and have been with them ever since. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the leading national health charity dedicated to curing blood cancers (leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma) and improving the lives of patients and their families. Having completed seven years working with the organization professionally, I am even more tied into its mission than ever before. I once was a naïve young adult never having a close connection to cancer (thankfully) and have evolved to know more cancer survivors than I thought possible.

LLS has provided opportunities I may not have seen elsewhere, pushing and investing in my professional contribution. I began as a coordinator in Team In Training (TNT), LLS's endurance sports training program, and was quickly promoted to manager. Team In Training provides professional coaching for individuals wanting to complete a full or half-marathon, cycle ride, participate in a triathlon, or hike a natural wonder while they raise money to support the work of LLS.

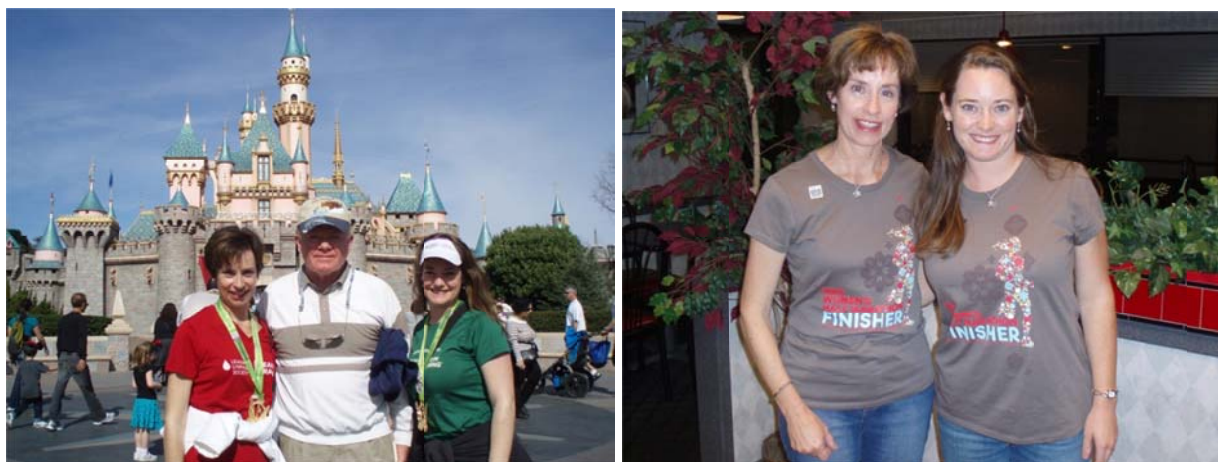
After four and half years in the TNT department of San Antonio, I became the senior manager of the chapter's School & Youth programs. Over the past three years, I have doubled the Pennies for Patients program revenue, from about \$550,000 to now \$1.4 million with 900 participating schools in 92 counties of South Central Texas. Being a director of the School & Youth department is my most rewarding position to date. I'm proud to say that humble South Texas is now the leading LLS school program, out of 60 in the nation of 60 chapters. We are surrounded by an exceptionally generous, giving, and supportive community. I also am honored to work with an exceptional team of employees who have a heart for our mission and work hard every day to get us closer to finding a cure for blood cancers!



**My Hobby**—Having a job that promotes healthy living while doing something good for others makes you realize very quickly that you need to put actions to your words. After only weeks on the job with Team In Training in late 2004, I decided to do my first marathon along with Team In Training. I had always been a “distance” runner in track and cross country throughout elementary, middle school, high school, and college. I ran for two years on the Austin College track team and became the first female in my family to participate in collegiate sports. But, of course, those distances were two- to-five-mile runs—nothing compared to a full marathon!

Deciding to train for a 26.2-mile race was a big deal to this 22-year-old, but a destination like Anchorage, Alaska, for my first marathon was an opportunity I didn’t want to pass up. With my very first marathon, I raised \$5,400 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—and I knew I was hooked on this endurance sports thing! What makes it even more motivating is knowing that every step you run, you are helping save lives of cancer patients.

Since my first marathon, I have gone on to do another marathon, five half-marathons, three century rides (100 miles), 3 metric century rides (100K) , several triathlons, and even one Half-Ironman triathlon (1.2- mile swim, 56-mile bike, 13.1-mile run) for LLS.



The most special of these events were my two half-marathons with my mother, Pam Johnston. Even at the age of 60 she is still jogging a few times a week. In 2008, I convinced her to run the Nike Women’s Half-Marathon in San Francisco, California, with me. That event is one of the most unique races you can experience, including a pre-race Expo-tique with massages and manicures, a Ghirardelli chocolate mile, an Oxygen bar, the Nike Women’s name wall, and the

Tiffany's finishers necklace handed to you by a tuxedo-clad San Francisco fireman. Who could ask for more?!

Three years later, I convinced my mother to do a race again. We chose the Tinkerbell Half-Marathon at Disneyland where we broke her three-hour goal and were graced with the presence of many smiling Disney characters! Over the last seven years, my mom and I have raised over \$30,000 to help The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society through many Team In Training events. The generosity and inspiration of our friends keep us going on our feet and keep us moving toward a cure.

But athleticism in the family does not stop with Mom and me. My brother, **Michael Johnston** '01, also jumped on the band wagon by participating in the Nike Women's Marathon last year, raising \$4,000 himself. Before long, I hope to see my entire family do a TNT event. There's nothing like the feeling of success and accomplishment knowing you've pushed your body to new limits and you've made a significant contribution while doing so.



**Austin College Connections**—My folks are Trinity University graduates, but my brother **Michael** earned an Austin College degree in art history in 2001 and completed a master's degree through the Austin Teacher Program in 2002. He now works as an art teacher at Pflugerville Elementary outside of Austin, Texas. I graduated in 2004 with a double major in religion and history. While at Austin College, I was in the Posey Leadership Institute, ACTivators, track program, InterVarsity, and helped found Sigma Phi Chi sorority. (In December 2010, I earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio.)

LLS in South Central Texas has many Austin connections, too. My executive director's daughter (**Kelly Griesenbeck**) graduated from Austin College in 2000. **Stephanie Terrell** '00 previously was on staff as a Team In Training manager in Austin and currently is a marathon coach with many cycle rides and marathons under her belt. **Lia Payne** '07 is a Light the Night campaign manager in San Antonio. And I know a few Austin College alumni and one current student who have done a TNT event in North Texas.

## Climbing to the Top

After working for a few years, **Adam Sandlin '05** returned to graduate school and completed his degree at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in May 2011. To appropriately cap the two-year Duke experience, Adam and two friends decided a trip was in order. Since Duke had won the NCAA National Championship in basketball the previous spring, they needed something “pretty intense” to top that experience.



So, why not climb a mountain? The trio headed to Mount Kilimanjaro for an incredible experience, hiking through five vegetation zones from rain forest to glacier and camping in a different spot each night of the six-day hike.

“We expected summit day to be physically challenging but what we didn’t expect was the mental challenge of reaching the summit,” Adam said. “Our water froze halfway up the summit; we were climbing through the coldest and windiest part of the day (midnight to 6 a.m.), and the air was so thin that we had to take multiple breaths for each step. After six and a half hours, we finally reached the summit in time to watch the sun rise from the tallest mountain in Africa ... which was pretty spectacular.”

The friends rewarded themselves with a four-day safari through the Serengeti and other national parks before heading back to the real world.

When not climbing mountains, Adam is a senior consultant with Deloitte Consulting’s Strategy & Operations practice in New York City.



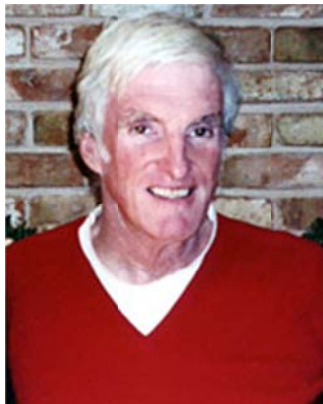
## Hearts Open to Others

Since participating in Operation Crossroads Africa to Liberia in 1964 as an Austin College student, **Evelyn Jacoby Scurry '65** has been committed to promoting service and wanted to instill in her children the value of helping others. Her efforts seem to have been successful.

Her daughter, Holly, is vice president of Family Legacy Missions International, where she has worked since 2003, spending every summer ministering to orphans alongside other Americans at the Tree of Life Children's Village in Zambia, Africa.



In 2008-2009, Evelyn's daughter Heather and son-in-law Randy sold their home, put their aerospace engineering jobs on hold, and moved to Zambia for one year. Randy supervised a team of 70 untrained Zambian men to build furniture, four houses, and a half of the school for the orphanage during that time.



The whole family recently took on a very personal project. Evelyn's husband John (and the children's father) passed away in 2009 during Camp LIFE, a summer program held at the Tree of Life Children's Village to educate Zambian orphans about Christian faith. The family began to raise fund to build a 1,900+-square-foot house at Tree of Life Children's Village in Lusaka, Zambia, in John's memory.

This past Christmas, the house was ready. Evelyn and her children, Holly, Sara, Heather, and Tom, along with daughter-in-law Lauren, enjoyed what they knew was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. (Son-in-law Randy stayed in Texas with the baby so Heather could make the trip.) The family spent three weeks in Zambia in preparation for the dedication of "John's House" (House 12). Evelyn said the family worked hard for two days cleaning; decorating; putting up bunk beds and making them up with colorful sheets and blankets; putting gifts under the Christmas tree; placing colorful rugs, towels, pots and pans, dishes and glasses, and placemats in place; and stenciling scriptures above the doorways. They also spent hours going through lots of donated clothes to sort it for boys or girls by sizes.

On December 30, 2011, everything was ready for the dedication. All the orphans from the existing houses turned out to welcome the children to three new houses. "John's House" became home to 14 orphans, aged seven months to 13 years, and two housemothers. "You can only imagine the pure joy that the children felt when they went into their new homes for the first time," Evelyn wrote. "None of the children had come from a 'real' home. Most had suffered abuse and had not had enough food or water. None of them had their own beds, some had AIDS, and all were orphans. What a tremendous difference in the lives of these children! Now they

have good food and water, hot showers, three meals and snacks daily, games, books, toys, clothes, and a wonderful new school. Now there is real hope for their lives!”

The first week of January 2012, we each took a class in the school and taught rotating classes that would interest the children. Students also were able have a program in the new Legacy Center, with each class dancing or reciting poetry on stage.

Evelyn is back at home in Coppell, Texas, content that John’s House is full of happy children in Zambia. Her house is happy, too, situated so that daughters Holly and Sara live within three blocks in one direction; Randy, Heather, and grandbaby Amy Grace three blocks in another; and Tom and Lauren just a few miles away in Richardson. And half a world away, life continues. Ten more houses should be completed at Tree of Life Village this summer.





*Evelyn says this is a great mission for people of all ages in the summer. Volunteers can go for one or two weeks, and there also is an optional trip for three days to Victoria Falls, including a river cruise on the Zambezi River and a safari in Botswana. About 700 Americans participate each summer from very young ages to retired people. Check out the **Family Legacy** website.*

## Saving History

*By Daniel Greig Babb '87*

When I first laid eyes on the 1787 Seth Babb Homestead, I knew that it was something special, but I didn't have any idea that I would be leading an eight-year race against time to rescue one of the oldest buildings in Tennessee from total destruction while also in my own race against cancer.

In the summer of 2004, I was at a reunion for the Babb Family Association, which has been holding reunions at places of historical significance to the Babb surname since 1989. We, of course, stopped at the family homestead that was located on private land in a rural area of Modern Day Greene County, Tennessee. When we arrived, all eyes were on the house, but we first visited the cemetery across the road to pay our respects to those who came before us.



Our joy was cut short as we approached the home and realized that a couple of the supporting beams had given way and the house was beginning to disintegrate. The structure was not safe enough to enter as the sudden weight shift could cause a total collapse. There was little or no roof left, most of the doors and windows weren't even on the structure, and weatherproofing material between the logs, called chink, was all but gone.

The moment was surreal. We had finally gotten to this more precious place only to find that it was dying. We stood nearby, paying our last respects as one does when losing a dear family member. The visit felt more like a funeral, each of us realizing that the home was merely months from collapse.

A stray comment I made about needing to do something to save the place got immediate support and before long I launched the Babb Preservation Fund. Its mission is to protect and preserve artifacts that bear some connection to the family name. We got busy interviewing preservation architects, setting budgets, fundraising, obtaining Non-Profit Status with the IRS, and securing title to the Homestead. The original location no longer was suitable, and we eventually found a new location in downtown Greeneville right next to the home of our 17<sup>th</sup> President Andrew Johnson.



We have had many setbacks along the way. Months after I embarked on this project, I was diagnosed with kidney cancer. In 2007, I developed a second unrelated cancer in my left middle finger, which I have been accused of using too much at times. On September 11, 2007, I "gave my doctor the finger" when he removed it in what is known as a Ray Amputation. I now have an annual celebration on that day to mark the last day I had cancer and encourage my friends to use their middle finger in honor of my struggle.

We first thought the restoration project would take about six weeks, but now, eight years later, I am in full remission for both cancers and we are finally putting thoughts into action. We were able to start reassembly at the new park location in November 2011 and plan to rededicate the Homestead on June 23 on its 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As the centerpiece of a working farm

and public park, it will subsequently be used as a tool for area schools to teach about early pioneer life in Greene County. We also will be conducting a “Chinking Party” on April 14 to have community volunteers come to help us finish the job. I promise that there will be only tears of joy at this event as we celebrate a new beginning for this grand old place.

- See the front page of the **Greeneville Sun**.
- Read the **Log Raising Journal**.
- **Follow Daniel’s blog**.
- For more info please contact **Daniel Babb**.

*Daniel Babb first learned the value of service to the community as president of Austin College’s Phi Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. Since then, the projects he directs have raised over \$4 million for various non-profits. He serves as genealogist for the Babb Family Association and the director of its Preservation Fund. In his day-job, Daniel is a technical account manager at Microsoft, where he is about to celebrate 16 years. He makes his home in Dallas with his partner of 13 years, David Smith. They were married in 2004 in Toronto and have two orange tabbies that like to eat.*

