

# Austin College

Magazine Summer 2011

**In Full Bloom**  
Lives of Success

## A Magical Spring

Many people ask me what it is like to be married to a magician. They expect that I will talk about secrets or card tricks. But the key thing is that marriage to a magician (at least to *my* magician), most essentially means living with a man keenly attuned to wonder, hope, holiness, and transformation. The cards, the coins, and the secret techniques are just occasions for sharing this deep grasp of the real magic of existence.

I just finished a wonderful new novel, *Vaclav and Lena*, that captures this essence of magic and magicians. In the story by a young novelist named Haley Tanner, Vaclav performs many tricks, but the most magical ones have nothing to do with his props; they have to do with his capacity to love.

Speaking of magical events, I had the pleasure of attending three graduations this spring season, watching students magically transformed into graduates. Abracadabra, indeed! The first was our own Austin College graduation. The next week, we headed to Pennsylvania to see our son graduate from Muhlenberg College. And a week after that, I served as the graduation speaker for the Episcopal School of Dallas. It was a very emotional month and a tremendous blessing to participate in these transitional moments. You can find pictures of the Austin College celebration as well as the text of my address to the graduates at Episcopal School of Dallas on the College website, [www.austincollege.edu](http://www.austincollege.edu).

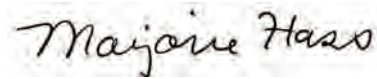
I don't want to end this letter without mentioning the exciting things happening on campus as there is much to celebrate this spring. In June, we broke ground on the IDEA Center, a new 103,000-square-foot science center that long has been a campus dream. We also are celebrating a record admission year, with over 3,500 students competing for places this fall in our freshman class—a class we aim to bring in at 350 students. Our fantastic new housing is on schedule for an August opening, and every bed is reserved. Too, our faculty

members are getting some of the recognition they richly deserve, quoted this spring in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Dallas Morning News*, among other outlets.

And, if you have read our strategic plan, *Roots and Branches*, you will see that we are making progress on our goals for the future.

I hope that you, too, had a magical spring and look with anticipation toward your fall and beyond. And, I certainly hope that your future involves visits to campus and continued interaction with faculty, students, alumni, and friends of Austin College. I've found that this truly is a magical place.

Gratefully,



Marjorie Hass, President  
Austin College







**Teresa “Tess” Warner** '14 created a “family” of faces in sculpture class that were displayed this spring in the Trost Family Courtyard outside Forster Art Complex.

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Austin College is one of the top three Fulbright-producing institutions per capita in Texas. This spring, awards to six graduates propelled the College to a new level of success.

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Alumni and students presented a weekend of musical theatre that brought to life the ghosts of 40 years of past Austin College performances—and a few of their own.

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Physics professor Larry Robinson has taught hundreds of physics classes. Now, he is ready for new adventures; he retired from Austin College this spring after 40 years in the classroom.

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Austin College alumni engage in successful lives around the globe. While they certainly can be found in prestigious careers, their own definitions of success are based more on the quality of life they enjoy than their levels of promotion or financial compensation.

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Austin College's Light Cummins has been an expert on Texas history for years. A two-year stint as State Historian of Texas gave him opportunities to share his knowledge and the chance to hear of even more Texas stories.

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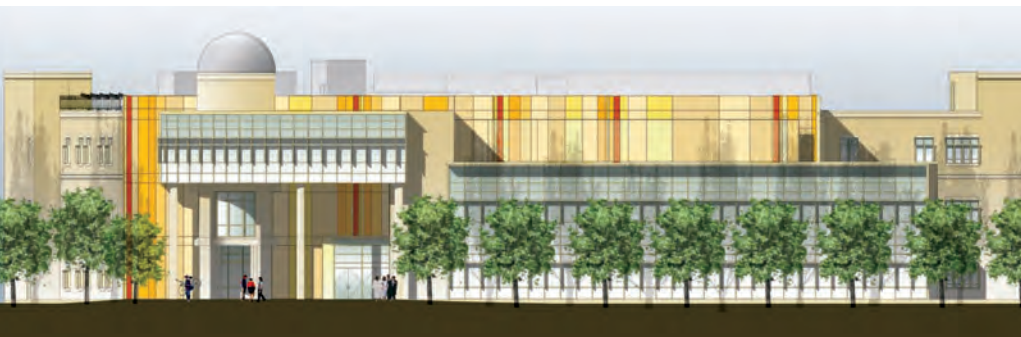
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# AN IDEA FOR THE NEXT CENTURY OF SCIENCE







Not even the hot noonday sun could diminish spirits at the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony June 3 for Austin College's IDEA Center. President **Marjorie Hass** and Board of Trustees chair **Robert M. Johnson** '53 welcomed a large crowd of faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, and special friends to the site of the College's planned new home for the biology, chemistry, environmental studies, physics, mathematics, and computer science departments for a new century.

The IDEA Center is the final step in the College's strategic plan to more fully integrate science and technology into the liberal arts experience, having already updated curriculum and faculty positions. The facility, designed as a green building with LEED Silver certification,

also provides the labs and spaces needed to match today's sciences learning style and enhance the College's already strong reputation in pre-medical preparation. An observatory also allows new areas of study and community outreach.

The ceremony also included comments from **Larry Robinson**, professor emeritus of physics; **Bill Magers** '85, mayor of Sherman; and **Carla Khalaf** '12. Chaplain **John Williams** '84 offered the invocation.

The building name addresses Inquiry, Discovery, Entrepreneurship, and Access—primary goals for students in the sciences and technology.

# Campus Accolades

During the Honors Convocation in April, President **Marjorie Hass** presented the Homer P. Rainey Award, on behalf of the Austin College Board of Trustees, to **John Williams '84**, chaplain, and **Karen Nelson**, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness and professor of psychology. The annual award recognizes a member of the faculty or staff for outstanding achievement or service to Austin College. Two awards occasionally are presented as deemed appropriate by the board.

President Hass and **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs, also announced three faculty awards for outstanding teaching, selected by a faculty and student committee. Two of those recognized are put forth as nominees for external teaching excellence competitions.

**Jerry Johnson**, professor of business administration and economics and Caruth Chair of Management, received the Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership Award. A member of the faculty since 1983, he currently serves as dean of Social Sciences.



*Honors Convocation 2011 honorees are, above, Karen Nelson and John Williams, and at right, Jerry Johnson.*

**David Baker**, associate professor of physics, is the Austin College nominee for the 2011 CASE Professor of the Year excellence in teaching program. Baker has been a member of the faculty since 2000.

**Wayne Crannell**, associate professor of music, is the College's Minnie Stevens Piper Professor nominee. Director of vocal music at Austin College, Crannell has been a member of the faculty since 1995.







## Almost Home

Work on Austin College housing projects The Village on Grand and The Flats at Brockett Court is moving quickly toward completion as juniors and seniors prepare to call the new structures home for the fall term.

The two-story cottages and new three-story suites add 182 beds to the College residence program and will bring many seniors, who often live in housing throughout Sherman, back into the College community. The new construction also provides a facelift for portions of Grand Avenue with the addition of the row of colorful houses leading to the main campus.

## Student Investors Score Win

The Austin College Williams Student Investment Fund team placed third in the Balanced Investment Style category at the Global Student Investment Forum competition this spring at the 11th annual RISE (Redefining Investment Strategy Education) Forum held at the University of Dayton in Ohio. **Bobby Patel** and **Philip Rawlings**, both '11, prepared the RISE competition report and represented Austin College at the competition.

Student participants in the Williams Student Investment Fund manage a real financial portfolio that

includes 21 stocks, bond funds, and equity funds with a value this spring of \$1,051,973. The students exhaustively research each asset before it is purchased, toward a fund goal of financial performance similar to the S&P 500 but with less volatility, said **David Griffith**, associate professor of business administration and the Jack B. Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies, who is the current faculty advisor for the fund.

**Todd Williams** '82 established the student investment fund with a gift of \$1 million in 2006.



*From top left, fund participants for 2010-2011 are Austin Brewster, Elise Burch, David Griffith, Scott Cottingham, and Kathryn Prater. First two rows combined, left to right, are Devin Harris, Raquel Lima, Chase Muder, Philip Rawlings, Bobby Patel, Samantha Sands, Zachary Roush, and Michael Alford. Not pictured: Phillip J. Cohen*

## Tom Baker Legacy Continues

Family, friends, and colleagues of the late **Tom Baker** gathered on April 6 to honor the long-time Austin College professor of education who died suddenly in June 2009. The spring event included the dedication of a portrait of Baker that now hangs in the main hall of the College's Temple Center for Teaching and Learning at Thompson House.

Baker's wife, Connie, and their family have established the Dr. Thomas Baker Endowed Memorial Scholarship at Austin College in Tom's honor. Others who wish to honor his memory through gifts to the scholarship fund may call **Jill Roberts**, Austin College director of stewardship, at 903.813.2422 or make a gift online, indicating it is in support of the Baker scholarship, at [www.austincollege.edu/giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/giving).



*Connie Baker and President Marjorie Hass pose by the newly installed portrait.*

## Mountain Adventures

An eight-day climb up Mount Kilimanjaro culminated with a sunrise ascent to the summit for **Lisa Brown**, professor of psychology, and fellow climbers in February. The group began the final upward trek at 11:30 p.m. under a full moon to be at the summit by 6:30 a.m. Lisa's reaction: "VERY COOL!"

On sabbatical during the spring 2011 term, Lisa took advantage of the opportunity to make the climb. The inspiration for the trip came during another adventure. When Lisa traveled to Antarctica in 2006, among many well-traveled individuals, she met a woman who had climbed Kilimanjaro twice, and decided to take on the challenge of the mountain herself.

Always the researcher, Lisa sought a route with a good summit rate and more days on the mountain to acclimatize. She chose the Lemosho Route, and her research obviously was solid as the photo verifies her moment of celebration shared with Austin College.





## Six Fulbrights Awarded to Graduates: An Austin College Record

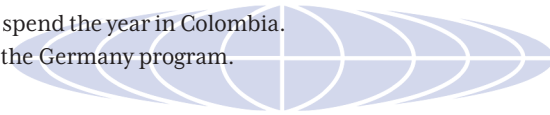
Five Austin College graduating seniors and a 2009 graduate were awarded Fulbright grants this spring in the English Teaching Assistant Program, an Austin College record number awarded in one year, according to Fulbright program advisor **Patrick Duffey**, dean of Humanities.

English teaching assistants increase foreign students' English language abilities and knowledge of the United States culture and are integrated into the host community, which improves the teaching assistants' own foreign language skills and their knowledge of the host country.

The five 2011 graduates and their assignments are **Christiana Bay**, South Korea; **Cameron Behal**, South Korea; **Erin Sweeney**, Croatia; **Matthew Varvir**, South Korea; and **Katherine Wilshusen**, Germany. (Read about the students in "The Faces of Success" on page 10.)

**Miles Vaughn** '09, who has spent the past two years with Teach For America at Capitol High Academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will spend the year in Colombia.

Additionally, **Frank McStay II** '11 is an alternate in the Germany program.



## Sun Shines on the Class of 2011

Four years of preparation and weeks of anticipation culminated on a bright and beautiful morning in May as the members of the Class of 2011 entered the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court for Commencement. President **Marjorie Hass** presented diplomas to nearly 300 graduates, including 17 Master of Arts in Teaching students on May 15.

Business leader and philanthropist Drayton McLane, Jr., chairman of the McLane Group and then-CEO of the Houston Astros Baseball Club, presented the Austin College Commencement address. The Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow, moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and baccalaureate speaker, joined McLane in receiving honorary doctoral degrees from Austin College, along with Ernesto Nieto and Gloria de León, founders of

the National Hispanic Institute (NHI), which provides Latino young people with opportunities to envision themselves as future community leaders.

Each year, the faculty selects the two top outstanding graduates, with no distinction between them, on the basis of the students' entire academic record, to receive the J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Medals. This year the Kidd Medal was presented to **Matthew Varvir** and the Robinson Medal went to **Katherine Wilshusen**. Read about these students and graduate **Lewis Musoke** of Nairobi, Kenya, who presented the senior address, in "The Faces of Success" on page 10.

The Class of 1961, 50-year anniversary graduates, were on campus for Golden 'Roo reunion activities during the weekend. (See page 37). ▲

Graduate Frank McStay II poses with his sister Kira '10 and their parents Mitzi and Frank McStay.





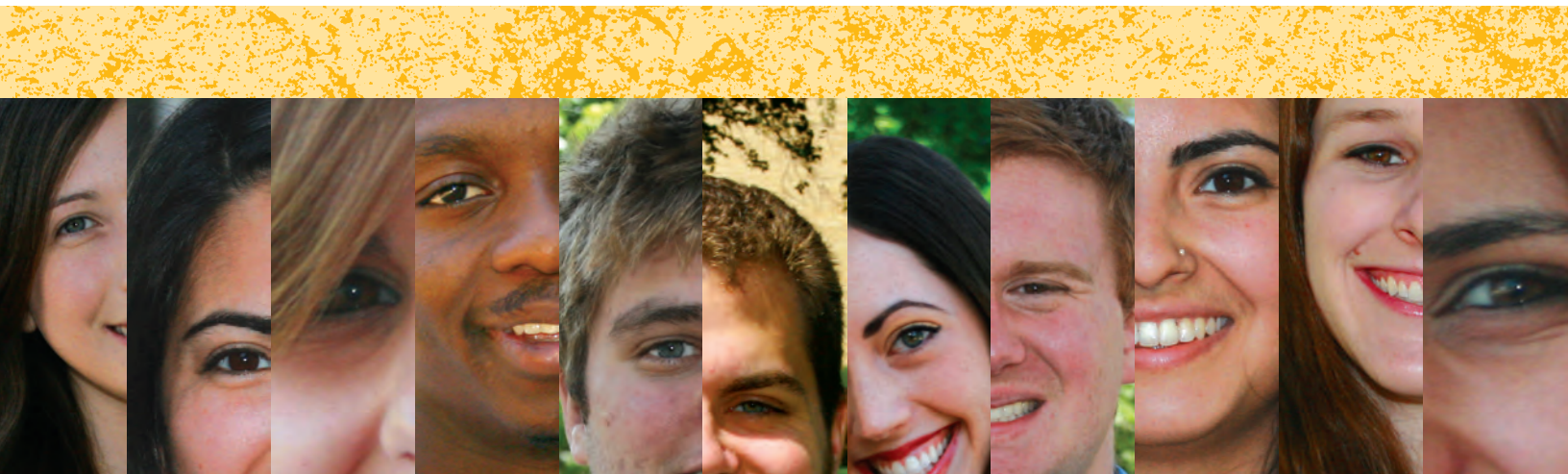


# E N C E M E N T



Sunny skies and cool temperatures set the stage for a day of congratulations and honors for the Austin College Class of 2011 and some 4,000 of their closest friends and family. President Marjorie Hass welcomed students with a look to the future: "My prayer for each of you is that you will take what you have earned here, and what you have been freely given, and transform it into a blessing for the world."





# The Many Faces of Success

*When members of the Austin College Class of 2011 were freshmen, they completed a survey that indicated strong commitment among the class to lives of meaning and service to others. Four years later, a repeat survey of the class showed that, along with goals for success in their careers, values of service to others and full, engaged, and meaningful lives had become even more important to the students.*

*Those results were no surprise to Austin College President Marjorie Hass. "One of the most fundamental things about a liberal arts education is the idea of public good," she said, "and we try to create an environment in which that is emphasized. The education we provide is about preparing alumni for success, which means being part of making the world a better place, not just amassing financial gains."*

*The next pages highlight just a few of the Austin College Class of 2011 faces of success. These graduates already have been extremely successful—discovering interests and awakening awareness, finding their own paths, making the most of opportunities, and leaving their mark at Austin College. Now they are embarking on new adventures. Five of the students have received Fulbright grants; others are taking their place in the career world; still others are preparing for the start this fall of graduate or professional school, or opportunities yet to be discovered. No doubt the graduates' success will continue—success that involves achievement in careers, service to others, commitment to family and friends, and active involvement as knowledgeable citizens of a global community in which most already are quite at home.*



## MATTHEW VARVIR

### J.C. KIDD SCHOLARSHIP MEDAL FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT 2011-2012

"Every child wishes to be a superhero. I may be 21, but I still do."

**Matthew Varvir** wrote those words for an essay in application for a Fulbright grant. Learn a bit about him and it becomes evident he indeed *is* something of a superhero. His co-curricular involvements alone seem to surpass time limitations; add his academic achievements and superpowers seem necessary.

The summa cum laude graduate received the Kidd Scholarship Medal as one of the two top seniors in the Class of 2011, and that Fulbright grant application had good results—he will spend the next year teaching English in Germany.

Matthew completed majors in physics and communication studies (theatre emphasis), as well as a minor in mathematics. Meanwhile, he had major roles in campus theatre productions; performed in the A Cappella Choir, Quartette, and Consort; served as a member of the residence life student staff; conducted research in physics; was active in the Society of Physics Students and Alpha Psi Omega theatre honorary, holding offices in both; and explored Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands during a January Term course.

He did all that while maintaining the highest levels of academic excellence. The Carrollton, Texas, freshman entered Austin College as the Clyde L. Hall Presidential Scholar, and later was awarded the Mary Foulks Gourley and Lloyd E. Gourley Prize in Physics, as well as the Jayne C. Chamberlin Fellowship in Communication Studies. He was selected for Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies, as well as for those in drama and physics.

Matthew's many involvements did not allow much time for campus service projects, commitments he witnessed and admired in his classmates. "The service-oriented mindset permeates the Austin College population so strongly that I constantly found myself to be a part of it. My motivation to become a resident assistant, Fulbright recipient, and educator all stem from this philosophy," he said.

After the Fulbright experience, Matthew will begin a graduate degree in secondary education with a specialization in physics or science, with the plans to teach high school physics and theatre. Eventually, he plans to complete a doctorate and enter the field of teacher education at the undergraduate or graduate level.



## KATHERINE WILSHUSEN

### J.M. ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP MEDAL FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT 2011-2012

**Katherine Wilshusen** had taken a few language classes before coming to Austin College, but she considered them simply academic, not really a means of communication. Though her family ancestry is German and she was interested in the country, she didn't have opportunity to study German until she arrived at Austin College.

She didn't experience *that* class as academic; it set her on a four-year adventure that will continue in 2011-2012. This spring, the German and political science major from Dallas, Texas, was awarded a Fulbright grant for an English Teaching Assistantship in Germany.

"My German course quickly became my favorite," Katherine said, "as I fell in love with the way the words sounded, so bold and confident with their many consonants and the logical, albeit difficult, grammatical structure."



Courses in German multiplied; she lived in the German wing of Jordan Family Language House for an immersion in language and culture. She spent a January Term in intensive language study in Berlin and her junior year abroad at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz. She received the Clara Zauk Binkley and James Binkley Scholarship in Foreign Languages and the Wilkes Family Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship. In January 2011, she traveled back to Mainz to conduct research for her Austin College honors thesis in German.

"Learning a foreign language has been such a powerfully positive experience in my life that I am motivated to promote the learning of foreign languages, which I believe will foster better international cooperation," Katherine said. "The Fulbright experience will give me the opportunity to help teach German students about my own language and culture, which will in turn give them the tools to benefit their future careers and lives, as well as the relations between our countries."

At graduation, Katherine received the Robinson Scholarship Medal as one of the two top scholars in the Class of 2011. The summa cum laude graduate also was selected to Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies, as well as national honor societies in political science and German.

In the long term, Katherine is considering further teaching of English abroad, a career in foreign services, or law school, paths that would combine her desires for exciting, challenging, and rewarding work. "Austin College has prepared me for this

idea of success by making me learn how to learn; how to truly draw connections between different points of view and different fields of study," she said. "The expanded world view that results from a liberal arts education extraordinarily fosters creativity and a desire to continue learning."

## ERIN SWEENEY

### AUSTIN COLLEGE ALTRUSA OUTSTANDING SENIOR WOMAN FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT 2011-2012

A brush with her own mortality—through melanoma surgery as a high school student—gave Erin Sweeney "the burning desire to live the rest of my life with passion, purpose, and faith."

After four years at Austin College, that desire is burning still. Everything Erin does, she

approaches with passion and enthusiasm—and she does a lot. Her list of campus social and academic activities would fill the page, ranging from election to Student Assembly to involvement in the Catholic Church, volunteer service to Pre-Law Society. She has studied internationally, completed a Mellon research fellowship, and received a Global Outreach Fellowship for international service in Moldova.

Her enthusiasm and passion, as well as her academic success and winning personality, combined to result in her selection as the 2011 Altrusa Outstanding Senior Woman.

Erin also had an excellent academic record, graduating summa cum laude with a major in political science and a minor in history. Entering Austin College as the Jack B. Morris Presidential Scholar, she was awarded a Hatton W. Sumners Scholarship in Political Science and was selected to Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies, as well as honor societies for history and political science.





This spring, she was awarded a Fulbright grant to teach English in Croatia throughout the next academic year. “I hope to engage my students’ creative abilities to make English not simply enjoyable, but a life-long passion,” Erin said. She also looks to enhance understanding between people of the U.S. and Croatia.

“Life cannot be reduced to mathematical equations, biological functions, market trends, or even the political theories that I find so fascinating,” Erin wrote in the essay for her Fulbright application. “Just as proper depth perception requires the use of both eyes, we can cultivate an accurate and complete understanding of our surroundings only by examining the world through multiple perspectives.”

When she returns from Croatia, Erin, from Rowlett, Texas, will begin study at Michigan State University School of Law, where she received a full scholarship (and was able to defer admission until after her Fulbright service). She plans to complete a law degree and MBA and work within the arena of international law. She comes from a family with a strong tradition of military service and is considering a career as a JAG officer. “I would be tremendously honored to serve the men and women of the Armed Forces for one simple reason,” Erin said. “They are my heroes.”

## NICHOLAS LOW

AUSTIN COLLEGE OUTSTANDING SENIOR MAN

AUSTIN COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GREEK MAN

**Nic Low** is outstanding. Obviously a lot of people think so. This spring, Nic was named Austin College Outstanding Senior Man and, one week later, Outstanding Greek Man.

He is a member of Zeta Chi Beta social fraternity and Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity. This year, he served as president of Greek Council.

Nic was no stereotypical *Animal House* Greek (few Austin College students are). He maintained an excellent academic record, graduating summa cum laude with a major in English and a minor in philosophy. Like his female counterparts, his list of campus involvements was extensive, including social and academic activities such as service as an Academic Skills Center peer tutor in English and philosophy.

He also studied internationally and completed a Lilly Internship with a law firm in Dallas. That experience should be beneficial when he begins study this fall at SMU Dedman School of Law.

As an Austin College entering freshman from Sunnyvale, Texas, Nic’s achievements were recognized with the Robert T. Mason Presidential Scholarship. He later received the S.D. Heard Fellowship for an Outstanding Student in English and was selected for induction into Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies.

Nic said he was solid academically when he came to Austin College so he expected to continue an excellence in his coursework. Social life was a different story. “Only at Austin College could someone who was too embarrassed to attend his high school senior prom become the Homecoming king a few years later,” he said. “The Greek system pushed me to meet people and learn how to interact in social situations. This has been an invaluable experience for life, and Austin College has been an integral part of my formation into an adult.”

After completing his law degree, Nic plans to remain in the Dallas area to be near family, but otherwise is open to where his life may take him. “My idea of a successful future is being happy. Along with that, I hope I’m not living in a box under the highway,” he joked. “But if I’m truly enjoying what I’m doing, then I consider myself successful.”



## JANE JENNINGS

### AUSTIN COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GREEK WOMAN

Jane Jennings' first classroom interaction at Austin College was her Communication/Inquiry (C/I) course, "Finding the Good Life," in which students explored what happiness is and how to attain it.

Jane, from Longmont, Colorado, seemed to find the good life at Austin College. She combined class work toward her major in international economics and finance and a minor in psychology with many involvements on campus and beyond. She served as president of Alpha Delta Chi sorority and a member of Greek Council, as well as the women's lacrosse club team and the ACTivators ministry team. She trekked through Peru and Bolivia then Malaysia and Singapore during January Term courses and spent a semester of study in Granada, Spain. She also received the College's E.H., Leslie, and Virginia Moseley Scholarship and a Sara and Robert Hallam Scholarship.

Her involvements and leadership gained her the honor of being named the 2011 Outstanding Greek Woman.

Jane is awaiting news on her AmeriCorps application and would like to do an internship in viticulture as an alternative. While she doesn't know exactly what route her career might take, she wants her work to make a positive difference in the lives of others. "In the long run, my ideal goal would be to reform the U.S. agriculture system, specifically the meat sector," she said, explaining that she would like to see that animals are properly raised, killed, and processed to maximize the quality of life of the animals and the nutrition of the meat supply.

"Arriving at Austin College as freshmen, I don't think any of us really know who we are yet," Jane said. "I know the search is not over even after these four years, but I am confident that Austin College has allowed me to explore corners of myself

that I didn't know even existed. I am daring, caring, and very driven, and all of these things have been strengthened during my time at Austin College."



## CAMERON BEHAL

### FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT 2011-2012

"No form of study can fully prepare someone for the experience of total immersion in a foreign culture." That, **Cameron Behal** wrote, was what he was thinking as he emerged from a thick Ecuadorian jungle into the Kichwa Indian village where he would live and work for several weeks. That experience, as a Lilly Vocational Internship Program intern, took place the summer after his sophomore year at Austin College. The previous summer, he had worked with Iraqi, Kenyan, and Burundian torture victims at the Center for Survivors of Torture in Dallas. As a junior, he spent a study abroad term in Barcelona, Spain.

The lessons Cameron, an international relations and Spanish major from Austin, Texas, learned through these experiences led to his application for the Fulbright Teaching Assistantship he will take on in South Korea this fall.

The South Korean experience, though, is about more than the sharing of cultural experiences. Cameron wants to study the South Korean educational system as an option for areas of the world in which a Western teaching model is inappropriate.





Cameron's Austin College years were filled with involvements from Model United Nations to three years as swim team captain to co-founding and leading Zeta Chi Beta fraternity. He was a member of the Posey Leadership Institute and Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity. He received the Lela May Currie and Marion Carol Currie Memorial Endowed Scholarship, a Sally Posey Leadership Fellowship, and a Charles F. Richardson III International Studies Scholarship. The cum laude graduate also was inducted to Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society and Sigma Delta Pi national honor society in Spanish.

Cameron's goals for the next year and the Fulbright experience are much the same as for his planned career in international diplomacy: to serve the U.S. and international community with greater levels of understanding.

## CHRISTIANA BAY

### FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT 2011-2012

Christiana Bay looks forward to teaching because she loves learning. She will spend 2011-2012 in South Korea as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. She has been interested in Asia since she was 10 years old and attended a camp at the Chinese Community Center in Houston. Her interest in studying Japanese language led to her decision to attend Austin College.

The English and psychology major from Austin, Texas, also is anxious to see new places, meet new people, and learn new things. She spent a study abroad semester in Florence, Italy, and traveled to Taiwan for January Term 2011.

Christiana expects to continue her own learning through the Fulbright experience, but her goals are for the children she will teach. "I intend to leave Korea with an imprint of memories from my students, lessons learned for my own personal growth, but also to have given them a love to continue their own education," Christiana said.

On campus she had many opportunities for learning through work as a resident assistant and involvement in Omega Zeta sorority and campus theatre productions, as well as national honor societies in drama and psychology.

A magna cum laude graduate, Christiana was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa national undergraduate honor society and completed Honors in English with a thesis that included five original short stories interweaving Freud's concept of psychosexual development with the seven deadly sins.

After her Fulbright experience, Christiana is considering graduate school and a career in counseling, working with children. She also hopes to write novels for young people, an area she already has begun to explore through the short stories written for her thesis. She would like to be near friends and family, do some volunteer work abroad, and adopt a dog.

"To define success in terms of dollars and cents is extremely linear and narrow," Christiana said. "To me, Austin College has strongly emphasized learning rather than grades, and I find that very applicable to life. Passing through life, going through the motions to achieve the linear 'success' not only is tiresome, boring, and sad, it's lacking in color, vibrancy, and powerful essence. Continually learning in every aspect of life from work to familial situations is what success is about. Seeing new perspectives, experiencing new horizons, and always learning, are the keys to a more dimensional success."





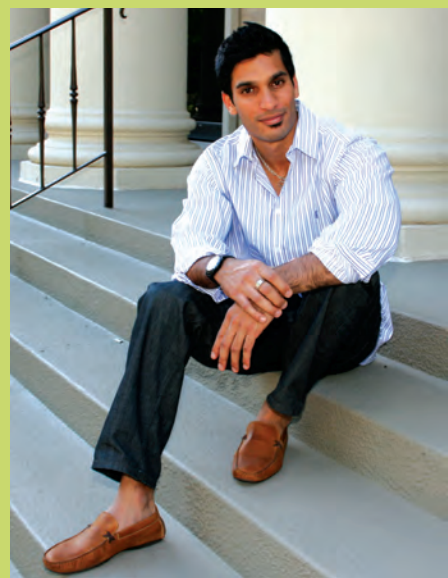
## More Faces, More Success

**Lewis Musoke** and **Dhruv “Bobby” Patel** attended high school together in Nairobi, Kenya. When Lewis began to look for a small college with good pre-medical preparation, he found Austin College. Then, he sold his friend on the idea of enrolling with him. The two soon were making their mark upon the campus community.

Both were selected as Sally Posey Leadership Scholars and became involved in various college organizations. Both considered it important to promote their own culture on campus through involvement with the Student International Organization, which they later served as president and vice president. They were pleased to discover that their peers were very knowledgeable about other cultures and respected their differences and embraced their commonalities.

Lewis, selected by his classmates to present the senior address, completed a major in biology and a minor in French and performed with the Austin College A Cappella Choir and Quartette. At Austin College, he benefitted from the support of the Mary and Clifford Grum Sponsored Leadership Scholarship. This fall, he will begin his medical degree at St. George’s University School of Medicine in Grenada of the West Indies. Considering specialization in infectious diseases, he eventually will return to Kenya to practice medicine.

Bobby found his niche in finance. He served as a student manager in the Williams Student Investment Fund, completed three internships in finance, and was a finance and chemistry tutor in the Academic Skills Center. He also spent a study abroad semester at the Manchester Business School in England, receiving the A.J. Carlson Endowed Scholarship for International Experience and Study. Selected to Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies, Bobby graduated magna cum laude, completing a major in international economics and finance and a minor in chemistry. His hard work paid off: he is employed with Goldman Sachs Specialty Lending. After training in New York City this summer, he will be in the firm’s Dallas, Texas, offices.



Austin College’s study abroad emphasis for students is well documented and regularly ranks in the top spot among peers for student participation.

Class of 2011 graduates **Rachel Dodd** and **Amy Kalmbach** certainly did their share to move the College to the top of the lists.

Rachel, who this spring received the College’s Henry Bucher Global Citizen Award, traveled to Xi’an, China, and to Prague, Czech Republic, for Model United Nations competitions; to Battambang, Cambodia, for a Global Outreach Fellowship service experience; to Dhaka, Bangladesh, for an internship at Grameen Bank; to Taiwan for January Term study; and to Muscat, Oman, for a study abroad semester.

Even in the U.S., the international relations major with a minor in religious studies had many global experiences through five additional semesters of Model UN involvement. She also was a Sally Posey Leadership Scholar in the Posey Leadership Institute and a Sara Bernice Moseley Scholar, served as captain of the women’s lacrosse club team, and was a Sallie Majors Religious Life Intern and took part in leading ACTivator youth ministry events.



Rachel is interested in completing internships during the next year as she completes the application process for graduate school in international relations. Eventually, she hopes to work in the human rights field, particularly relating to human trafficking.

Amy said the global emphasis of Austin College is what led her to attend—and by graduation, she had certainly traveled the globe. She spent a semester in study abroad at Vesalius College in Brussels, also working as the Policy Intern for the European Youth Forum; took intensive Arabic classes in Morocco during one January Term and studied Spanish in Argentina for another. She also spent 12 weeks in Thailand as a Global Outreach Fellow, serving through HELP International. Those were just her main stops. Each experience involved additional travel, adding to the total of 23 countries she visited during college.

The Sally Posey Leadership Fellow in the Posey Leadership Institute also was a regional volunteer coordinator for the Obama for America campaign in Ohio, served as a Sallie Majors Religious Life Intern, participated in Model United Nations competitions, was a member of the Service Station board, and led the campus chapter of Amnesty International. She also worked at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sherman.

Amy, a political science and French major with a minor in community service and policy, received the Hatton W. Sumners Scholarship in Political Science and the Lela Mae Currie and Marion Carol Currie Memorial Scholarship, as well as the Johnson-Pense Sponsored Moseley Scholarship.

The magna cum laude graduate will begin study this fall at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas for a degree in global policy studies with a focus in international development. She hopes to work in a non-governmental organization in promotion of cultural sustainability and development.

Both Amy and Rachel are members of Omega Zeta sorority. ▲



*Graduates Lewis Musoke and Bobby Patel, on opposite page left to right, and above, left to right, Rachel Dodd and Amy Kalmbach look toward to bright futures in which they hope to touch their worlds.*

## WEBXTRA:

More Faces of Success:

Jason Campbell  
Evan Coachman  
Odessa Hamidi  
Raquel Lima  
Katherine Masucci  
Frank McStay II  
Alex Ragland  
Courtney Reynolds  
Genny Richard  
Carolyn Stone  
Clayton Sublett

Fulbright Recipients: A Closer Look

# ghost light

*Tales of Mortimer, the Austin College theatre ghost, have been around for decades. So, when a group of alumni creep into Ida Green Theatre, sounds from elsewhere in the theatre easily are attributed to the old ghost. Instead, the alumni encounter four current students rehearsing scenes for a play. They begin to talk and soon the alumni are telling stories of Mortimer and their experiences in performances past. That scenario portrays the overall premise of Ghost Light: Theatre, Music, and a Ghost Called Mortimer, a musical revue that brought together alumni and current students to lead audiences through four decades of iconic music, plays, and performances at Austin College.*





The production was conceived by **Casey McClellan** and **Kim Powers**, both 1979 alumni. Since graduating, Casey has returned to campus more than 25 times to work with students and alumni on productions, including *Waiting for a Kiss* (written by Kim Powers) in 1994 and *Working* in 1999. “I have seen how the flow of energy, talent, and caring moves back and forth from current student to alumni, from future to past,” Casey said. “That enriches the individuals involved, enriches each audience member, and enriches the school. And I have been enriched personally to experience the transition from wonderfully new, fresh, and receptive undergraduates to knowledgeable and nostalgic alumni—the future becoming the past and informing the future. That’s the essence of education.”

The alumni involved with *Waiting for a Kiss* and *Working* had had more than 10 years to “recover” and in 2010, comments were beginning to pass among alumni that it was time to do something else at the College. Conversations began, ideas were tossed about, and before long, a plan took shape.

Kim wrote the play, and Casey directed the production that involved 15 current students and 25 alumni, representing Austin College performances since the opening of Ida Green Communication Center in 1972. **Marc Daniel** ’83 and **Scott Metelko** ’88 soon were brought in for their expertise: Scott to design and build the set; Marc to produce and coordinate logistics.

This was no backyard “let’s put on a show” idea, but a full-blown theatrical and musical production. So, who was going to bring the production to life? Once the call went out, alumni from around the country were signing up, joining their friends and former theatre cast members. Of course, these alumni have busy jobs and lives—and yet they were to stage a musical on campus? As astounding as it seems, they did indeed.

Many had returned to Ida Green Theatre before to be part of the cast and staff of *Waiting for a Kiss* and *Working*. Of course, in those days, casts were formed through letters and phone calls; this year Facebook allowed quick outreach to a broader range of individuals.

With a brother 12 years older who also was involved in theatre at Austin College, Kim grew up with the legend of Mortimer. As plans for a new production took shape, Kim said the idea came to him to use Mortimer as a device to pull together and tell the story of the history of Austin College theatre.

During the planning and production, the alumni realized that Mortimer is not the only ghost at Austin College. “Ghosts of all the characters from all the plays ever performed in Ida Green are there,” Kim said. “Those characters never leave the stage.” Ghosts, too, exist in the form of the young students the alumni once were, the interactions they shared, and in friends—including professors and classmates—who have died in the intervening years.

The weeks of preparation were extremely emotional for some of the alumni—and not just because of the exhausting schedule they maintained. “Theatre here meant so much to us,” Kim said. “This was our home and some of us are rediscovering that. We see now how precious life is.”

Too, the play included scenes about actual past experiences of alumni in the play. “A lot of realism is interwoven into the show and parts are very personal,” said **Carrie McLarty** ’81. “We used to do seven to eight shows a year here and then go to Mo Ranch and do more. Watching the set go up is familiar, and it’s a comfortable feeling to be back in this environment.”

The schedule was demanding. The creators of the project made several trips to campus from Homecoming 2010 until the April show. Auditions for current students were held in February; in April, Casey moved to campus for intensive work with the musicians and students. Alumni cast members across the country were assigned parts and sent music and scripts, expected to be prepared to finalize the production with only a few days’ rehearsal in Sherman. In the final week, several principal players came to Sherman for long days of rehearsal; many living in Dallas drove to Sherman each evening and returned to their jobs the next day. A final two days of rehearsal finally brought the full cast to campus.



The rehearsal schedule seems even tougher considering that, for most alumni, the weeks at Austin College were “vacation” time. Casey is the production manager of the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and founder of a business services consulting firm in New York City. Kim Powers is a writer and producer for *20/20* and other programs at ABC New York; Marc Daniel is an associate compliance officer and systems developer at AIG. Scott Metelko owns a set and stage design business in Orlando, Florida; **Cindy McNabb** '80 is a psychiatrist in Olympia, Washington; **Carrie McLarty** is a Texas administrative law judge in Houston. **Anne Groben** '86 is president of Sizzle Promotion in Dallas; **Sarah Lien Finnerty** '93 is a children's minister in Raleigh, North Carolina. The list goes on.

So why did they do it? Most who were asked that question had the same answers: love of theatre, love of friends, love of Austin College. “I don't always get to work with people with this level of commitment,” Scott said. “Everyone involved cares deeply about the project and all have removed their egos from the production.”

For Casey, the production was about the future and the past. “I owe a great debt to Austin College,” he said. “My years here opened my eyes and opened my mind. Theatre and music were major forces in that process. It is important to give back.”

Casey explained that as this show took shape, he saw another opportunity to give back: to show current students that they are part of a much larger history and to give them a chance to see into the future. “I also saw how alumni could see into the past, remember what we learned, and then share what we have learned with current students,” he said.

Kim said the production also was something of a belated welcome gift for President **Marjorie Hass**. “Though this is a tribute to the history of the College's theatre, it also points to the future and to future generations,” he said.

“To be back on stage with people I love is incredible,” Sarah Finnerty said. Her decision to come to campus was not based on what her role would be in the play. “What mattered was just the idea of being part of a community.”

But she didn't come simply for herself. “It's important for the current students to see where we've been and what we've become,” Sarah said, “to see where a liberal arts education can take you.”

Marc said when he was in college, the Theatre Department often brought in guest artists; he particularly remembered time spent with **Vern Sutton** '60. “We had that tradition as a way to meet alumni in the arts, and it is important to share that rich network of people with current students.” Marc added that since many question the value of an education in the humanities, it is important to understand that opportunities like directing or producing a play fundamentally are business management and have applications in every aspect of life.

Many of the alumni reprised roles they had in college productions, as Sarah did performing “It's Our Time” from *Merrily We Roll Along*. “Then I was a bright young college student, now I'm here as an alumna and I've come full circle. We're all facing the ghosts we have here.” ♦

#### WEBXTRA:

Photos, Cast Lists, Comments from Current Students





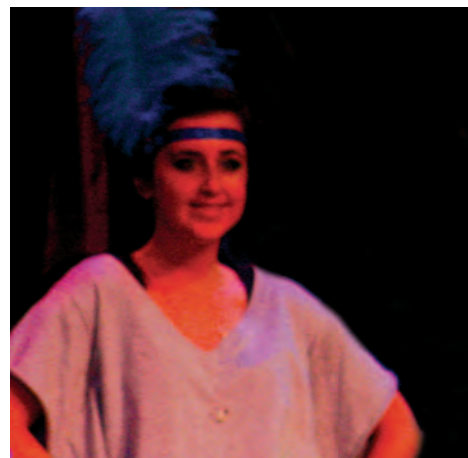
*Ghost Light* participants included, page 19, Chelsea Harrison '13, Anne Groben '86, and Polly Butler Harrison '95; page 20, at center, Casey McClellan '79 and, in black to his right, Kim Powers '79 were the guiding force for the production.

Pictured on this page, the principal actors, the full cast, and at bottom right, Lesley Wayler '11.

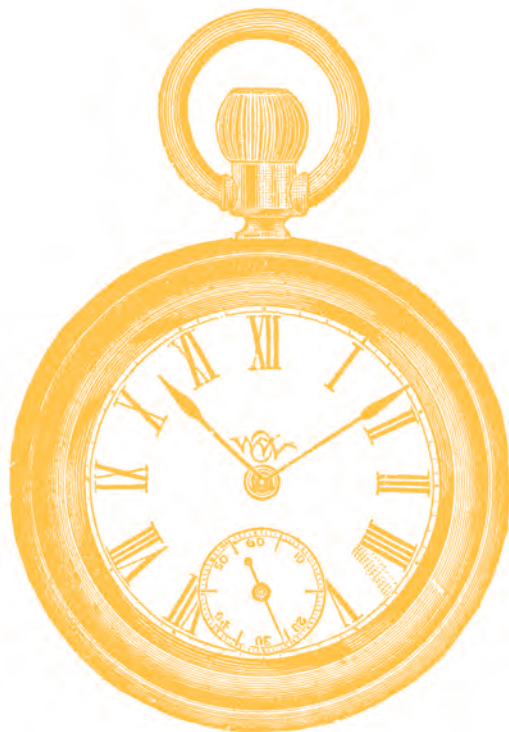


*A DVD recording of the production and souvenir program highlighting photos from four decades of productions in Ida Green Theatre are available for sale with all proceeds benefitting Austin College. To purchase materials, email Marc Daniel at [jmdorclm@me.com](mailto:jmdorclm@me.com).*

Current students, too, put many hours into the *Ghost Light* production. **Lesley Wayler '11**, who had never taken part in a theatre production, first was recruited to search the College Archives for photos of past theatre productions. Then she became dance captain. Soon her days were a blur of activity as she balanced rehearsals and other production obligations with an already full schedule. “*Ghost Light* was an experience like none other and revolutionized my life,” she said. Apparently so. She now is working as a production assistant with ABC in New York, thanks to the networking assistance of Kim Powers. Read more of Lesley’s comments online.



Professor of Physics **Larry Robinson** has been teaching Austin College students about mechanics, electronics, pendulums, optics, and the effects of forces upon systems for 40 years, but now one constant is moving him to retire—time.



ENDING



"I have really enjoyed teaching—I still enjoy it—but I have other things I'd like to work on," he said. "It's time."

Larry's interest in physics began long ago. "I took physics in high school and was sure that was what I wanted to do, and I never deviated," he said. "I enjoy the application of math to science."

After earning his bachelor's degree in physics, master's degree in nuclear science and engineering, and doctorate in physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Larry began looking for a place to begin his full-time teaching career in 1969. While completing his studies, he was a research and teaching assistant at VPI and spent two summers working as a physicist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. His search for a faculty position led him to Austin College.

"I was looking for a teaching position at a smaller institution. I thought it would be more comfortable and a better environment in which to teach," he said. "I liked the community atmosphere, small size, and colleagues at Austin College; it was a good fit."

Apparently. He remained at Austin College for the next 40 years, teaching classes such as "Electronics and Classical Mechanics," which was for more advanced students, and "Introduction to Modern Physics," open to students at all levels—and enjoying all of them. Though he spent his entire career at the College, his interests and involvements continued to evolve.

He took particular pleasure in courses with a lab aspect, and developed several new lab experiments in use at the College. "I've always enjoyed Mechanics—forces, looking at what a force can cause a system to do," he said.

His courses weren't confined to the physics lab. Larry and Professor of English **Carol Daeley** often talked about creating a course that would examine how Newton's optics related to 18th century literature and philosophy. Though the course never materialized, they were able to introduce the concepts in existing courses. Larry also worked with **Ricky Duhaime**, professor of music, to present a course on the physics of music.

Carol, who has been Larry's colleague for more than 35 of his 40 years at Austin College, said Larry was one of the first people she met at the College—in the beginning of a long friendship. "To Larry, physics explains the world. I think it puzzles him that others don't see that," she said. "When we worked together on *Heritage 44*, 'Models of Scientific Thought,' he was very good at developing ways to make science clear to the non-scientifically inclined. He has an incredible clarity of mind that I've always admired."

When Larry was in graduate school, lasers were just becoming available, and he became interested in lasers and holography, areas that led him into the study of optics. In the 1980s, he spent a sabbatical at the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester. He continued his interests in both areas and received a National Science

Foundation grant so that Austin College could purchase lasers and instrumentation that would allow him to create an optics course for his students.

Throughout Larry's Austin College career, he was recognized for his emphasis on his students. He was named the Donald McGregor Chair in Natural Sciences in 1992 and received the Austin College Excellence in Teaching Award in 2003. He served as dean of sciences and participated in numerous campus committees and efforts, including serving as sponsor of the Physics Society and several years as sponsor for Kappa Gamma Chi sorority.



But now he feels ready for more of his own pursuits. At the close of the spring term, he officially retired and was named professor emeritus of physics. In recent years, he has developed a new lab interest—the woodturning "lab," that is, using a lathe to carve wood into bowls and pieces of art. (*See a bit of his handiwork in the online magazine.*) He is looking forward to having time to spend in his workshop, something that was difficult while teaching at the College.

Retirement also will allow Larry to spend time traveling with his wife, Joyce. They are considering a move to Austin, Texas, to be closer to their children—and the grandchildren that bring a smile to his face. Joyce, a long-time high school teacher, left teaching a few years ago so is a little ahead of Larry in "perfecting" retirement, as he put it.

He's anxious to catch up. 🍷



## in full bloom: lives of success

*Austin College alumni certainly can be found in prestigious career roles around the world. Many of those, however, do not base success on the level of promotion they have attained, but on the degree of satisfaction they enjoy. And that satisfaction sometimes has little connection to financial compensation. Ask members of the Austin College Class of 2011 their criteria for future success and, in one form or another, a large percentage of their answers will come down to “doing enjoyable work and being able to benefit others.” That perspective is in agreement with a basic value of the Austin College experience. “Our responsibility is to prepare engaged citizens committed to making the*





by Megan Kinkade and Vickie Kirby

*world a better place,” said Austin College President **Marjorie Hass**. “Alumni take their places in the top rungs of government, business, and other professions while holding to the values of service, respect, and public good instilled at Austin College.” Over the next several issues, Austin College Magazine will offer a look at “successful” alumni. They may be at the top of their field; they may be just setting out. Perhaps they’re recovering from setbacks or exploring new passions in retirement. For some, success might mean showing up every day and doing their best work with a smile, without recognition or acclaim, but making the world a better place.*

# Working for the Cause

**Helen Lowman** '88 really does want world peace.

She's been sharing cultures and experiences that promote global peace nearly all her adult life, much of the time as a member of the Peace Corps staff.

This year, the Peace Corps is commemorating 50 years of service that had its beginnings with John F. Kennedy challenging college students to work for the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries around the globe.

Many years later, Helen accepted that challenge by becoming a Peace Corps volunteer after graduating from Austin College in 1988. Since that experience, she has held a number of Peace Corps and non-Peace Corps jobs. (Peace Corps employees can work only five years, then must be away at least five years before returning to the organization—designed to keep individuals and ideas fresh.)

In July 2010, Helen took on what she calls “the best job in Washington” when she was appointed by President Barack Obama as the Peace Corps regional director for Europe, the Mediterranean, and Asia.

## BEGINNINGS:

As a high school student, Helen spent a summer in Chile as an exchange student and became aware of a world far beyond the small town and cattle ranch she had known.

At Austin College, her mentor **Shelly Williams**, now professor emeritus of political science, guided her to consider international studies. “That was clearly the right way to go,” Helen said. “I have stayed in my study area my entire career.”

Helen spent her junior year of college in a study abroad program in Madrid, Spain. While there, she decided that she wanted to join the Peace Corps. Accepted, she spent nearly three years in a rural village in Thailand where she taught English to middle school students.

She lived on the school campus in a house with two Thai teachers, took cold bucket showers and did laundry at the well, taught school, interacted with students, and planned her next lessons. She visited with other teachers and wrote letters to friends and family. “Life was very simple,” Helen said.

“My experiences opened my eyes to the way the majority of the world lives,” Helen said. “I realized how fortunate we are in the United States—as well as our responsibilities to the rest of the world.”

## NEXT STEPS:

Back in the U.S., Helen completed a master's degree at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. She then worked for Biotechna Environmental in London for one year, then took a position with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

A chance to go back to the Peace Corps arose and she became associate director of environmental education for China. After 18 months, she became the country director for China, serving as liaison to the embassy ambassador and having oversight responsibility for all program operations in that country: administration, programming and training, safety and security, and medical. As country director she also traveled much of the time, visiting volunteers and local partners. While she was country director, the SARS crisis necessitated suspension of service in China, and Helen became country director for Mongolia for one year while negotiating to reopen the programs in China, then returning there to work through her fifth year.

The next five years, Helen was vice president for intercultural education and quality at AFS Intercultural Programs/USA in New York, which maintains the world's largest high school exchange program.



*Helen Lowman, center, conducts a Peace Corps volunteer site visit in Morocco earlier this year.*



### TODAY:

Last July, Helen got the call for the job she had wanted for years: Peace Corps regional director for Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia. Peace Corps programs operate in 20 countries in the region, and by the end of June, Helen hoped to visit all of them. “The country directors are in charge of operations,” she said. “My job is advocating for my countries with the State Department, representing the interests of the posts, and letting the senior team at the Peace Corps know what is going on.”

She also speaks by phone with country directors almost every day—quite a logistical challenge. The region between Morocco and the Philippines includes 17 time zones—not to mention the additional zones between there and Helen’s Washington, D.C., office. When she makes a morning call to the Philippines, that country director already has gone home and put the children to bed.

Logistics and long hours of travel don’t dampen Helen’s enthusiasm for her work. “This is the best job I’ve ever had,” Helen said. “I loved being country director, but I love what I do now. Peace Corps is a great organization and everyone who works here believes passionately in what we do. When I wake up in the morning, I want to go to work and

I’m not looking at the clock waiting for the end of the day.”

When the day does end, Helen is becoming acquainted with the “amazing city” she now calls home, enjoying Kennedy Center presentations and museums and other sites. But even at day’s end, her work is with her as she is never far from her phone, and every ring brings momentary apprehension of a difficulty in her region.

### THE FUTURE:

Of course, Helen is always planning. “There are several countries in my region that have expressed interest in having a Peace Corps presence, which I would love to see,” she said. “There are some countries where I think we really can make a difference.”

Given enough five-year work periods, Helen may carry the Peace Corps message of friendship totally around the globe one day.



## No Bones About It

George Zoys '91 is one of the best in his craft—no bones about it.

Actually, he’s all about bones. George is one of Dallas’ top orthopedic surgeons; he’s been included in *D Magazine*’s Best Doctors list five times.

As an orthopedic surgeon, he focuses on repairing bones and joints. He performs hip replacements, sports medicine, joint surgery, and arthroscopic knee surgeries.

“With orthopedics, you see something broken, you fix it. You see the results right away,” he said. “And it’s fun working with saws and hammers,” he added with a laugh.

George came to Austin College because of its reputation as good preparation for medical school. His older brother had attended, and the College “had an excellent reputation, especially for medicine.”

“The curriculum, if you were trying to get into medicine, was one that required a lot of studying and discipline. In order to get through it, you had to have certain habits, like hard work and staying up late studying. When you went to medical school residency, there wasn’t that much of a change,” he said. “I think that having strenuous course loads and a hard curriculum gets you attuned for what it’s like in graduate school and medical school.”

He majored in chemistry and participated in the Chemistry Society, the Physics Society, and intramural sports, before going on to medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. He completed a residency in orthopedic surgery there, at one of the top orthopedic surgery hospitals in the country.

Then he was selected for a fellowship in Australia—where he provided orthopedic support for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. “If someone was injured and needed surgery, we did it. Gymnasts had

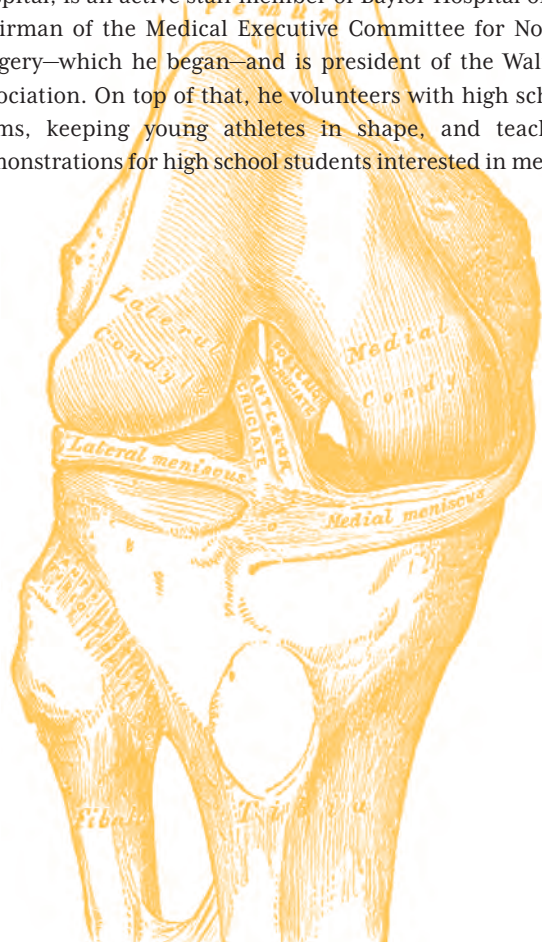


knee injuries. One of the equestrians broke his ankle, but most of the time it was just hanging out and watching them,” he said. “It was fun. It wasn’t hard work, but it was fun seeing all these finely-tuned athletes from all over the world. We all volunteered to cover—we didn’t get paid for it, of course—and I was there learning all the subspecialties, and it was awesome.”

After his time with the Olympians, George participated in three fellowships in Australia, learning subspecialties in sports medicine, shoulder orthopedics, and foot and ankle surgery. In short, he is highly specialized in many subjects.

Then he came back to North Texas and joined a practice in Garland. He has grown that

single practice to two facilities, has staff privileges at Lake Point Hospital, is an active staff member of Baylor Hospital of Garland, is chairman of the Medical Executive Committee for North Garland Surgery—which he began—and is president of the Walnut Medical Association. On top of that, he volunteers with high school football teams, keeping young athletes in shape, and teaches cadaver demonstrations for high school students interested in medicine.



“I think that there are a lot of people that can do good work, and operate well for one type of surgery, but what sets me apart is my desire to be among those who really go the extra mile to care for their patient, be nice to their patient, and be available in the middle of the night. If I’m on-call, I’ll be there. I try to be as available as possible, for patients and other docs who need me. I try to volunteer in the community and go the extra mile, call my patients at home,” he said.

In his practice, George can treat “anyone from 2 to 102.” He works with professional athletes and “weekend warriors,” young athletes and grandparents. But he aims to treat everyone well.

“I remember this old sponsor I used to work with during my residency,” George said. “He used to say, ‘Treat everyone like they own a Cadillac. Your patients put their trust in you, and you just want to do the best you can.’”

## More Successes

When the 2010 Top Doctors list was announced in November, Dr. George Zoys was just one of the Austin College alumni on the list. Other 'Roo MDs named are listed below along with their specialty. The list of 705 best doctors was compiled with votes from within the medical community, which includes more than 7,100 doctors. Anesthesiology and other specialties in which the patient has little or no say in selection are not included on the list, nor is the field of pediatrics, which has its own “Best” list.

- Dr. Don Read '64, Colon/Rectal Surgery
- Dr. Karen Tribble Lund '81, Dermatology
- Dr. James Richards '71, Gynecology/Obstetrics
- Dr. Paul Neubach '71, Internal Medicine
- Dr. Rick Waldo '70, Internal Medicine
- Dr. Kelly Will '80, Pain Management
- Dr. Timothy Zoys '85, Pain Management
- Dr. Michael Blackmon '91, Pulmonary Medicine
- Dr. Chris Bell '94, General Surgery
- Dr. George Zoys '91, Orthopedics/Orthopedic Surgery

If alumni included in “The Best Doctors in Dallas 2010” are missing from this list, please write [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu) with details. Alumni physicians named to “best” lists in other cities or other specialties also are asked to email their name, class year, and specialty so that the Austin College list of top alumni physicians keeps growing.





## The Poetry of Living

**RonAmber Deloney's** career as a poet began in first grade, when she performed her first dramatic reading of a poem, Shel Silverstein's "Boa Constrictor," for a school presentation.

She continued writing and performing poetry throughout high school and college, frequently performing in the dining hall or at Black Expressions club presentations. She studied English and German, living for a year in the German wing of the Jordan Family Language House. It wasn't until RonAmber studied German in Vienna, Austria, that she delved deeper into poetry as more than a sometime-hobby.

"Poetry is always a part of my life story, so for me, poetry is important because it still remains that one thing that hasn't been bruised by hype and media. It had its moment on Broadway, and there are attempts to commercialize it, but it's still that thing that is kind of underground," she said. "There's a certain sort of intimacy that remains with poetry that I find very important to the arts."

She became particularly interested in slam poetry, two poets reading their original poetry in a back-and-forth competition. When she returned from studying in Vienna, she talked with her mentor, Jim Knowlton of the German faculty, about the slam poetry interest. He recommended she apply for a Fulbright grant, and before she knew it, she was in Berlin, Germany, to study the slam poetry scene. Her 10-month Fulbright became a 16-month term of study, and she ended up staying in Berlin.

"I really just was in the city, meeting people, going to different events, observing the scene there, and then I recognized there weren't a lot of people of color performing. I got involved with some organizations and we started to host our own open nights. Then I started hosting my own slam poetry nights. I did that for the three and a half years I was there," RonAmber said.

RonAmber also recorded a spoken word album, *Of Brickwalls and Breezeways*, with The New Night Babies, a group she helped form while in Berlin. Their music includes original poetry and lyrics, hip-hop rhythms, and often is performed in German and French as well as

*Oh, I'm being eaten  
By a boa constrictor,  
A boa constrictor,  
A boa constrictor,  
I'm being eaten by a boa constrictor,  
And I don't like it—one bit.  
(Well, what do you know?  
It's nibblin' my toe.*



# The Man of Steel

One day in 1984, **Bill Courtney** '83 offered to answer the phones at his student-worker job at Southern Methodist University's career center so that his coworkers could have a break. He took one call that would set the path for his life.

“I got a call from a guy with a typical east Texas accent, and he wanted to place a job. I told him ‘I can’t help you, but they can help when they get back.’ But he was very insistent,” Bill said. The caller asked what Bill did; Bill explained he was studying for his master’s degree in business administration. The caller told him he would double Bill’s wage and asked him to come down for an interview by 5 p.m.

“He said, ‘you might be missing the opportunity of a lifetime,’ so I said, ‘I guess it can’t hurt,’” Bill explained. Bill went to interview at a small manufacturing company in Dallas, and accepted the job. He later found out he had helped the caller, the owner of a construction materials company, win a \$5 bet—that he could hire an MBA student by 5 p.m. that day.

Within six months, Bill received a big promotion: heading up a new production facility in Ohio. He moved, and shepherded the 25-person construction supply company into the country's No. 1 producer of steel framing materials, with 13 facilities and more than 1,400 employees. The CEO of ClarkDietrich Building Systems since 1985, Bill sometimes is known as "the king of studs."

His products are in buildings around the world, including residential housing, hospitals, Yankee Stadium, and the Dallas Cowboys Stadium. ClarkDietrich steel frames will be used in the new World Trade Center in New York, a project in which Courtney is excited to be included. "We'll be the piece right under 'Never Forget,'" he said.

Bill, the son of missionaries, grew up in Guatemala, and had thought he would pursue a career in international business. “But that isn’t what happened,” he said. The liberal arts background gained at Austin College allowed him to be flexible when opportunity called. “Austin College taught me to be very open-minded and look at any event as an opportunity,” he said. “Austin College opened my mind, and, it’s very true, it taught me how to think and be a well-balanced person.”

"I was a scholarship and financial aid kid at Austin College," Bill said, paying for his education through work study, loans, and scholarship awards. Today, Bill and his wife, **Patty Manning-Courtney '87**, contribute to Austin College in what Bill termed "a kind of pay-it-forward way," creating the Manning-Courtney Family Sponsored Founders Scholarship. They also have made gifts toward the new IDEA Center and are part of the Kangaroo Housing consortium that is making the new junior and senior housing available for the fall.



Bill greatly credits Austin College with his success, so much so that he modeled his company's core values after those he learned at the College: do the right thing, look for creative solutions, embrace positive energy and teamwork, and—very important to a liberal arts education—have a balanced life.

“Balanced life” is a core value of Bill's company. The company leadership doesn't want employees to live to work, but to work to live. That doesn't mean we don't want them to work hard and be committed to their jobs, Bill said, but living each segment of life fully brings positive energy and outcomes to every other segment. “We use that value to recruit and maintain well-rounded employees, who are positive, energetic, and creative people.”

Success, Bill said, comes down to two important elements: passion and progress. “I'm just as excited today, 26 years later, about walking into work as the first day I arrived.” But Bill believes just being passionate is not enough; it's important to leave the world a better place. “That's where progress comes in—for me what's important is to improve the industry and this company and to make things better for the people who work here.”

Being a good father and husband is foundational for Bill; life in the family's Cincinnati home also keeps him very busy. He and his wife, a physician, have three children—a daughter in elementary school and sons in middle school and high school. Between his job, involvement in his industry association, his children's schools and school foundation, and their church, Bill has a fulfilling life and career. “When you find yourself at the end of your life, you want to be surrounded by friends and family,” he said. “I tell my kids to invest themselves in that.”

He and his wife have been “recruiting” their sons to think about Austin College. Their years at the College provided a pretty good start for Bill and Patty on their lives of success. Passing on the tradition may be one more way to pay it forward. 📌

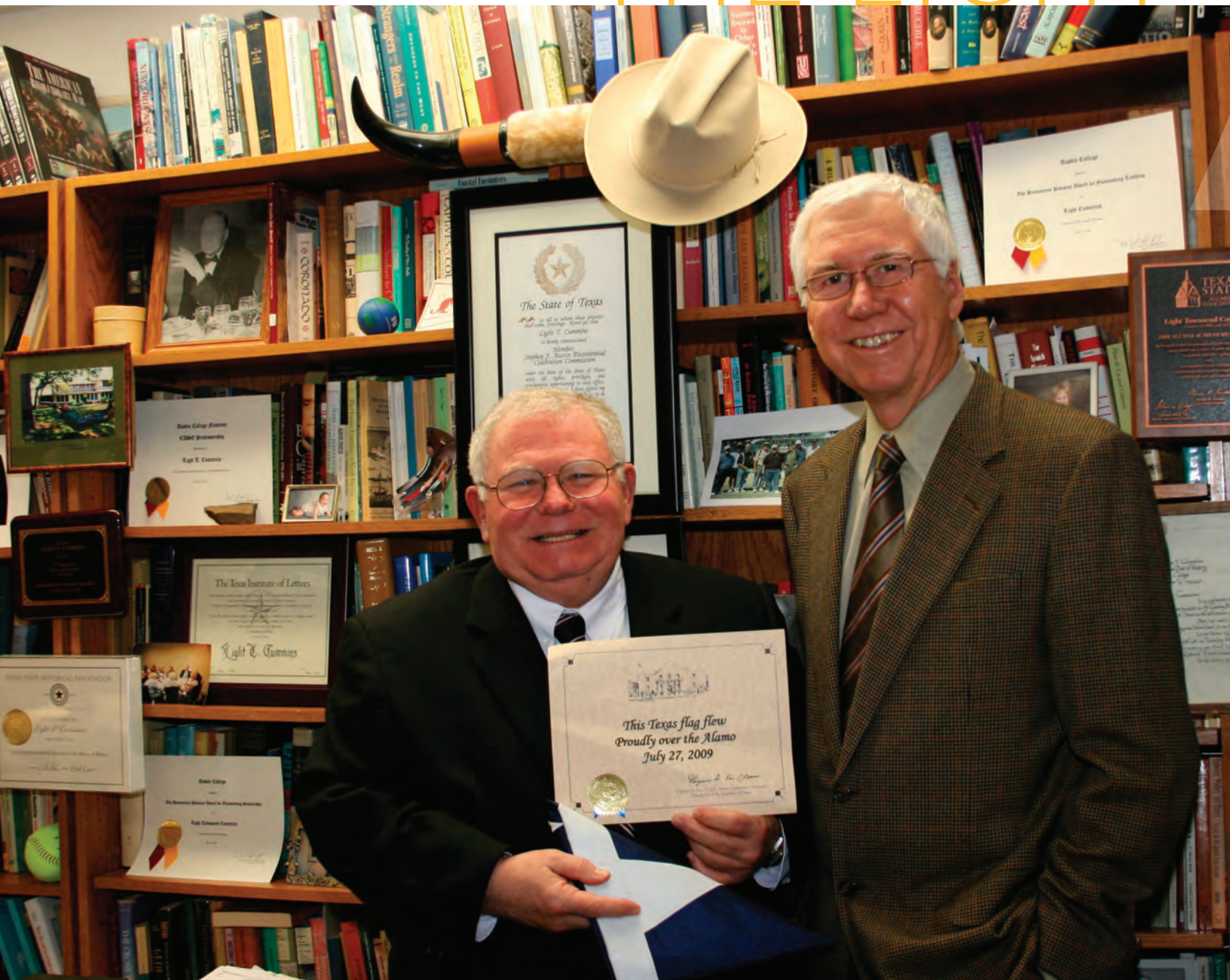


**Patty Manning-Courtney '87**, shown here with Bill, certainly is another successful alumna of Austin College (and a 2009 Distinguished Alumni honoree). After graduating first in her class at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, she began work in pediatrics at the Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders. In 1998, she helped launch and became the director of The Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and continues in that role today.

■ Alumni with unique careers, out-of-the-ordinary twists in their career path, or other interesting stories to tell, please write [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu) with the highlights.



# THE LIGHT



*Light Cummins poses in his very historical office with Mike Imhoff, vice president for Academic Affairs.*



# SHINES FOR TEXAS

Ask **Light Cummins** nearly any question about Texas history—then sit back and enjoy the answer. Questions could go on all day, and still Light would have answers, providing little known facts and stories, all in the rapid-fire, raconteur style that Light has honed to an art form.

Light, the Guy M. Bryan, Jr., Chair of American History at Austin College, has told amazing historical tales for decades. In the 33 years he has been a member of the Austin College faculty, he has taught and inspired hundreds of students, written several books, received numerous professional honors, and delivered many distinguished and entertaining presentations.

Appointed in May 2009 to a two-year stint as State Historian of Texas by Texas Governor Rick Perry, Light gathered even more stories. The appointment as State Historian may have been the role for which Light had been rehearsing all his life. His assignment: to encourage the teaching of Texas history and to enhance Texans' knowledge of the state's history and heritage—in essence, discovering and sharing history—just what he loves to do.

Austin College celebrated Light's contributions to history as State Historian in April. During one session, Light shared "Travels with the State Historian of Texas"—and travel he did.

"In these two years, I have traveled nearly 40,000 miles by car in my role as Texas Historian—then add in air travel," he said. "I've been amazed by the geographic diversity of Texas. I've been to probably 75 percent of the counties in Texas—and never been as both hot and cold as during the last two years!"

Light said the experience was fascinating and life-changing. "I've been to the largest cities in Texas and to towns too small for stoplights," he said. "It's been a remarkable education on Texas and what Texas is today. I have met thousands of people; mostly all are hardworking, honest, God-fearing people who get up every day focused on doing the right thing."

He maintained a blog chronicling his activities as the State Historian, some of which were ceremonial as he represented the State of Texas at history-related events. He gave at least 100 speeches across the state, ranging from formal addresses in hotel ballrooms containing several thousand people, to sitting in a small circle of chairs chatting with members of a county historical

group. One of his favorites was his April 2010 San Jacinto Day address to a large assembly in a Houston country club ballroom, as he sat on the stage and saw all the Texas public personalities sitting in his audience.

Light visited schools, talked to elementary and secondary school students, trained hundreds of teachers, and worked with the State Preservation Board and the Texas Historical Commission on monuments, memorials, and statue installations.

He did find one area that was not perhaps his expertise. Serving as historical advisor for a Texas Historical Commission archeological excavation in south Texas on what had been a working plantation in the 1830s, Light was allowed to do a bit of field work. He shortly was advised he should "stick to history."

One of Light's favorite activities was visiting archives, museums, and libraries around the state, meeting the staffs and listening to their comments about Texas history. He also routinely answered the queries of newspaper, radio, and television reporters, as well as staffs of politicians and legislators, looking for sources and details of Texas history. He wrote magazine articles and contributed to a newspaper column that addresses various aspects of the state's history.

In fact, he completed so many interviews, he sometimes lost track. Light said that in January he was listening to KRLD radio when the announcer mentioned he would be airing an interview with a "very distinguished historian." Light, quite interested to hear the interview and the historian, was surprised when his own voice came on the air.

During his day of celebration, many historical professionals and alumni gathered to pay tribute. That day, Light told his audience, "I have stood on the far southeastern corner of Texas at Sabine Pass and looked across at Louisiana. I have been to the farthest reaches of the Texas Panhandle and looked across at Oklahoma. I have been to the Rio Grande and seen Mexico across the river, while I have been to El Paso and looked west to see New Mexico. I have straddled State Line Avenue in Texarkana with one foot in Texas and the other in Arkansas. Now, as my term as State Historian draws to a close, I am left with the memories of a lifetime." ▲

## WEBXTRA:

- ☞ Cummins' Speech and Photos from the Celebration
- ☞ KERA *Think* Podcast



COURTESY PHOTOS



# Homesick Texan

by Megan Kinkade

From the spicy to the succulent, the savory to the sweet, **Lisa Fain '91** has a taste for it all. And she shares her discoveries—and, more importantly, her recipes—online, where she is known as “The Homesick Texan.”

Lisa originally moved to New York to pursue a writing career. Now, she is a full-time blogger and cookbook writer, thanks to her blog, [www.homesicktexasan.blogspot.com](http://www.homesicktexasan.blogspot.com).

She began blogging in 2005, mostly for her family, but she started cooking much earlier.

“It’s interesting: no one in my family is a professional cook, but we all love to cook. It’s just something we do a lot. I think I took one class on ‘how to use your knife,’ and that was the only cooking class I’ve ever taken,” she said.

As an Austin College student, the English major started teaching herself to cook, making cheap meals for groups of hungry classmates. But she felt drawn to writing, so after college she lived in Houston and Austin, trying on different writing careers.

In 1995, she packed up and moved to New York City, and again found her love of cooking. By day, she climbed the ranks of the corporate ladder at *Advertising Age*, eventually becoming an associate editor; at night, she hungered for Texas flavors.

“One of the first things I noticed was that Texas food just couldn’t be found. My friends and I would try to cook the foods we loved from Texas, because we just couldn’t get it anywhere,” Lisa said.

But even cooking from scratch had its obstacles.

“For me, it was chili powder. It was a really basic ingredient, but I couldn’t find it in New York, or if I could, it wasn’t very flavorful. I live in Manhattan, so for me it meant exploring beyond Manhattan. There are some strong thriving Mexican communities, and there I would find their groceries with dried chiles and things like that. It meant going back to basics with the ingredients I did find here,” she said. “The other thing was hot sauce; the only things you could find were brands from Vermont or Connecticut, and you could drink a whole bottle without getting any heat. So I started making my own salsa.”

She had grown up in Dallas and Houston, spending summers in north Texas on her grandparents’ farms in Grayson and Collin counties. As a result, she relishes Texas flavors from Cajun boudin to corny dogs, kolaches to quesadillas.

“I think what’s cool about Texas is how diverse it is; every place in Texas has its own unique charm that makes it special and cool.”

In short, Lisa had a lot to miss, even as she loved her new home. “It sounds cliché, but it is an exciting place. You go on the street and there is always something happening. There’s so much art and theatre and film and music, and it’s almost overwhelming. The bounty of culture here is what attracted me,” she said.

It was the discovery of New York’s high-speed culture that made Lisa’s love for Texas’ slower pace and how-do atmosphere blossom, and in September 2005, she officially became The Homesick Texan. She launched her blog to stay in touch with her Texas-based family, and began documenting her Texas-in-New York meals.

Beside her passions for writing and cooking, Lisa loves photography. “I would go on vacation and I’d come home and show my pictures, and over half would be of the meals I ate. The blog just seemed like a good place to combine those passions.”

By the next year, her luscious food photos and mouth-watering recipes had begun to draw a following. She began posting more regularly and with a stronger food focus, but she kept the story aspect. She writes about her life, her family, and, of course, Texas.

In her blog post about chicken fried steak, for example, she writes: “It’s been said there are three food groups in Texas: Tex-Mex, barbecue, and chicken-fried steak. And as chicken-fried steak is also known as the (unofficial) state dish of Texas, I can’t think of anything more appropriate to serve on March 2, Texas Independence Day.”

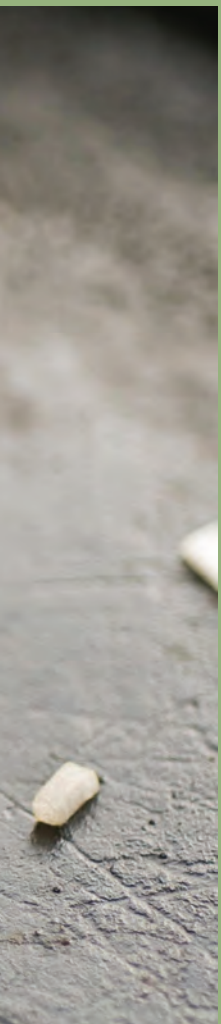
Lisa constantly tests recipes and researches Texas facts to enrich her blog. Her grandparents’ Texas farms both have existed since the 1840s, and her family has kept many primary documents. She flavors her posts with updated versions of old family recipes—and original innovations. She explains the Spanish meaning of *al carbon* for tacos al carbon—thanks in part to her study of Spanish while at Austin College—and the mystery of whether an old recipe was buttermilk or chess pie.

Her loyal online following and never-ending list of recipes landed Lisa a book deal, and in mid-September 2011, Hyperion Books will release *The Homesick Texan Cookbook*.

“Two-thirds of the cookbook will be new; 50 recipes will be old favorites from the blog, but 100 haven’t been on the blog,” she said.

She’s keeping the blog active—she publishes a recipe a week, and tests one to two new recipes a day. In May 2010, she was able to quit her day job and become a full-time Texas food writer, both for her blog and her cookbook. And she’s hoping this book won’t be the last.

“When I started, I was afraid it would be really finite—that as soon as I covered cheese enchiladas once, I would run out of material. But there’s no shortage of recipes,” Lisa said. “Texas is a very rich field to plow.” 🌮



# Top Athletes Are Top Scholars

Top athletes **Austin Light** '11 and **Kaitlin Elledge** '11, winners of the Pete Cawthon Outstanding Male Athlete and Gene Day Outstanding Female Athlete Awards, are evidence of the Austin College emphasis on true scholar-athletes as they also were recognized as the Bo Miller Scholar Male and Female Athletes, the senior athletes with the highest overall grade average.

Cawthon Award winner Austin Light, a four-year letter winner and three-year starter on the Kangaroo football team, was one of the most decorated football players in recent Austin College history. A three-time All-SCAC performer, including a First Team All-Conference selection this year, Austin was named among the top offensive linemen in the nation as part of the Preseason D3 Senior Classic All-Star Watch List. He led the 'Roos as a team captain and served on the Student Athlete Advisory Council. Austin also participated in the National Division 3 All-Star Game.

Also successful off the field, Austin completed his degree in three and a half years while earning ESPN Academic All-District First Team honors this season. He also was one of 10 Texas college scholar-athletes recognized this spring at the third annual National Football Foundation Gridiron Club of Dallas banquet at Cowboys Stadium.

A business administration major, Austin received Austin College's Thomas Edgar and Kathryn Heard Craig Fellowship in Business Administration and Economics and was a manager in the Williams Student Investment Fund, as well as a member of Pi Alpha Psi fraternity. The magna cum laude graduate also completed a minor in media studies.

Austin plans to attend law school in fall 2012, and looking to his future said, "I aspire to never stop learning and to try and better myself by never letting opportunities pass me by. I strive to be an entrepreneur who is involved in many different aspects of my community. To quote *The Departed*, 'I don't want to be a product of my environment; I want my environment to be a product of me.'"

Kaitlin Elledge, recipient of the Gene Day Award, was a four-year starter for the Austin College women's soccer team. She finished her career as one of the top goalkeepers in the history of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

A three-time All-SCAC honoree, this season Kaitlin was named First Team All-SCAC after leading the conference by a wide margin, with only eight goals allowed, and attaining her career boast of a goals-against average of 0.78, the eighth-best average in SCAC history. This season she had 10 shutouts, and also earned recognition as an ESPN Academic All-District and NSCAA Academic All-Region honoree.

Kaitlin earned many honors beyond the athletic arena, including induction into Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national honor societies. Graduating summa cum laude with a business administration major and a Spanish minor, Kaitlin was selected to Sigma Delta Pi national honor society in Spanish and earned Honors in Spanish, completing in Spanish a senior thesis examining various short works of contemporary Spanish theatre.

Her thesis combined Spanish with her love of theatre, something she also pursued at Austin College, involved in a number of theatre productions, including acting as stage manager for the spring production of *Ghost Light*. She also was selected to membership in Alpha Psi Omega national honor society for students in drama.

During her Austin College career, Kaitlin received the Grace Collins and Will Collins Scholarship in Business Economics, the Charles F. Richardson III International Studies Scholarship, and the John Peyton and Mary Louise Shoap Fellowship in Modern Languages.

Even with her busy sports schedule, Kaitlin managed to study internationally, spending a January Term in Brazil and Uruguay and a semester abroad in Seville, Spain, taking advantage of that opportunity to travel throughout Europe. She also completed internships in accounting at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and in investment management at Southwest Securities, as well as multiple summer internships as a production assistant and design intern at StageWorks.

Following graduation, Kaitlin set off to study in Spain for the summer. She plans to work for a few years, then pursue an MBA. She hopes eventually to become the CEO of a major corporation or own her own business.



## WEBXTRA:

- 🔗 Spring Sports Season Overviews
- 🔗 2011 Athletics Awards Winners



# New Golden 'Roos



*Golden 'Roos from years past and Class of 1961 alumni, joined by President Marjorie Hass and Larry Hass, stopped reminiscing long enough for a photo. Though they didn't move into perfectly defined rows (a rowdy bunch!), this identification should allow fellow alumni to identify those gathered. Names with no year are members of the Class of 1961. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Mary Lou Darter Lueb '48, Carol Wright, Tom Goza, Peggy Silha Ritzer '49, Frances Beckham King '51, Barbara Pent '54, Lasandra Fagg Miller, Bo Miller; second row, Colleen Jaco Able '48, Mae Knox Burton '51, David Duncan, Mike Mitchell, Larry Hass, Kay Jack Bones, Judi Pogue, Lois Wilder Groves, Burt Groves, Ace Wright; third row, Bettye Green Clayton '48, R.C. Harmon '50, Priscilla Abbott '60, D.A. Sharpe, Marjorie Hass, Anna Doggett Cannon, Carol Lindley Gessner, John Purcell, Robert Rehmet, Lyndon Taylor '51; fourth row, David Fox '57, Clyde Hall '47, Nancy Gracy Jones '60, Charlotte Tucker Arnold '60, Susie Jackson Chapman, Jean Eberts Withers, Jean May Thomas, Charles Hendricks; and back row, Ed Dewees '54, Ira Anderson '58, Larry Uland, Bob Landolt David Berkebile, John Ed Withers, Jody Lawrence, Marvin Arnold '58, and Lindy Cannon '58. Below, Don and Barbara Whitehead Kiser, both '59, pose with their granddaughter Anna Covington '11.*



The Class of 1961 graduated 50 years ago this May and 28 members of the class gathered for a weekend of celebration and their induction to the Golden 'Roos during Commencement 2011. Several who already had achieved Golden 'Roo status joined them for the fun.

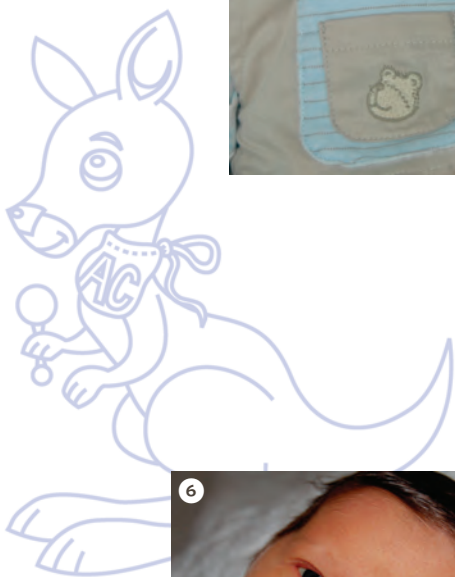
## WEBXTRA:

"Walk Down Memory Lane" Reminiscences

## CONNECT TO AUSTIN COLLEGE



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# Joey's Corner

7 Scott and **Julia Johnson Davis** '97 had a daughter, Charlotte Julene Davis, on July 24, 2010.

5 **Laura McFerrin** '98 and her partner, Deanna Hogan, are the parents of Grayson Myles McFerrin-Hogan, born December 21, 2010.

Jackson Koppenol Powell was born December 15, 2010, to Jonathan and **Camille LeBron Powell** '98. Jackson joins his sister Lily at home in Little Rock, Arkansas, where Camille is an associate pastor at Second Presbyterian Church.

8 **Joseph** '00 and **Delynn Davidson Fox** '03 had a son, Tiago, on January 1, 2011.

2 A son, Eirik Joseph, was born on September 21, 2010, to **David** and **Giselle Finne Gafford**, both '00. The family lives in Dallas, Texas.

1 **Joshua** '01 and **Amy Poling Sutherlun** '00 welcomed their third child, Josiah John, on September 28, 2010. The family, including siblings Serena and Asher, lives in Huntington, West Virginia, where Amy and Joshua are in ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

9 Camden Lawrence King was born on January 5, 2011, to Corley and **Danielle Seaman King** '02. The family lives in Forney, Texas.

4 Ryan and **Shannon Slate Matson** '02 welcomed a son, Kellen Joseph, on September 9, 2010. Shannon is a property manager with Morguard Revenue Properties and also serves as president of the Mobile Bay Area Apartment Association. Ryan recently was selected for promotion to Lt. Commander and is an instructor for the HH-65 at ATC Mobile. The family lives in Mobile, Alabama.

**Grace (Nworie) Pokoo-Aikins** '02 and her husband, Anthony, welcomed a baby girl, Abigail, in April 2010. Grace received her doctorate in chemical engineering in August 2010 from Texas A&M University and is an application engineer with Cambridge Environmental Technologies.

3 Adelyn Claire was born on July 24, 2010, to **Jordan** and **Donnice King Michel** both '04. The family lives in Dallas where Jordan works as an energy efficiency consultant for Geavista Group, and Donnice works as a genetic counselor for Children's Medical Center.

6 **Henry** and **Emily Richardson Owen** both '05 welcomed their first son, Jack Henry, on December 28, 2010. Emily serves as the associate pastor for Matthews Presbyterian Church in Matthews, North Carolina. Henry serves as local outreach coordinator for Covenant Presbyterian Church and as the garden coordinator for Friendship Trays in Charlotte.



Austin College Magazine is printed, with extra online material, in Summer and Winter, and published online only in Spring and

Fall. Emails will announce the availability of the online-only issues. Want more regular news through the monthly e-newsletter? Sign up to receive the newsletter or the magazine availability emails at [www.austincollege.edu/subscribe](http://www.austincollege.edu/subscribe)



Head cheerleader Joanne Berglund Dickey '64 and Katy (Jeff Scott) lead the team. Joanne created the first Katy suit.

## Calling all Former 'Roo Mascots

Austin College will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Katy 'Roo at Homecoming 2011. Alumni who served as the 'Roo mascot during the past 50 years or who have stories to share about Katy are asked to contact Sue Snider at 903.813.2192 or [ssnider@austincollege.edu](mailto:ssnider@austincollege.edu) about their years "in the suit" or other mascot stories.

60

**Dan Page** is the author of an illustrated children's book, *I've Lost My First Tooth*, and was one of the featured writers to participate in "Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature," held at the Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts, in December 2010.

66

**Sheryl Stice Ross** is director of the Pediatric Emergency and Trauma Center at National Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. ■ **Robert C. Dana** retired from Chemical Abstracts Service in July 2010. (See the profile on page 45.) ■ **David Seaver** retired as vice president of human resources from Sysco on November 1, 2010.

69

**Cindy Leon** of Mission, Texas, was appointed in January by Texas Governor Rick Perry as one of five commissioners of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The commission is responsible for formulating and overseeing policies for the chief law enforcement agency in Texas. A retired regional director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Cindy is expected to serve through 2015.

72

**Jobeth Tice McLeod**, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Alpine, Texas, was a witness of the union of two Latin American Presbyterian denominations as a representative of Tres Rios Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA), in October 2010.

73

**James Downs** will publish a poetry collection, *"The Skin of All Things,"* in 2011. He became the associate editor of Poetic Matrix Press in 2009, and now is a lyricist for the band Sawhorse. He and his wife, Joy, married in June 2007 and live in Yosemite.

75

**Marjie Dexter Podzielinski** presented "Skyping with Authors" at the Texas Computer Education Association in Austin on February 9. She also is chair of the International Reading Association Teachers' Choices committee and this spring, received the Dr. Mary Berry Award from the Library Department at Sam Houston State University. This award honors an outstanding alumnus who is active in promoting libraries at the local, state, and national level.

76

U.S. Trade representative **Ron Kirk** was honored with the 2010 Presidential Citation from the University of Texas at Austin. The citation recognizes extraordinary contributions of individuals who personify the university's commitment to transforming lives. He also spoke at the annual conference of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers in April.

77

**Christena Alcorn** was appointed in January as the new ombudsman of the Texas community college system, serving 3,500 faculty, staff, and administrators.

79

**Dennis Morris** was sworn in as district judge for Carter County in Oklahoma in January 2011. His term ends in 2014. After graduating from law school, Dennis practiced law in Duncan and Lawton, Oklahoma, before opening a practice in Ardmore.

80

**Amy Moore Meeks**, a senior lecturer in the Psychology Department at Texas State University, spoke in the Distinguished Lecture Series at San Marcos Academy in February. She joined the faculty at the university in 1986 as an adjunct and took on her current role in 2003. She previously worked in private practice as a child and family therapist.

87

**Aldo Billingslea** is associate professor at Santa Clara University, where his specialties include assessment of the impact of African-American playwrights on American theatre. In a February newspaper profile, a theatre writer called Aldo a "major player" in the Bay Area theatre scene. He acted in *Collapse* in February, and then directed *A Raisin in the Sun*.

88

**Michael** and **Mary Laing Kingan** have moved to Singapore where Michael has started an advancement office for the Singapore American School. He previously was the vice president for development at the University of New Mexico.

91

**Joni Hundt Durham** (MAT '02) and **Rodney Durham** '90 (MAT '00) have remained in the Austin College 'neighborhood' since graduation. Joni teaches at Terrell Elementary School in Denison, and Rodney teaches at Dillingham School in Sherman. They have four children: Allen, Aaron, Anna, and Aubree.

92

**Robert Scott** was selected to speak at the 2011 annual conference of the Council on Litigation Management. He is the managing partner at Scott & Scott law firm in Dallas. ■ **Susan Raine** completed a master's degree in health law at the University of Houston in May 2010. She now is residency program director in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

95

**Zeke Ashton** and his view of the investment market were referenced prominently in the January 2011 edition of *Kiplinger's* financial magazine in the "Discovering Value" column. Ashton runs the Dallas investment firm Centaur Capital and manages Tilson Dividend Fund.

Numbers in color within entries correspond to photos on page 43.



96

**Michael Anthony Garcia** is one of 50 artists whose work was represented in Texas Biennial '11 during April and May in Austin. He also co-curated and exhibited his second international art show with the Los Outsiders Art Collective in June at the MACC in Austin, Texas. His art can be seen at [www.mrmichaelme.com](http://www.mrmichaelme.com). ■ **Thomas Garrison** was named principal of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas in March and took over the post on July 1. Tom moved from the position of assistant principal for student academics, a post he has held since 2003. A graduate of Jesuit, he joined the school's faculty as an English teacher in 1997.

97

(6) **Molly Anderson** and Vikram Jakkamsetti married on October 24, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas. The couple lives in Dallas, Texas.

98

**Laura McFerrin** directed the documentary *March On* in 2010, and it won Audience Favorite and Best Documentary at the Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. **Michael Garcia** '96 was the web designer and assistant editor. **Kimberly Earles Pollini** '98 recorded an original song for the movie. The film was screened at Austin College in May. More information is available at [www.marchonmovie.com](http://www.marchonmovie.com).

00

**Kari Bergman** '00, **Kelly Griesenbeck** '00, and **Lori Fine** '00 traveled to South Africa in August 2010. (See details of their trip on page 44.) ■ **Amanda K. Jester** recently was elected a partner in the law firm McDermott Will & Emery, L.L.P. Amanda practices health law in the firm's Miami, Florida, office, with a focus on mergers and

acquisitions in the healthcare industry and representation of hospitals, physicians, and ancillary providers. McDermott Will & Emery's health law group was named the 2010 Health Team of the Year by Chambers USA. Amanda continues to live in Miami Beach with her husband, Ken, and their pugs, Mason and Max.

01

**Matthew Brothers** earned his doctorate in anatomy at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center, and performed post-graduate research at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He now is an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Texas at Austin. ■ **Bill Searight** was elected pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Plain Dealing and Rocky Mount and Cottage Grove Presbyterian Churches in Louisiana in November 2010. He also will serve as pulpit supply at Keachi Presbyterian for an early service two weeks each month. Bill's wife, **Sarah Cooper Searight** '02, continues as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport.

02

(3) **Laura Langham** '02 joined Hilgers & Langham, P.C., a new law firm formed by the merger of long-time Austin attorneys William B. Hilgers and Wayne A. Langham. She completed an M.B.A. from St. Edward's University and has been invited to be an adjunct professor in the graduate program there beginning in summer 2011. In addition to practicing law, she is serving as an interim executive director for the new Barbara Jordan Freedom Foundation, which was created to improve education, end racial injustice, and reform the prison system in America. Since 2008, she has served as a community outreach volunteer for SafePlace a domestic violence shelter. ■ (9) **Kelli Brookshire** and Robert Wediwn Bruemmer II married on March 12 in

**Robin Tippet Sager** '04 was on campus this spring for the tribute to Professor Light Cummins. She wrote a senior thesis for Honors in History under Light's direction and was an Erwin Smith Fellow. Today, she is a graduate student at Rice University where she is completing her Ph.D. Her dissertation, "Marital Cruelty in Antebellum Virginia, Texas, and Wisconsin," was awarded the Founder's Dissertation Fellowship by the Southern Association of Women's Historians. She has published reviews in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and the *Journal of Social History*.



[ 'roo news ]

Oklahoma City. **Tricia Jones '02** served as maid of honor and several Austin College alumni attended. Kelli is a corporal at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and runs a crime prevention program for senior citizens in the Oklahoma City metro area. Bobby is a police officer at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

## 04

(5) **Amelia "Amy" Normandy** married Justin R. Frye in Oceanside, California, on November 6, 2010. ■ **Ariana Vasquez** and Benjamin Crowther were married August 15, 2009, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The wedding party included **Melissa Huking**. **Sean Sweat** and **Rachelle Mechenbier** attended.

## 06

(2) **Ashley Gant** and Marshall Grant married October 3, 2010, at A&M Gardens in Azle, Texas. **Laura Caprez '03** (MAT '04), **Jennifer Black**, **Lynn Gaillard '06** (MAT '07), **Blythe Wren Barajas '03** (MAT '04), and **Liz Davenport '07** were members of the wedding party. **Tiffany Dancer '06** attended. The couple lives in Irving, Texas.

■ (4) **Thomas M. Quinn** and **Courtney R. Hummingbird '12** married August 15, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas. Thomas is employed by Calvary Chapel of Fort Worth as associate pastor and business administrator. He also sits on the international board of the charity Love Never Fails International, working closely with its orphanage in Reynosa, Mexico. He is pursuing a master's degree in divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Courtney now attends TCU, completing a bachelor's degree and master's in teaching degree in mathematics. The couple lives in Fort Worth. ■

(1) **Meggin Rutherford** married Benjamin Jackson on September 19, 2010, at the Wild Basin Lodge in Allenspark, Colorado. **Paige Rutherford '09** was maid of honor and **Kristina Bodensteiner Lozano** was a bridesmaid. Meggin graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2009 and is an attorney in the Denver

area. Ben is a geologist completing his master's degree at the Colorado School of Mines. They live in Golden, Colorado.

## 07

**Anthony Galvan** earned a master's of applied politics degree in December 2010 from the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. On February 1, 2011, he began work as a project supervisor at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas. ■ (7) **Jon Greer** and Lauren Svane were married June 19, 2010, in Wynne Chapel. Lauren was escorted down the aisle by her father, **Todd Svane '81**. The wedding party included best man **Danny Greer '05**, **Ryan Saenz '05**, **Timmy McClure '07**, and **Michael Frazier '08**. Jon works as a public relations manager for AT&T, and Lauren is a teacher for Allen ISD. The couple lives in Allen, Texas. ■ (8) **Kelsie Tregilgas** married **Corey Hyden '07** on September 12, 2010. Both are attorneys in Dallas.

## 08

**Steven Hayes** under the pseudonym "Andrew Yorke," released a trailer of his self-produced movie "Videotape." The trailer is available at [www.videotapethemovie.com](http://www.videotapethemovie.com). ■ **Becca Webb** and **Ryan Buell** married on October 10, 2010, (10/10/10) in Tyler, Texas. Members of their wedding party included **Emma Wilking**, **Becca Harpham Mandeville '07**, **Emileigh Stewart**, **Hunter Mandeville '07**, **Emmanuel Nwelue**, **Brian Hambrick '07**, **Sam McDonald**, and **Bucky Brannen**.

## 09

**Heather Williams** was selected last fall for the prestigious internship program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. From September to December, she served as the special events intern in the Development Department of the Kennedy Center as part of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center.

Numbers in color within entries correspond with photos on page 43.

### GIFTS TO THE NOW SCHOLARSHIP FUND MAKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS LIKE SARAH GUINN '13 TO REALIZE THEIR DREAMS TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

Sarah chose Austin College because it is "global minded and service oriented." She loves science and international politics, plans to study abroad, and envisions pursuing a graduate degree researching alternative systems for clean water and sanitation. Because she received a scholarship, "I am able to dream big and make those dreams a possibility," Sarah says.

Austin College's commitment to scholarship availability is sustained by the generosity of alumni and friends whose gifts help launch the journey for students like Sarah.

Make your gift online today at [www.austincollege.edu/support](http://www.austincollege.edu/support).

### DID A SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

**tell us your story!**  
[success@austincollege.edu](mailto:success@austincollege.edu)

Austin College is looking for alumni willing to share how scholarships made a difference in their lives. Please email [success@austincollege.edu](mailto:success@austincollege.edu) with your name, contact information, current employment, college major, scholarships received, and what those scholarships have helped you to achieve.

[giveback]



1 '06



2 '06



3 '02



4 '06



5 '04



6 '97



7 '07



8 '07



9 '02



# ['roo news]

**Global Good Times Ambassadors.** Alumnae **Kari Bergman '00**, **Kelly Griesenbeck '00**, **Lori Fine '00** and friend **Lyndsey Butler** traveled to South Africa for three weeks in August 2010 as self-appointed Global Good Times Ambassadors during the World Cup. Pictured, left to right,



Kari, Kelly, Lindsey, and Lori are celebrating the Germany win against Uruguay in the semi-finals in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The idea of an international reunion seemed a perfect idea to Lori in Houston; Kari in Washington, D.C.; and Kelly in Dallas. Though not huge soccer fans, the World Cup's global focus promised an awesome adventure.

The journey was all they had hoped for—from beautiful scenery to experiences with people from around the world to safaris with up-close encounters. They sampled local wine, walked with penguins, and learned about apartheid.

Kari just completed a master's degree in Spanish literature and is teaching Spanish in Washington, D.C. She has been accepted at three top-tier graduate schools

for international relations and policy and is deciding where to attend this fall.

Kelly does public awareness marketing nationally and internationally for the American Heart Association, based at the national center in Dallas. Her work focuses on cardiac arrest and public access to defibrillation.

Lori managed the Spanish language curriculum for her district in Houston, but this summer she and her son will move to Guatemala City where she will be the assistant principal at Colegio Valle Verde in the fall.

**WEBXTRA:** More About Their Adventure

## The Places He's Been

As the Austin College Phi Beta Kappa alumnus inductee for 2011, **Bruce R. Ebanks '72** also was the featured speaker, sharing parts of his journey and the words of Dr. Suess from his book *Oh, The Places You'll Go*.

After graduating from Austin College, he earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Since 2000, he has been professor of mathematics at Mississippi State University, and previously had been on the faculties at Marshall University, Texas Tech University, and the University of Louisville.

Math took him many additional places, through visiting appointments and speaking engagements at universities of Waterloo in Canada, of Aarhus in Denmark, Milan in Italy, Graz in Austria, and Debrecen in Hungary, where he also was a Fulbright Scholar. His travels also took him to the Los Alamos Laboratory.

Ebanks has been widely published in professional journals and has been honored for his research and his teaching.

In his presentation, he mentioned several mentors who have assisted him in his professional journey, including Austin College's **Tom Kimes**, professor emeritus of mathematics, and the late **Roy Melugin**, professor emeritus of religion.





# The Singing Scientist

**Robert C. Dana '66** retired from Chemical Abstracts Service, a division of the American Chemical Society, in July 2010 with the rank of senior scientist. CAS is an authoritative and comprehensive source for chemical and scientific information. A two-time recipient of the CAS Director's Award, Robert joined the staff in January 1971 after completing a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at University of Texas. His work took him to several European countries as well as training programs in Japan, China, and India.

His primary work was the creation and nurturing of CASREACT, the CAS chemical reactions database, including more than 30 million reactions. The database allows customers to search for reactions by structure or structure fragment, by specific Registry Number, by functional groups, e.g., ketone or carboxylic acid, or by text notes.

Robert's interests extend far beyond science. He has been a registered Scouter for more than 30 years and served as adult staff in boating for the Boy Scout National Jamboree several times, most recently in 2010.

He also has spent 20 year as a volunteer in the Kairos Prison Ministry, including service as the chair for the Ohio district. He now is a national trainer and member of the International Council.

Since 1982, Robert has been a member of Vaud-Villities, the longest running amateur musical show in the country. Each year since 1943, the group has produced an annual Broadway-style show and other performances. Some 250 volunteer dancers and signers, ages 18 to 80, are supported by a professional orchestra and treat audiences to an assortment of musical styles from old favorites to Broadway tunes to rock and roll.

For nearly 30 years, Robert has put his musical talent to use as a member of the Chancel Choir of First Community Church, which has toured in Europe and sung Sunday morning worship at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Robert and his wife, Harriet, have been married since 1967. They have two children and two grandchildren.



Will your legacy insure that Austin College continues to positively impact the lives of young people in the future, just as other individuals in the past, like Austin College's founder Dr. Daniel Baker, chose to provide for today's students?

The simplest way for you to confirm that your legacy wishes will benefit Austin College is a gift through your will, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. These gifts require no immediate financial commitment from you and can be arranged at any age.

We appreciate your consideration of a legacy gift and look forward to welcoming you as a member of The Covenant Society, an honor bestowed only to generous donors who name Austin College as a beneficiary in their legacy plan.



For more information, please visit  
[www.austincollege.edu/support/planned-giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/support/planned-giving)  
Contact: Jennifer Pearson,  
Director of Major Gifts & Estate Planning,  
at 903.813.2336 or [plannedgiving@austincollege.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@austincollege.edu)

## IRA Distributions Rule Extended

The IRA rules regarding gifts to qualified charities has been extended through December 31, 2011, and charitable distributions for the 2010 tax year can be made through the end of January 2011.

Rules adopted in 2006 have allowed taxpayers 70 1/2 and older to contribute their annual required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to a charity. By doing so, the required distribution can be made without counting it as part of their income, thereby lowering their tax bill.

Austin College alumni and friends interested in taking advantage of this rule should consult their tax advisors before making a distribution. More information about planned giving can be found at [www.austincollege.edu/support/planned-giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/support/planned-giving).

## Mel Tjeerdsma: A Familiar Face Returns

**Mel Tjeerdsma**, head football coach of the Austin College Kangaroos for 10 seasons before beginning a record-breaking career in Division II coaching at Northwest Missouri State University, will join the Development team in the Austin College Institutional Advancement Division this fall, leading fundraising efforts for athletics enhancement in addition to other responsibilities.



"I am thrilled that Coach Tjeerdsma will join our team," said **Brooks Hull**, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "His leadership and reputation among the Austin College family is well known. 'Coach' will be an incredible asset to our efforts, and it is great to have him back home at Austin College."

From 1984 to 1993, Tjeerdsma guided the Austin College 'Roos to three TIAA championships and holds the record for coaching wins in the program. The 'Roos were 59-38-4 in the decade of his career and twice made trips to NAIA Division II playoffs. Tjeerdsma earned three TIAA Coach of the Year Awards.

"I'm so pleased to be returning to Austin College," Tjeerdsma said. "The folks at Austin College gave me my first opportunity to be a head college football coach, and the experience of being part of the Austin College family has stayed with my wife, Carol, and me. Even though we've been gone for 17 years, we feel we've still been a part of that family. We look forward to being a daily part of that again."

The coach has been back at Austin College many times in the intervening years, including a stop for the Legends athletics award event last summer when he received the College's 2010 Coach Joe Spencer Award for Lifetime Achievement and Meritorious Service in Coaching.

The legendary coach has one more assignment on the field before the move to Sherman. He has been selected to coach the U.S. team in the 2011 International Federation of American Football world championships in Austria in July. The U.S. team won the competition, held every four years, in its first appearance in 2007.

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2011  
OCTOBER 28 - 30

!

### Homecoming 2011

- ❖ Make plans to join your fellow 'Roos
- ❖ Reunion celebrations for the classes of **1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006**

### Homecoming Extras!

- ❖ 100 Years of Science at Austin College
- ❖ 'Roo Sweethearts Breakfast
- ❖ International Education Reunion
- ❖ Distinguished Alumni Recognition Dinner
- ❖ Homecoming Reunion/Anniversary Concert with students, faculty, and alumni—and much more!

Go to [www.austincollege.edu/homecoming](http://www.austincollege.edu/homecoming) for the latest information.



## IN MEMORIAM

'31	Margaret Belden Harvey	May 9, 2011
'33	Jimmie Jenkins Duff	April 16, 2011
'38	Olan Moody Atherton	June 30, 2010
'50	Delbert C. South	November 23, 2010
'38	Linda McDanald	January 15, 2011
'45	Clark Johnson	January 17, 2011
'47	Carlyle E. Goff	January 1, 2011
'48	R. Hardin Whitaker	April 21, 2011
'49	Bettye J. Birk Hansen	December 29, 2010
'49	Fred Mauldin	January 11, 2011
'50	Viola Cole Barton	February 5, 2011
'50	Robert Anderson Jones	February 28, 2011
'51	William Stewart	December 19, 2010
'51	Jack E. Robertson	January 9, 2011
'52	Doris Dell Landolt Herrick	February 9, 2011
'53	James G. Brannon	February 11, 2011
'54	Harry Denison	May 6, 2011
'54	Bobby Wynn	May 14, 2011
'58	Franklin P. Tilghman	June 9, 2010
'60	Margaret Mangrum Lucado	February 2, 2011
'62	Luis Manueco-Jenkins	January 12, 2011
'63	John S. Noble	May 14, 2011
'66	John Forney III	December 9, 2010
'66	Robert L. Ward	December 17, 2010
'66	Duane Doyle Gohlke	January 3, 2011
'69	Kenneth E. Miller	November 10, 2010
'69	Michael Wayne Craven	March 5, 2011
'69	Mary Sue Williams Bethel	April 2, 2011
'79	Eve Perry Watson	December 24, 2010
'82	Lonn Lockhart	December 8, 2010
'84	Lesley J. Garcia	January 9, 2011
'87	Kim D. Williamson Mercier	January 9, 2011
'94	Joshua A. Van Sligtenhorst	May 22, 2011
'05	Robert Joshua Hucklebridge	February 27, 2011
'14	Chase Matthew Gaddy	February 23, 2011

### Friends We Will Miss

Long-time Austin College trustee and benefactor **David Hannah, Jr.**, of Houston, Texas, died March 7, 2011. He and his late wife Catherine, also a College trustee, were the donors for Hannah Natatorium and other Austin College projects. David was a real estate developer and space exploration innovator.

**Diane Penney**, Austin College organist from September 2007 to December 2010, died April 21, 2011, in Dallas, Texas.



### Did you see these alumni profiles in the online-only issue of Austin College Magazine this spring?

Natalie Bencowitz Eustace '68

Ron Kirk '76

Chris Smith '84

Ashwini Shridhar '05

Amber Childress '07

Steven Hayes '08

Casie Luong '10

See 'Roo Notes: Profiles in the Spring 2011 issue:

<http://acmagazine.austincollege.edu>

## True 'Roo: Survey Results

Austin College recently surveyed alumni about their college experience and their alumni connections. This is what the nearly 2,000 respondents, 70 percent living deep in the heart of Texas, reported:

**You really like us.** A majority of respondents said they promote the College regularly or all the time.

**You like to hear from us about how to give back.** Alumni wanted to know about donor opportunities at least once a year; some thought it would be better to hear more often.

**You LOVE the magazine.** Respondents thought Austin College Magazine was the most important way they hear from us—and that we are doing a great job. Thanks!

**80%** You love the faculty. Alumni feel they had a better relationship with the faculty than students at other schools, and more than 80 percent thought it was really important to their college experience.

**You want to see more social media.** Austin College now has a web marketing and online community coordinator to help us expand the College presence online. Connect with the social media at [www.austincollege.edu/connect](http://www.austincollege.edu/connect).

**You value your Austin College degree.** Ninety percent **90%** of alumni strongly value and respect their Austin College degree, and 81 percent love hearing about the many accomplishments of our students. They also think it is really important that we continue **81%** to provide scholarships to give students an outstanding Austin College education.

**You want more career training.** Respondents felt the College could do a better job preparing them for “real world” jobs. Career Services has the resources to help students prepare for their careers, and more students get involved in external internships each year.

**You're invited!** Forty percent of the responding alumni **40%** would like to be invited to more alumni events. Alumni can check the alumni portion of the website to see when the next event near them will be held, or contact Alumni Relations at [alumni@austincollege.edu](mailto:alumni@austincollege.edu). We, however, understand if you can't make it: the survey indicated the top three reasons alumni don't attend are time, geographical distance, and family obligations.

**You're well prepared.** Because of their Austin College degree, alumni feel well prepared for a life of continuous learning, for graduate school, and for greater personal development, even more than students from other schools.

**96%** You made the right choice! Ninety six percent viewed their enrollment at Austin College as a good or great decision! They also felt they had a great student experience. Go 'Roo!

Have other comments? Write [alumni@austincollege.edu](mailto:alumni@austincollege.edu).

# Sound, Radiation, and Resilience

## A Vignette of the March 11 Tohoku Regional Earthquake

by Will Radke

“Duck, cover, and hold.” These words and their associated images adorn the hallways at my office. They are drilled. They are a part of our preparation. They were put to the test on Friday, March 11, 2011.

It was to be my last meeting of the day, before the start of another cool, winter weekend. At 2:30 p.m., a group of colleagues gathered in a 42nd floor conference room in downtown Tokyo. Fifteen minutes into the meeting, we all felt small tremors, which are typical in Japan. That didn’t last for long, though. We all began to look at each other, not knowing what would happen. As the movement accelerated, some colleagues ducked under the table while others quickly moved under a large doorframe, taking a firm grip to avoid being knocked to the ground. Adding to this violent shaking, I will never forget the sound. From inside a building, the sound of that entire building swaying a couple of feet in either direction is nothing less than horrifying. The fact that very little damage was sustained in non-tsunami-impacted areas is a testament to the incredible Japanese engineering and preparation.

My colleagues all gathered in the “core” area of our building immediately after the first earthquake and began exchanging stories of what it felt like while trying desperately to contact loved ones. Some of my colleagues expressed they felt seasick, the earthquake amplified by our level in the building. Unbeknownst to many of us sitting there and all along Japan’s eastern seaboard, devastation wrought by the ensuing tsunami would literally wipe some cities off the coast.

As dawn rose on the following day, the full scale of the tsunami’s destruction became evident. I still remain speechless watching videos of that massive wave rush inland, sweeping away any semblance of life.

Little did I know at the time, but a new word would enter the global lexicon: Fukushima. The fight to control radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant will not be just another bookmark in the annals of history for me. For the weeks after, this nation was mesmerized by the struggle to contain the fallout and impact to our

daily life. I stayed in Tokyo despite the flight of many expatriates, “fly-jin,” a play on the Japanese word for foreigner, *gai-jin*. The invisible threat of radiation exposure and contamination only compounded the uncertainty surrounding all of the events, which will surely take years to resolve.

Crises focus attention on the basics of life. I had been fortunate enough never to have questioned if food would be available to me until living through these events. As news reported radiation entering the Tokyo water supply, a run on bottled water ensued. Today, stores post signs limiting your purchase of water to one or two bottles per person if they have stock.

As memories recede, Tokyo today is a transformed city. Famed for its energy, it feels as though it also is partaking in national reflection. Energy conservation efforts remain the most cosmetic symbols: neon signs in many of the trendier districts are dark, Tokyo Tower lifeless at night, and “down” escalators turned off. Yet, it reflects the conflict I face in my daily life, unsure of striking the appropriate balance between compassion for the victims while becoming re-consumed with life prior to March 11. Nowhere was this evidenced more than the annual cherry blossom viewing parties, *hanami*, in early April. Despite calls by public officials for muted celebrations, which usually involve food and drinks across the pockets of public parks, many Tokyoites enjoyed their impermanent presence, not wanting to miss the display of a Japanese spring.

Sadly, some of the greatest tragedies were overshadowed by the pressing events at Fukushima. As our thoughts now to turn the reconstruction of this great country, my spirits are lifted by the resilience of those in Japan and around the world. I would suggest the posters in my office be amended: “Duck, Cover, Hold ... and Rebuild.”

*Will Radke '08 is an associate at Goldman Sachs Realty Japan, Limited. He has been based in Tokyo for two years and spent another year as an analyst at Goldman Sachs Realty Asia Pacific in Singapore.*





# Austin College: Breaking Ground For a New Century of Science

Providing a liberal arts education highlighted by life-changing experiences and hands-on, inquiry-based learning always has been a hallmark of Austin College. And in an increasingly technological world, a sound scientific foundation is essential for engaged citizenship. The IDEA Center will provide a high-impact environment to support interdisciplinary learning for students in all fields. An observatory will reveal the stars of the universe for students and offer community programs. Top-notch instrumentation will support complex research for students pursuing science careers.

Your gift or pledge to the IDEA Center will help build this transformational facility. Read more about the IDEA Center, follow the construction, or make your donation at [www.austincollege.edu/idea](http://www.austincollege.edu/idea).



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## Spring Still Comes

*A magnificent display of nature touched Japan with the arrival this spring of the famous cherry blossoms. Officials' calls for muted celebrations did not diminish the beauty of the spring spectacle or the enjoyment of their return. (Will Radke '08, who lives and works in Tokyo, photographed these blooms.) The glorious arrival of the flowers signifies the resilient spirit of the nation's residents, who faced massive devastation and tragedy in the wake of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Will shares his experiences "In Other Words" on page 48.*

