

AUSTIN COLLEGE

Magazine July 2017



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OF JANTERM**

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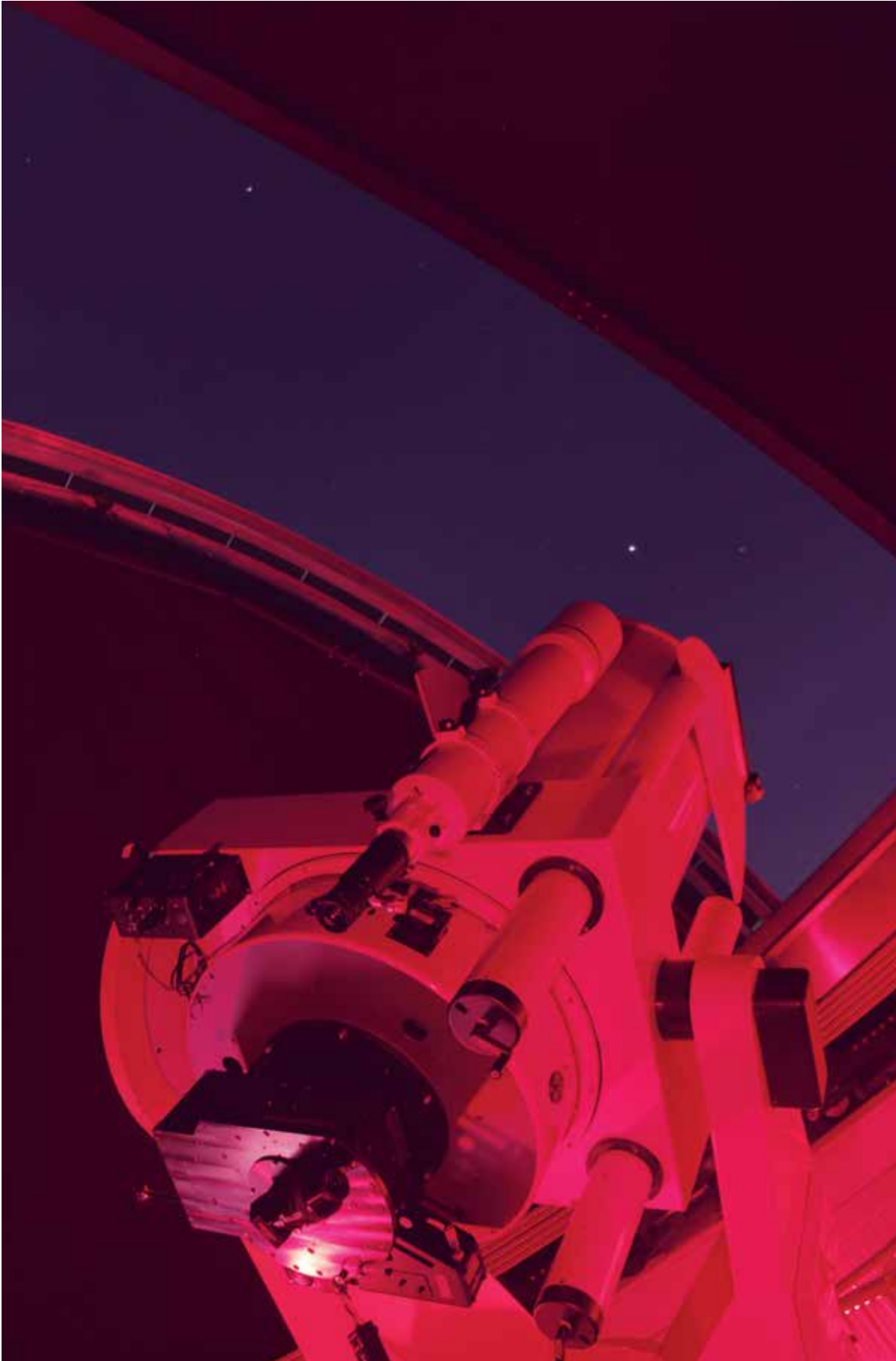


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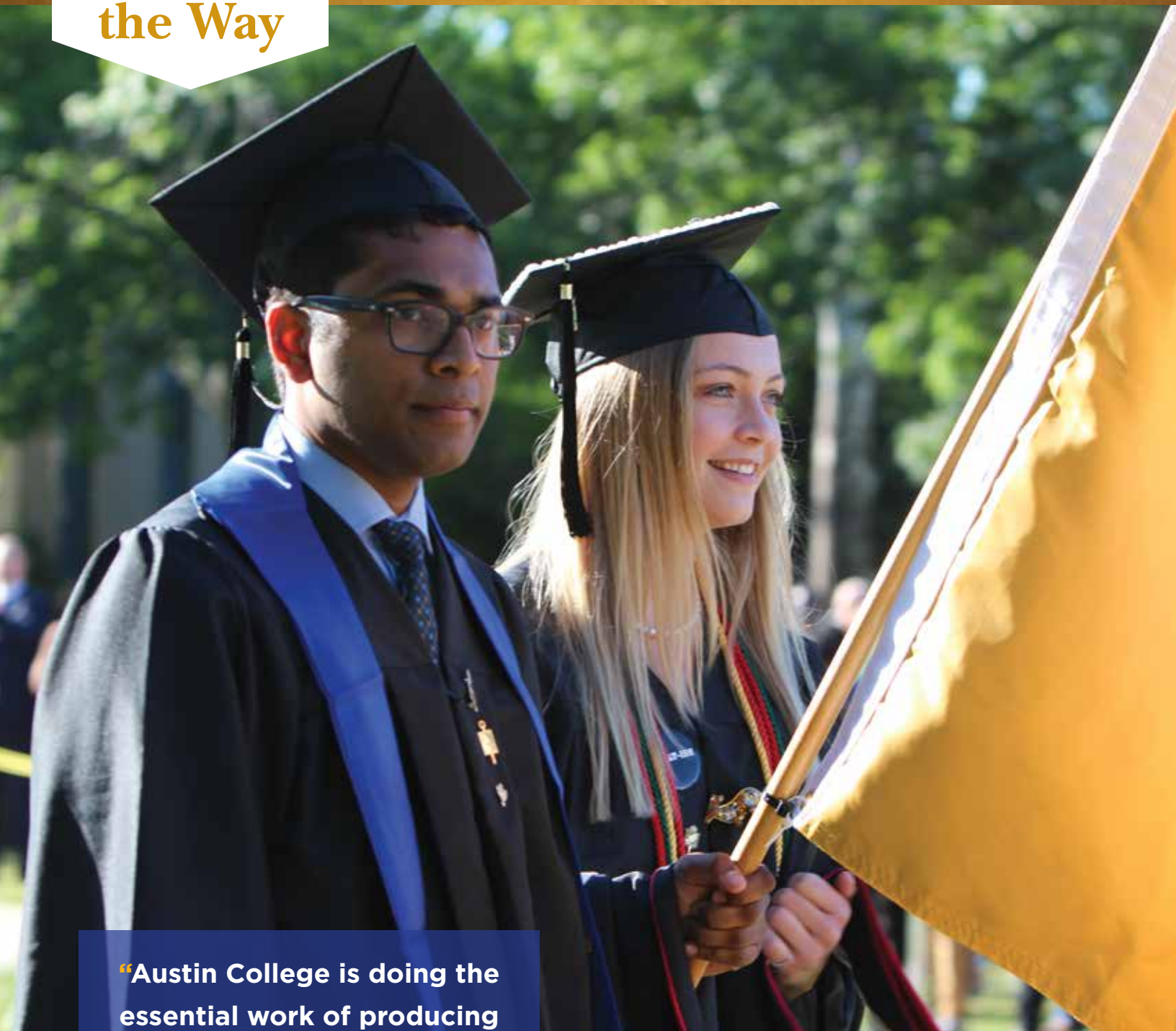


A Stellar View

Austin College's 24-inch research telescope, housed in the IDEA Center's Adams Observatory, takes on a sculptural quality when photographed with a long exposure that captures the soft red glow of the dome's nighttime infrared light. This image was captured during one of three "Star Parties" hosted by the Physics Department this past year. Visitors were treated to spectacular night sky viewing as explained by Dr. **David Baker**, director of Adams Observatory, and his physics faculty colleague Dr. **David Whelan**. Students in astronomy courses co-hosted the public events, pointing out additional features of the vast universe visible through smaller viewing telescopes set up on the IDEA Center roof and nearby College Green. Physics students also shared progress on current areas of research, including planetary sciences, astronomical imaging and photometry, and stellar spectroscopy. Stellar research, indeed!

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MANIET

Leading the Way



“Austin College is doing the essential work of producing the enlightened, responsible, creative people with moral compasses who make democracy work.”

– Loren Pope, Author
Colleges That Change Lives

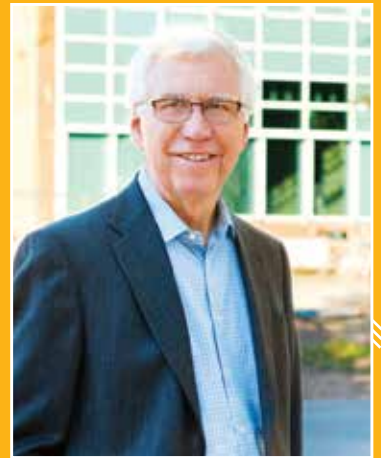
Our graduates are critical thinkers and innovators. Throughout the decades and across all disciplines, Austin College alumni excel in purposeful careers and influence their communities and the world. And, the newest generation of talented graduates has just begun the journey to leadership in a global society.

Your gift to this college that changes lives could, in fact, change the world. Sustain the impact by making your gift to Austin College today.

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See alumni stories at **www.austincollege.edu/support/impact/alumni-profiles**

FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT



Selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as interim president as of July 1, Dr. **Michael Imhoff** knows the College well. He joined the Chemistry Department faculty in 1970 and was named the Rupert B. Lowe Chair in Chemistry in 1995. The professor left the classroom in 2000 to serve as vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty, working alongside presidents Oscar C. Page and Marjorie Hass, until his retirement in 2013.

As I write this letter, Austin College is actively engaged in a presidential search. Dr. Marjorie Hass, after completing eight years of inspired leadership, has moved on to serve as the 20th president of Rhodes College. For the faculty and staff of Austin College, this is a time of excitement and some concern.

During my years at Austin College, I served under four presidents: John D. Moseley, Harry Smith, Oscar Page, and Marjorie Hass. Each president brought unique talents that enhanced life at the College, but more importantly reinforced the College's mission and commitment to the liberal arts.

Although about a quarter of today's faculty and staff go back to the "Harry Smith days" and others are fairly new, we all share a sense of anticipation as we await the announcement of a new president. In the meantime, I am honored to serve as interim president as we begin the fall semester. I have been asked to "do no harm" as I assume temporarily the role of president, and I look forward to spending time with Austin College's students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. In the meantime, a search committee led by trustee Scott Austin '83 is hard at work to find the best individual to serve as the 16th president of Austin College.

As I write, I am aware that I am making a strange journey. Few people return from retirement to go back to work for their old employer. I have been retired for four years and feel a little like I am returning from the other side of the curtain. I have this recurring conversation: "Well, tell me about retirement. What have you been doing? How has it been?" They wait as I think.

I have no completed projects to show them.

No articles for them to read.

Every day is enjoyable. Every day is unique. It doesn't matter whether it is Monday or Friday. I am never bored. I read lots of books, some asking the Big Questions and others simply for escape. I re-read *Catcher in the Rye* thinking about my teenage grandsons, and I read *Lonesome Dove* for the first time as I embrace the Texas mystique after nearly 50 years of living here. Janet and I travel to places on our "bucket list" and to other places on a whim and at short notice. I exercise, but not as much as I should. I tried to lower my golf handicap only to find out that aging and limited skill were working against me. I am taking Spanish, knowing I have little chance of becoming conversant, but nevertheless loving the challenge. I tell my friends, "I was born for retirement."

But ... I miss Austin College and the fun of sharing ideas with colleagues and students. It is an environment I enjoyed and perhaps took for granted during my 40-plus years here. It was fulfilling, and now I sorely miss it in the outside world of retirement. Well, I am back for a few months; I will savor this time and try not to bore students and colleagues with my enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Michael Imhoff

50 YEARS OF ADVENTURE

AUSTIN COLLEGE JANTERM

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

"I won't say JanTerm was the best part of my Austin College experience, but it was close. Trips to Appalachia, the Soviet Union, and London expanded my horizons in ways I never could have imagined. I began to learn how to be a citizen of the world. The experiences totally shaped my life."

Sallie Sampsell Watson '78

During spring 1967, the Austin College Board of Trustees ratified the new academic calendar that would fling open the doors to career exploration, world travel, and in-depth study. By allowing students to focus on a single subject for three weeks in January, all are refreshed and challenged while earning a full course credit.

JanTerm courses are designed to depart from the usual coursework and to vary from year to year. Just a few courses from the first lineup in 1968 were "Stock Market Bulls and Bears," "Gymnastics: Tumbling and Trampoline," and "Super Materials in the Modern World."

The 2017 on-campus, wide-ranging class options varied from "Child Labor in America" to the very retro class "*Star Trek* and Ethics." Back in 1968, *Star Trek* was cutting-edge TV programming—50 years later it's philosophical.

From its beginning, the one-course nature of January Term allowed study to go beyond campus, including trips to the Texas State House in Austin; museums in Washington, D.C.; theatres in New York City—or adventures around the globe. Austin College students and faculty have explored cultures, art, science, theatre, religion, economics, music, politics, languages, literature, history, and more as they learned from new people in new locations—and new people in very old locations. They've examined battlefields, governments, castles, schools, distilleries, jungles, mountains, museums, tide pools,

ruins, cathedrals, and volcanoes. Students benefit from the small group interactions and the focused and immersive learning. The experiences are priceless—and pricey, due to the extended nature of the travel. The transformational experiences have become accessible to more students

through generous scholarships designated for January Term. *Read about the new Harris JanTerm Scholarship on page 13.*

Those who participate in the Career Study Off Campus (CSOC) program during JanTerm are able to apply theories and classwork in

real-life situations. A popular CSOC choice is to shadow professionals in medicine, teaching, and other fields. **Samuel Weir '19** shadowed at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, under the supervision of Dr. Todd World, an emergency department physician.

"I learned so many things, from as simple as doing graphs and charts to as complex as intubation, diagnosis, and life-saving procedures," Weir said. "After this experience, I am 100 percent sure I will one day become a doctor. I saw so many interesting cases and received so much important and educational knowledge that couldn't have been taught in a classroom."

Clint Montgomery '19 focused on business applications and forklift skills while working for Montgomery Masonry, a multi-million dollar masonry company. "I met with business owners to discuss plans for jobs, as well as homeowners to discuss their thoughts to ensure everyone was on the same page," he said. "I learned things from how to bid proposals to how to run a JCB (an all-terrain forklift) and move pallets of stone. Through this experience I learned social skills, knowledge of masonry, and business in general. I feel much more prepared for my business future—whatever and whenever that might be."

The passing of 50 years has done a lot to change career expectations, travel, and subjects of interest for Austin College students. But, having the time to step across the threshold of something new each January remains one of the biggest attractions for students considering Austin College—and creates absolutely life-changing moments for those who take part. ■





1978
Stonehenge



2008
Australia



2013
Gettysburg



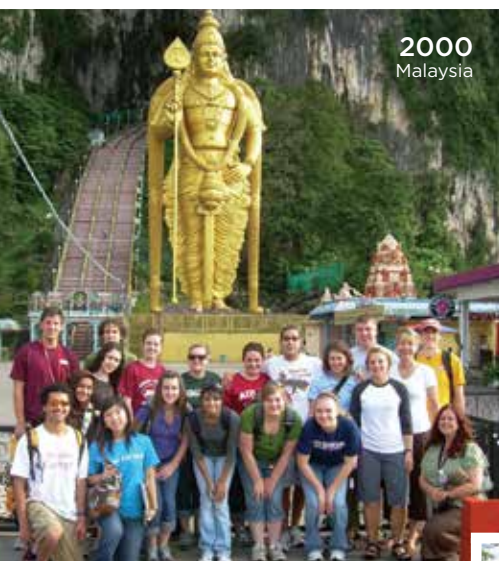
2013
Greece



1977
Rome



1990
Texoma Medical
Center



2000
Malaysia



2014
Oklahoma City



2002
London



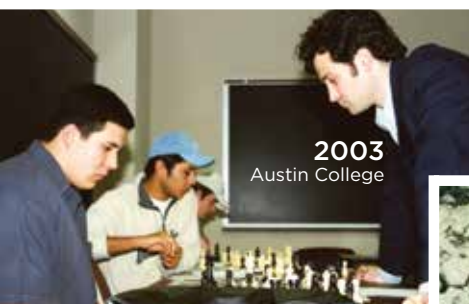
1972
Mexico City



2011
Argentina



2010
South Africa



2003
Austin College



2012
Sherman



2011
Taiwan



2003
Texas



2001
Beijing

A CAUSE
FOR
CELEBRATION



ALONG GRAND AVENUE

A TRADITION RESTORED

Hundreds of Austin College students have celebrated significant events of their college years with a “dip” in Margaret Jonsson Fountain at the west end of Windsor Mall. That dip usually came at the hands of other students, who happily tossed the celebrant into the fountain’s pool. For the last year or so, however, those celebrations didn’t happen as general deterioration left the fountain nonfunctional.

All that changed in May 2017 as the fountain came to new life at approximately 9:30 p.m. on the renovation project’s completion deadline, only a few days before Commencement.

The circular, amphitheatre-style fountain and surrounding plaza (including a second fountain outside Ida Green Communication Center) were a gift in 1972 from Margaret and Erik Jonsson, a trustee of the College who was a former Dallas



CIRCA 1972

mayor and a founder of Texas Instruments. The board named the Margaret Jonsson Plaza and Fountains in honor of Margaret’s development of beautification projects in Dallas and North

Texas. She believed that optimum conditions for learning include a pleasant environment, excellent facilities, and a creative academic program.

The fountains and plaza certainly provided a pleasant environment for many students over the intervening decades, particularly those who claimed a sunny spot around the popular fountain’s decorative brick tiers encircling the 50-foot diameter of the pool.

The new project maintained the amphitheatre design, with the brick tiers unchanged. The pool now is 8 feet smaller due to a circle of rocks that covers a drain system and keeps debris from

the water. The fountain project again was completed thanks to the Jonssons. The board of the Margaret Jonsson Family Foundation agreed to match up to \$60,000 for modernization of the fountain if the College raised an equal amount—which was accomplished this spring before the work began.

David Turk, executive director of facilities for the College, said the updated fountain itself is state of the art, with

minicomputers running the fountain’s spray and multi-changing light system. Talley Associates landscape designers of Dallas completed conceptual work for the project; the fountain and lighting were designed by Roman Fountains in Georgia; and general contractor was All Pro Pools and Landscape of

Denison, Texas. Turk said the team members compressed the work of several months into only a few to meet the assigned deadline, with completion a tribute to their dedication.

When the team flipped the switch at end of day on May 11, anxious moments passed as the pumps and lights turned on but no nozzles were spraying. Several adjustments later, streams of water were shooting skyward and cascading into the pool. Though the campus had seemed deserted with only one day of finals remaining, Turk said when the water began flowing, groups of students began to gather excitedly at the fountain’s edge and could be seen lining the IDEA Center windows overlooking the plaza. ... A pleasant environment is restored. ... And it won’t be long until student celebrations again include a dip in its waters.



2017

The Search for Austin College's 16th President

President **Marjorie Hass** announced in December 2016 that she would leave Austin College to assume the presidency of Rhodes College on July 1, and the College's Board of Trustees immediately began to facilitate the selection of the 16th president of the College. Trustee **Scott Austin '83** was named to lead the search committee, and



Scott Austin

he began to assemble a group of board, faculty, staff, and student representation.

The nationally recognized search firm of Wheless Partners was selected to assist in identifying and

recruiting candidates, and the firm and

committee went to work to gather perspectives from a wide range of constituents in development of the candidate profile and pool. The firm continued the process of interviewing and vetting interested individuals and in May, presented detailed materials on several candidates that matched the profile.

The Search Committee for the 16th President then reached consensus on a finalist pool of 10 individuals and began personal interviews. In May, the board also approved the



appointment of Dr. **Mike Imhoff**, former vice president for Academic Affairs, to serve as interim president as of July 1. "We are confident that his long-tenured experience and knowledge of Austin College and its constituencies, as well as his leadership and great wisdom, will bring a sense of steadiness

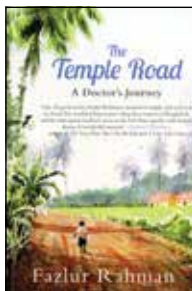
and positive direction to this transition period," Austin said. "We are grateful to Mike for his love of Austin College and his willingness to serve." Imhoff was a member of the chemistry faculty for 30 years before serving on the administration for 13 years. *See Imhoff's comments on page 3.*

As of June 30, the Search Committee had conducted video interviews with all 10 candidates and narrowed the field to the strongest five. Search Committee members are holding personal interviews with the five finalists during July. Austin is pleased with the progress. "Things are happening; we are moving forward, and I feel very confident about the future president of Austin College," he said.

For information: www.austincollege.edu/presidentialsearch

News from the Board of Trustees

- Board of Trustees chair **David Corrigan '81** welcomed **Gail Utter** of Sherman to the board this spring. Gail is a financial advisor, managing director – investments with Utter Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.
- **Lee Dean Ardell '74** and **Jeff Landsberg '81** completed their terms on the board in May and moved to the senior board.
- Austin College senior trustee **Fazlur Rahman, M.D.**, has written an impactful memoir of his journey from a remote jungle village in Bangladesh to leading medical centers in New York and Houston. Published in 2016, *Temple Road: A Doctor's Journey* is a tale of love, joy, suffering, and achievement and the overwhelming emotions that come with his work. Rahman has practiced cancer medicine for 35 years and now teaches medical humanities and ethics at Angelo State University. He also is a member of the Posey Leadership Award–Global Outreach Forum selection committee for Austin College.



Historian Tries Hand at Mystery Tale

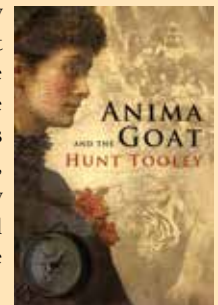
Austin College history professor **Hunt Tooley** published his first adventure-mystery novel, *Anima and the Goat*, in 2016. Setting the story in London in the 1880s, Tooley draws



Hunt Tooley

from his expertise on European history to tell the tale of the fictional Charlotte Drummond, a journalist with rare independence for a woman of the time. "She is certainly a composite in some sense," Tooley said, "I think the closest model is indeed a historical person, the great Emily

Hobhouse, an English journalist and commentator whose courage and determination exposed the brutal British imperial policies in the Boer War." The historian, a member of the College faculty since 1991, is working on a sequel as he continues his work in the classroom and beyond.





College Receives \$1.2 Million Grant for STEM Teacher Education Scholarships

Students planning careers in teaching may find their Austin College education more affordable thanks to a recent \$1.2 million National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship grant that creates the Austin College STEM Education Leadership Scholars (ACSELS) program. Designed to provide financial and programmatic support to recruit and develop strong science, technology, and math teachers who will commit to working in high-needs school districts, the program “will combine the College’s strong STEM focus with the strengths of the Austin Teacher Program to help fill the current need for STEM teachers,” said Dr. **Sheila Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, Austin College executive vice president for Academic Affairs and special initiatives.

Scholarship recipients must complete a major in a STEM discipline and pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching degree through Austin Teacher Program. They will be eligible to receive up to \$12,500 for the junior year, \$25,000 for the senior year, and \$40,000 for the graduate year, not to exceed demonstrated financial need. Each scholar will commit to two years of math or science teaching in a high-needs school district for each year of scholarship support.

In addition to financial support, the ACSELS program includes leadership training, summer internships in a co-curricular educational environment, and one-on-one faculty and teacher mentoring. “Our hope is that area high school and community college students will consider Austin College a financially viable option for a teaching degree,” said Dr. **Sandy Philipose** ’99, associate professor of education. “We also hope to attract STEM students who may not have considered teaching and expose them to the field of teaching.”

Grant developers were Philipose, Dr. **Kelynn Reed**, professor of biology, and Dr. **Stephanie L. Gould**, associate professor of chemistry. The co-principal investigators are Gould; Dr. **Andrea Overbay**, assistant professor of mathematics; and Dr. **Andrew Carr**, associate professor of chemistry.

Grants and Updates

A grant from **Humanities Texas** will help fund the Austin College **Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies** Summer Institute for High School Teachers of English and Spanish later this month. Pairs of English and Spanish teachers from schools around the state will meet on campus for the immersive program that aims to strengthen and develop skills and resources for teachers working with Hispanic/Latino literature and culture.

The **W.B. Munson Foundation**, the **Elias and Hanna Regensburger Foundation**, and the **Texoma Health Foundation** made gifts toward the College’s **Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation** (SEPA) program that partners students with local nonprofits for summer internships focused on grant writing and grant research.

The **Discovery Foundation of Dallas** made a grant of \$150,000 in support of the undergraduate research project of Dr. **Lance Barton**, associate professor of biology, which deals **with training scientists to improve women’s health** through understanding cancer development and designing cancer therapies. *Read about undergraduate research in “The Momentum of Discovery” on page 24.*

The **National Science Foundation** has granted \$300,000 to support the Austin College **STEM Teaching and Research (STAR) Leadership Program**, which develops the disciplinary skills that make better, more rounded scientists prepared for their future STEM careers.

A two-year grant of \$80,000 from the **ASIANetwork-Luce Foundation Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Program** will add an Austin College faculty member in East Asian language beginning this fall. The additional position will enhance the increasingly popular **East Asian Studies interdisciplinary program** at the College.



Honors Convocation Highlights

Dr. **Roger Platizky**, Henry L. and Laura H. Shoap Professor of English, was presented the Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service to Austin College. He has taught English and other cross-disciplinary classes at Austin College for 28 years. He also sponsors the ACCARES organization, is president of the Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and serves on the Health Science and Gender Studies committees.

Dr. **Martinella Dryburgh** was installed in the Leslie B. Crane Chair of Leadership Studies. Investiture of a chair is an ancient academic ceremony symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge. The investiture honors the faculty member installed and the generosity of the donors who funded the named chair. The Crane Chair was established by Lee and Sally Posey in 2002 in honor of one of Lee's longtime mentors.

In recognition of teaching excellence, Dr. **Julia Shahid**, associate professor of education, was named the Austin College Piper Professor nominee, and the late Dr. **Don Rodgers**, associate professor of political science who died suddenly last fall, posthumously was honored with the Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Award.



Roger Platizky



Martinella Dryburgh



Julia Shahid



Don Rodgers



Lisa Thomas

Fulbright Scholar Studies Indigenous Music

Dr. **Lisa Thomas**, Austin College organist, was named a Fulbright Canada Scholar last fall and spent January through May at the University of Alberta as The Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Arts and Humanities. She was researching, collecting, and cataloging ancient musical elements for her project: "The Legacy of Canadian Indigenous Music as Classical Compositional Material." The Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program promotes collaborative research relevant to both countries and provides 50 teaching and research grants to U.S. faculty and professionals each year. She is pictured with a painting by artist Aaron Paquette in the university's Indigenous Studies Building.

Service Goes Full Circle

As incoming freshmen, members of the Class of 2017 were the first to participate in what has become a regular part of freshman orientation: "First We Serve," a two-hour volunteer project. Students entered Sid Richardson Center in Mason Athletic/Recreation Complex to find row after row of tables holding containers of rice, soy, and dried vegetables plus measuring and packaging tools that would result in meal packets for hungry children and families. The ingredients were supplied by Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization that distributes the food packets in more than 60 countries.

Since the seniors were the first to participate in the project that this year resulted in preparation of more than 30,000 meals, members of the class decided they wanted one more opportunity to help. They scheduled "Before We Go" for a Sunday afternoon in April and packed more than 15,300 meals—with significantly more packages prepared per person.

Organizers hope to see "Before We Go" become an annual event for seniors.





Ganesh Maniam

Another Class Crosses the Stage



Alejandro Moran



Aktan Eminovski

Commencement is always exciting for seniors and their families, friends, classmates, and faculty. The May 2017 event was no exception. For once, the week was fairly free of the threat of storms for the Sunday morning exercises, and thousands of well-wishers gathered to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2017 and 15 Master of Arts in Teaching graduates.

In addition, President **Marjorie Hass** presented honorary doctorate degrees to Dr. **Michael Sorrell**, president of Paul Quinn College in Dallas and the Commencement speaker; the Reverend **Jan Edmiston**, co-moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Baccalaureate speaker the previous evening; and **Patti Amanda Birge Spivey**, a senior member of the College's Board of Trustees who had a significant career in public service.

Ganesh Maniam of The Woodlands, Texas, presented the senior address on behalf of his classmates. Completing a major in business administration and minors in leadership studies and healthcare studies at Austin College, he began an MBA/M.D. dual-degree program at Texas Tech University in June.

Each year, the faculty selects two outstanding graduates for special recognition at Commencement, with no distinction between them, as recipients of the J.C. Kidd and J.M. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Medals. Business and mathematics faculty members surely were smiling as the Kidd Medal was presented to **Alejandro Moran** of Sherman, who majored in economics and mathematics with a minor in Spanish, and the Robinson Medal went to **Aktan Eminovski** of Pottsboro, Texas, who completed majors in business finance and mathematics. Both graduates plan to pursue doctorates in economics, Alejandro specializing in econometrics and international economics with a goal to work as an economist, possibly in the government. Aktan remains undecided about his career choice. Both students said their favorite Austin College course was "Mathematics of Finance" as it involved two of their favorite interests; Aktan said it paired advanced mathematics and the stock market; Alejandro referred to the combination of his interest in finance and economics and his passion for mathematics.

Honorees described above are joined by others to make up the 2017 Commencement Platform Party. Left to right are David Corrigan '81, Board of Trustees chair; Patti Amanda Birge Spivey; Marjorie Hass; Michael Sorrell; John Williams '84, Austin College chaplain; and Jan Edmiston.



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth Gives \$200,000 to Endow College's Alternative Spring Break Program



The 2017 Alternative Spring Break trip was the 25th for Austin College students and sponsors. This spring, they worked alongside the Blanco River Regional Recovery Team in San Marcos, Texas, to repair some of the 100 homes damaged in recent flooding.

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth voted this spring to make a gift of \$200,000 to Austin College to fully endow the College's Alternative Spring Break program. Rev. Karl Travis says the congregation has had mission in its DNA for decades. This gift continues the congregation's commitment to mission and provides opportunities for Austin College students willing to give their time and efforts in service to others.

The Austin College Alternative Spring Break program mobilizes approximately 40 students each year to travel to communities in need, often assisting with cleanup and construction after a natural disaster. The trip is organized through the Service Station, part of the Religious Life Program at the College.

"This gift will enable Austin College to continue to live out its church-relatedness by providing opportunities for interested

students to spend their Spring Break working to serve others who face difficult circumstances," said Austin College chaplain **John Williams '84**.

He said that while service to neighbors in the Texoma area is an ongoing priority, Alternative Spring Break trips provide a break from campus and allow students to build community with fellow students as they travel and serve, "living out the Good News for hurting communities."

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth is a longtime supporter of Austin College, having made gifts for scholarships, church relations programming, and the A Cappella Choir over the past 30 years. The Alternative Spring Break endowment is the largest single gift from a church toward Austin College's Faith & Engagement campaign, an effort to endow the overall Religious Life Program of the College.

Immersed in the Arts

Eight students took a deep dive into arts advocacy during JanTerm 2017 as they researched best practices for the City of Sherman. In a first-of-its-kind class at Austin College called "CityLab: Leadership on Location," course instructors Dr. **Martinella Dryburgh**, director of the Posey Leadership Institute, and **Cary Wacker**, director of the College's Center for Community & Regional Development (CCRD), merged ideas to create a leadership course in which students served as "consultants" for Sherman's project.

The team traveled 700 miles to visit four Texas cities to interview community leaders about arts and cultural activities and to get a first-hand look at successful arts districts. The students' work culminated in an extensive report and presentation to the Sherman City Council with recommendations for supporting community engagement in the arts.

Informed by the students' work, Sherman is on track to create a citizen-led Cultural Commission and designate a formal



cultural district encompassing much of downtown Sherman. In support of the new focus on cultural offerings in the region, the College's CCRD recently launched an online community arts calendar—the number one request of local arts leaders during the JanTerm interview process. Austin College students will help maintain the calendar and network with local arts groups.

*Ayeli Ali in Malaysia**Ayeli Ali**Cameron Kubacki**Brittany Dimock*

World Ambassadors

Two graduates were awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships in spring 2016. **Ayeli Ali** '16 traveled to Sarawak, Malaysia, in January and is teaching at a public secondary school there until November when she will return to the U.S., hoping to work in international health and development before pursuing a master's degree. She said she has learned that being a teacher requires also being a student and learning about those around her. Sarawak, on the island of Borneo, includes mostly indigenous groups, she said, and she is pictured in traditional clothing for a harvest festival. She has been happy to learn about the indigenous groups by talking with her students and accepting dinner invitations. Most in the town have never encountered an American so she also is sharing U.S. culture

as she absorbs theirs. **Cameron Kubacki** '16 is just completing a rewarding experience in Niedersachsen, Germany, where he teaches students in grades 5 through 12 in the small town of Gronau Leine. He said he enjoys every classroom and field trip experience, though he finds the small town a bit isolating. However, he has been able to visit other parts of Germany—including 15 weekend trips to Berlin. He returns to the U.S. this summer and will prepare for graduate study in supply chain management.

This spring, **Brittany Dimock** '17, a magna cum laude graduate majoring in East Asian languages and cultures, was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Malaysia and has yet to begin her adventures.

New Scholarship Supports JanTerm Adventure



International exploration during January Term can bring learning to life—and a recent gift from alumni will make the learning experience accessible to more students.

James '67 and **Mary Ann Stell Harris** '70 made a gift of \$1.4 million earlier this academic year to establish the Mary Ann and James R. Harris JanTerm Scholarship for international courses. The couple contributed an additional \$100,000 to the Caren Clark Study Abroad Endowment for a total gift of \$1.5 million in support of global experiences.

Mary Ann was a student when JanTerm was established and took part in three international courses with travel to Mexico City, London, and Greece. "I met famous authors, saw inspiring art and architecture, attended plays and concerts, and made lifelong friends," she said. "Neither Jim nor I can imagine a more valuable legacy than making international travel accessible to students. We would like to see Austin College linked in people's minds to travel opportunities."

"A large part of Austin College's mission is to foster analytical thought, and such exposure to other people and places forces us to examine our own culture and values in light of foreign ones, often giving us a stronger sense of who we are and what we believe in," Mary Ann said.

In January, 146 Austin College students traveled abroad for intense, focused learning such as Spanish language immersion in Costa Rica and theatre studies in London.

Several JanTerm scholarships are offered but applicants far exceed availability as international travel costs remain outside the budget of many students. To discuss contributions to JanTerm travel scholarships, contact **Gillian Grissom Locke** '07 at glocke@austincollege.edu or 903.813.2336.



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Hoopsters Hitting the Mark

Austin College men's and women's basketball teams each welcomed new members to the 1,000-point club, with **Brian Baehl '17** reaching the milestone on the men's side while **Kendall Heitmeier '17** achieved the mark for the women. Both players finished the season with All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference recognition. They are pictured at left with men's coach **Rodney Wecker**, who completed his 10th season with the 'Roos this spring, and women's coach **Michelle Filander**, who has had seven seasons with the program.

1000

POINT CLUB

The Austin College women's basketball team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in program history, finishing with a record of 19-8. Those 19 wins mark the highest victory total in the last two decades. The 'Roos won 37 games over the last two seasons, one of the best-ever stretches for the Austin College program.



Tennis team 2017 seniors, left to right, are Magan Green, Anamariia Kheveli, Carlye Lide, Katie Barber, Kate Willis, Preston Glasscock, Jeff Kubena, and Jacob Morgan.

Tennis Advances • Coach Is Honored

The Austin College men's and women's tennis teams had historic runs in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference in 2017, with each team finishing third at the conference championship, the highest finish for each program. Both teams also earned Intercollegiate Tennis Association regional rankings—a first in program history for the men and the first ranking for the women's team since 2011.

Kangaroo tennis coach **Ryan Dodd** capped off a tremendous season with SCAC Women's Tennis Co-Coach of the Year honors—and came in second in votes for the award on the men's side. He has led the teams for three seasons.



Coach Ryan Dodd

Distance Track Finishes Well

The Austin College distance track team had several outstanding finishes during the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship Meet, with multiple program records broken along the way. **Alex Quinn '18**, 2017 Ron Munden Award winner for the women's cross country team, performed well in distance track at the SCAC track and field meet with a sixth-place finish in the 10,000-meter event. The top finisher for the 'Roos was **Hannah Richards '19**, who took home fifth place in the 1,500-meter event, setting a new Austin College record. Coach **Bryan Garcia** leads distance track and cross country teams.

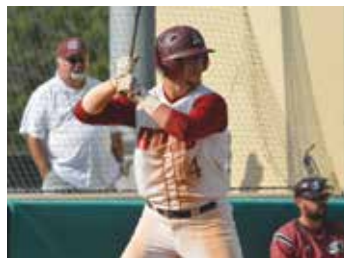


Alex Quinn #10, Hannah Richards #9



Austin College is a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. Football joins the SAA. See Page 16.

Austin College baseball player **Brett Taff** '19 made a big impact in his first season with the 'Roos, named a First-Team All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference performer at third base after finishing as one of the top hitters in the conference. He was one of five Kangaroos to earn All-SCAC recognition for the 2017 baseball season. Head coach **Mike Ramsey** is in his third year with the team.



Kangaroo softball player **Tori Herrera** '17 entered the 2017 season already holding Austin College records for most strikeouts in a season and in a career. This spring, she added to her career total and broke her own record for single-season strikeouts. She became the first Austin College softball player to surpass 400 career strikeouts, which places her sixth in Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference history in that statistical category. **Kathleen Laster** coaches the team.



Coach Mark Hudson & Philip Le



Coach Michelle Filander & Bryce Frank

The 2017 Pete Cawthon and Gene Day awards recipients for Austin College's male and female Athlete of the Year have more years of outstanding competition ahead of them. Men's soccer player **Phillip Le** '19 and women's basketball player **Bryce Frank** '19 took the top honors at the annual Athletics Awards Convocation.

Le is an All-West Region performer, runner-up for Player of the Year, and an Academic All-Region selection. Frank is a First Team All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference player and one of three players in the conference to receive at least one vote for SCAC Player of the Year.

Swimming and diving athletes dominated the podium for Austin College's Tim Jubela Outstanding Freshman Athlete Awards, with **Sophie Garriga '20** and **Chris Brown '20** taking the honors. Both swimmers broke numerous Austin College records this season, and each was the top performer for their programs at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship Meet in February. **Bob Filander** has coached the 'Roos in the pool for four years.



Sophie Garriga & Chris Brown



acroosstore.com

The Austin College Athletics Department has announced the launch of its official online store, **acrosstore.com**, in a partnership with Advanced-Online, a Follett Company.

The website features hundreds of items, including T-shirts, performance gear, collectibles, hats, and office and business accessories, with new items added frequently. 'Roo fans can purchase customized gear for particular sports, with brands such as Adidas and Under Armour available in various styles. All items are manufactured on demand, produced and shipped from Advanced-Online's facility in Coppell, Texas.



Football Makes Switch to Southern Athletic Association

Austin College football begins competition this fall as an affiliate member of the Southern Athletic Association, reconnecting with other NCAA Division III liberal arts schools. Other Austin College teams remain members of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

"I'm very grateful our administration worked to make this possible," Kangaroo head football coach **Loren Dawson '91** said when the decision was made in 2015.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, the SAA began play in 2012-2013 with several former SCAC schools on its roster. Current SAA member institutions are Berry College in Georgia, Birmingham-Southern University in Alabama, Centre College of Kentucky, Hendrix College of Arkansas, Rhodes College of Tennessee, Millsaps College of Mississippi, and Sewanee—University of the South in Tennessee. Trinity University also joins the SAA as an affiliate member in football this fall. Oglethorpe University is a non-football-playing SAA member.

See the 'Roos in the first home football game of the season September 9 at 1 p.m. Conference play begins September 16 in Apple Stadium at noon versus Sewanee. The Larry Kramer Outback, located at the south end of the field, opens for tailgating two hours prior to kickoff.



Soccer Complex Honors Jack Pierce

Austin College athletes lost one of their most devoted fans when longtime faculty member Dr. Jack Pierce died suddenly last fall. He attended hundreds of home athletic events over his nearly 50 years with the College, supporting men and women athletes of every sport.

Memorializing him in an athletic venue therefore seems most appropriate. (He previously has been honored for his teaching career in biology and work in health sciences advising.) A major gift from his family has initiated the installation of lights on the soccer fields, now named as the Dr. Jack Pierce Memorial Soccer Complex.

Other significant donors toward the project include **Bob and Lee Dean Ardell '74**, **Tom Hall '78**, **Ann Ross '66**, and **Oscar and Anna Laura Page**. For information about additional gifts needed for completion of the venue, contact Athletic Director David Norman '83 at 903.813.2401 or dnorman@austincollege.edu.



Water Polo Coming to Hannah Natatorium

The Austin College Athletics Department has set in motion a plan that will allow the College to offer men's and women's water polo as varsity sports in 2018-2019—the first varsity programs offered in Texas since 1976. The teams will play on the club level in the upcoming academic year and transition to varsity sports in 2018-2019, competing in the Collegiate Water Polo Association. **Mark Lawrence**, hired in May, will coach the teams. He most recently served as an assistant coach at the U.S. Naval Academy and previously was head coach at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Legends 2017

AUGUST 4 - 6

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It's about the discipline of driving hard in competition as well as in education....
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Our student athletes are preparing for life, and with your gift for Athletics Enrichment, you join the team on the quest for success. Make your gift or pledge online at www.austincollege.edu/giving.

*Football competing in Southern Athletic Association

For more information, contact: **David Norman '83** at 903.813.2401 or at dnorman@austincollege.edu

The Adventure of a Lifetime

By Nate Essin '18

It was the first week of October, Golden Week in China. Every student was out of school, and most families were on vacation. With five days to travel anywhere I wanted in a country with 1.3 billion people, I chose to get far away from the tourists and flew to Inner Mongolia, a northern province in China. From camping alone in the Great Blue Mountains, hitchhiking my way back to my hostel, sharing a hotel room with a group of Spaniards, and then traveling with them to the Gobi Desert, I had the greatest adventure of my life.

Hi, or should I say, 你好(nǐhǎo). My name is Nate Essin, and I studied abroad in China for Fall Term 2016. As a 27-year-old native to Sherman, Texas, I had never been outside the U.S. (I worked a few jobs before beginning community college at age 24 and transferring to Austin College for Fall Term 2015.) With scholarships from Austin College, my study abroad program, and the Gilman Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State, I was able to fund my trip. Studying abroad paired well with my majors in international economics and finance and in global management, and my minor in East Asian studies: Chinese.

Studying abroad wouldn't have been nearly as fun without friends from Austin College. Two weeks before my program started, I flew to Beijing and met my friend **Jiayue Liu** '16. Although I was staying in a hostel, her

parents invited me for dinner every evening. Her father had been a chef for the Communist Party leaders. Needless to say, the dishes he prepared were an excellent introduction to authentic Chinese cooking.

Experiencing Chinese culture became a priority. I ate street food from questionable vendors and took the train from Beijing to the historic capitol of China, Xi'an. Upon arriving,

Above: View from Nate's campsite in Mongolia. • Below: Lion in front of the Forbidden City • Next page, clockwise from top left: Great Wall of China • Train station in China • Temple at Cliff Yunnan • Temple at Shangri-La, Yunnan • Men playing chess on street in Beijing • Nate with camera at the Tiger Leaping Gorge, Yunnan

I stayed in the home of my friend, **Conling "Brittany" Zhang** '19, who took me around the city in her family's car. While there, I saw the 6,000 Terra Cotta Warriors. From Xi'an, I took a 30-hour train ride (standing room only) and speaking broken Chinese, got to know my fellow passengers a little better. Most of them were farmers. They explained to me that I was the first white person they had ever seen. They were so fascinated by me, especially my large feet. They were generous and shared their lunch and cigarettes with me.

In Shanghai, I roomed with fellow Austin College student **Kelvin Lane** '17. Together, we did the intensive Chinese

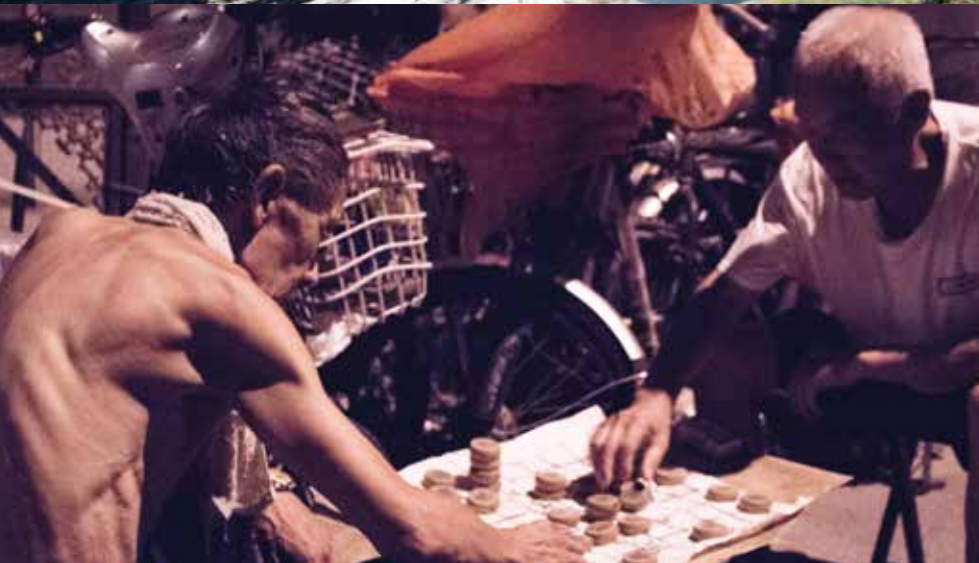
language program at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. Chinese is not an easy language to speak or write, but we made fast progress. Soon, we found ourselves having conversations with locals and feeling confident.

Personally, I feel that my experience has better prepared me to live and work abroad. I'd like to continue learning the Chinese language and work in China. This experience exposed me to amazing people accomplishing

incredible things, people I never thought I would meet. It gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams abroad.

Making videos has always been a passion of mine. At Austin College I work as a student intern doing videos for the Public Affairs Office, and plan to work in video advertising when I graduate next spring. To see videos of my experience in China, visit [youtube.com/user/natejoel](https://www.youtube.com/user/natejoel) and click **Videos**. ■





No Endings, Just New Beginnings: *Au Revoir* to a President



By Vickie S. Kirby

Amidst the pride, happiness, and well wishes for graduates of Austin College during Commencement 2017, a bittersweet thread also ran through the weekend for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College. The end of the spring term signaled the upcoming departure of President **Marjorie Hass**, who would leave Austin College to take on the presidency at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, as of July 1.

In her eight years as the 15th president of Austin College, Dr. Hass led the College to numerous momentous milestones, with campus advances in environmental sustainability, creation or expansion of several academic and co-curricular programs, and increases in applications and enrollment, as well as sustained and significant fundraising achievements. She led the College to new levels of diversity and access and guided the community through highs and lows. The philosopher in her could be relied upon for words of wisdom in times of uncertainty and expressions of confidence in embarking on new endeavors.

The presidency of Dr. Hass also included a number of campus renovations and upgrades, as well as the addition of

The Flats at Brockett Court—modern housing for junior-level students, and the state-of-the-art IDEA Center, with offices, labs, and classrooms for departments in the Sciences Division.

Another construction project of the Hass era not only provided new and appealing housing for Austin College seniors but also transformed the northern edge of campus along Grand Avenue. The 24 colorful cottages of The Village on Grand provide neighborhood-style housing—in single, duplex, and triplex units—and each unit contains a living area, full kitchen, washer and dryer, four bedrooms, and four bathrooms.

At the May Board of Trustees meeting during Commencement, trustees passed a resolution that gives the Grand Avenue cottages a new name: **The Dr. Marjorie Hass Village on Grand**. The resolution stated that her name should “remain an enduring element of the campus landscape” in appreciation of the “leadership and community spirit of President Hass and her lasting mark upon the College’s history and future.” Board chair **David Corrigan** ’81 announced the naming at an evening event designed as a farewell to President Hass from the Board of Trustees and special guests.





Though Dr. Hass acknowledged she was completely shocked by the announcement, she is seldom one to be caught speechless, and her usual eloquence returned quickly. "This gift of the board to commemorate the work we did in creating The Village absolutely overwhelms me," Dr. Hass said. "I am so touched, and I am so moved. I had already been overwhelmed tonight by this event and your willingness to spend a few hours thinking with me about what this place has meant to me and what we have accomplished together. To know that this legacy will be here makes me happy beyond belief."

Commenting that she had been 30 years old before she lived in an apartment as nice as those in The Village, Dr. Hass joked that perhaps she could reserve one for her retirement or return visits to campus. Her words quickly became more thoughtful:

"Serving as president of Austin College has truly been the honor of a lifetime. As you know, I will go on to serve in other leadership capacities, and they will be meaningful and moving but there will be nothing as important to me as our work here. You took a tremendous risk in hiring me. I had never been a president; I had never lived in Texas. You looked at us, and we looked at you, and we said, 'let's make a match.' In our tradition there's a saying that God spent the first six days of creation building the world; on the seventh day He rested; and on the eighth day, God made matches, marriages. I absolutely believe God had a hand in making this match between me and Austin College. You are in my thoughts and prayers eternally ... as I've said, I am always a 'Roo."

Though she said she could not thank all of those gathered, she did offer her thanks to the "three best board chairs a president could ever have" (**Robert Johnson** '53, **Todd Williams** '82, and Corrigan) and the current and past members of the Senior Leadership Team. "Almost nothing that we achieve is the work of any one hand," she said. "We do it together and collectively. I see so many of you who have devoted your life to Austin College, who made this the place where you

work, the place where you have chosen to have that place, as they say, where your talents meet the world's hunger. The world is blessed because you have blessed Austin College. Thank you all for sharing this special evening with me."

Dr. **Larry Hass**, husband of the president, also was on hand with sincere thanks. "My heart is so full tonight," he said. "These



past months, I have been so thoughtful of our time here and our work together. ... I will never forget the day Marjorie and I came to Austin College and to North Texas for her interview. We are adventurers, but we had never been to Texas.

At the end of that day, we were totally smitten. We were completely taken, and I want to thank you for saying 'yes' to us and helping us make this match. It has been a tremendous honor to serve the College in the capacity that I have."

Much of the evening was about celebrating the milestones and accomplishments under the leadership of President Hass. She also looked to the future: "I'm thinking of what we have done over the past eight years," she said. "And, now, we are all going to take a deep breath, and we will turn to the next eight years, the next 18 years ... the next 108 years of Austin College. I've been the 15th president [of Austin College]; we're blessed to have the 14th president (Dr. **Oscar Page**) in the room. I cannot wait to meet the 16th president of Austin College. We are going to celebrate that new presidency, and we are going to look forward to an incredibly bright future for Austin College. You can count on Larry and me to be a part of that. We will be here to celebrate all the accomplishments and all the dreams that the College has before it. Thank you all."

The weekend's activities included other honors and recognitions for the president, including Alumni Board resolutions that named Larry and Marjorie Hass as Honorary Alumni of Austin College's Class of 2017. "Always a 'Roo." ■



"Naming The Village after President Hass is fitting," said **Tim Millerick**, vice president for Student Affairs and Athletics, "because The Village reflects in many ways her administration. The Village (and The Flats) were hugely collaborative projects between key constituencies with her leadership, and the projects were creative in both design and funding. Not only did the housing provide timely increased revenue to the overall budget, the units expanded on-campus housing opportunities, particularly for juniors and seniors, at a time when off-campus options were diminishing. The overall project became a recognized model nationally. I am thankful to have been a part of creating the space and am pleased that it now recognizes the leadership of President Hass."



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MARJORIE HASS

CAMPUS FOOTPRINT EXPANSION AND TRANSFORMATION

- IDEA Center, a state-of-the art science center for learning and research



- The Village and The Flats—new, innovative student housing



- Abell Library upgrades including the Learning Commons and Geographic Information System laboratory



Commons and Geographic Information System laboratory



- Hopkins Center renovation and digital upgrade
- Forster Art Complex landscaping

DIVERSITY, SAFETY, AND INCLUSION

- Interfaith relationship focus among students, campus, and community
- Task Force on Inclusion and Diversity



- 16% minority faculty; up from 8% in 2010
- 48% minority student body; 53% of the class of 2020 is non-white

- Responsible Education Advocacy Coordination and Training (REACT) program

EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMMING AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- STEM Teaching and Research Leadership (STAR) program

- Center for Community and Regional Development



- Kenneth W. Street Courtroom for pre-law advocacy and mock trial



- Retail Executive-in-Residence program

- Heightened alumni engagement and alumni programming

- Growth from 12 to 18 intercollegiate athletics programs



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

- 10 new majors and 10 new minors

- Gateways Clear Path to Graduate School



- Digital Humanities and Pedagogy



- Austin College Scholarship Conference (ACSC)

- The Center for Research, Experience, Artistic, and Transformative Education (CREATE)



- Scarbrough Center for Writing

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Thinking Green program

- 100% renewable electricity with wind power as the primary source



- LEED Gold designation for the IDEA Center

- “Green endorsement” from the Princeton Review





THE MOMENTUM OF DISCOVERY

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

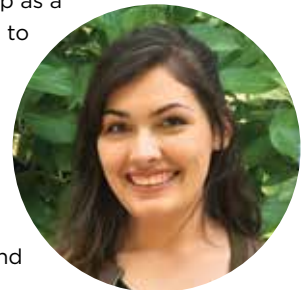
When **Brittany Subialdea '17** came to Austin College, she realized a dream as the first in her family to attend college out of high school. She was drawn here by foreign language opportunities in Jordan Family Language House—imagining that one day she would teach English in Japan.

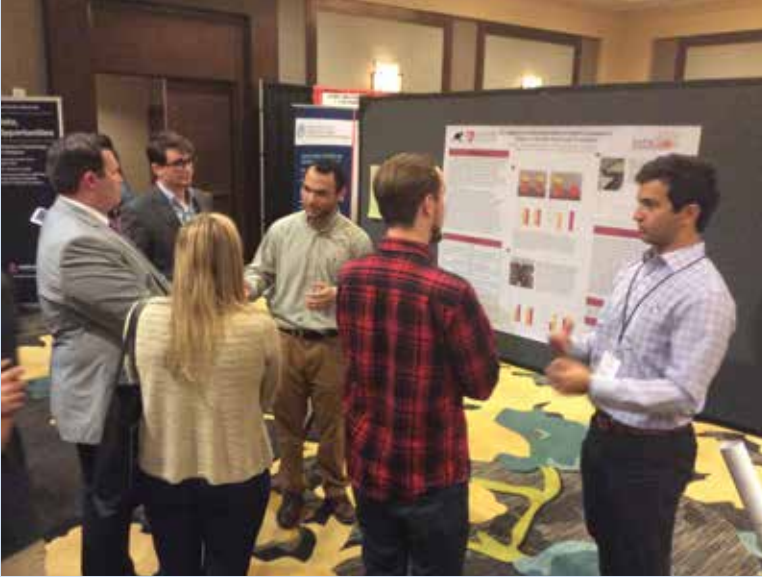
Following her plan to major in Japanese, she took her first-ever computer science course to satisfy a quantitative credit requirement. It was challenging, but studying computer science set in motion an unexpected new dream. While she was considering a meaningful minor, Dr. **Aaron Block**, associate professor of computer science, encouraged Brittany, telling her she was really good in computer science. She took classes to complete a minor, and during that study, realized she wanted to complete a *major* in the discipline.

“As my college education comes to a close, I see now how the mentorship I received was instrumental in my academic growth,” Brittany said. “Growing up as a Hispanic, first-generation college student, I had never been exposed to the value of a computer science education. I enrolled in a computer science class by happenstance, and it quickly became my passion.”

Brittany’s interest grew in researching the intersection between theoretical solutions and real-world problems. She and Block worked together on a research project focused on designing and implementing a scheduling algorithm, with expectations that Brittany would present the work at a student research conference and submit their findings for publication.

Now, having completed her degree with majors in Japanese *and* computer science, her experience at Austin College gives her a boost as she takes a next step toward another once-unexpected dream. This spring, Brittany was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Of 13,000 applicants, only 2,000 individuals nationwide received the prestigious fellowship. Brittany will begin a Ph.D. program in computer science this fall at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She is the first in recent memory, or possibly ever, at Austin College to earn a NSFGR fellowship as an undergraduate. With the momentum of this life-changing opportunity, Brittany says she wants to be in a position to help other minority women understand their options in science, technology, engineering, and math—especially budding computer scientists.





Exploration of the Mind

Research is central to the learning experience of Austin College psychology students—conducting it, reading about it, presenting it, listening to it. Psychology students are regular participants at the College's Scholarship Conference, and many present their work at the Student Research Competition when they travel with faculty to the annual Southwestern Psychological Association Convention. At left, Austin College students **Jorge Garza '17** and **Mark Pernik '18** share their research on memory enhancements at the Southwestern Psychological Association Convention in San Antonio this spring.

MAKING THE FIRST MOVE WITH EARLY RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

At Austin College, in-depth research is not saved for the last lap of college. Students in a wide variety of disciplines can begin research projects early in their academic careers and continue throughout their studies. Opportunities for research are embedded into regular coursework and offered through experiential learning opportunities, such as the Scarbrough Summer Research Program in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the College Honors Program, science research projects, and individual research questions in a number of disciplines. Collegial research, by common definition, produces new knowledge, is overseen by a faculty member, and is presented in a scholarly setting.

"Research for undergraduates at many other institutions is often characterized by 'sitting and watching,'" said Dr. **Lance Barton**, associate professor of biology. "At Austin College we are into *doing*. As far as we're concerned, undergraduate students seeking the solutions to research problems are the experts in the field on those questions. When an attending professor asks them for their opinions or ideas, it is not a trick question. The person who has the firsthand knowledge of all aspects of the problem, that person, is the expert."

Barton also serves as the director of the Austin College Center for Research, Experiential, Artistic, and Transformative Education (CREATE), which supports and celebrates qualitative and quantitative research as well as the creation of original works in literature and the arts. Established in 2015, CREATE builds a bridge between theory in the classroom and real-

world experience. By supporting the research component of education in all disciplines, Austin College helps students develop skills that transfer into the workplace, post-graduate education, and life in general—and gives them a shot at expertise along the way.

MOVING FORWARD WITH RELEVANT SKILLS THAT TRANSLATE INTO CAREER STRENGTHS

"We pose the overarching question, 'can our students solve a problem?'" Barton said. "That's what research is: dealing with ambiguity, knowing where to start, and mastering the fundamental skills of completing a research question." Students in all disciplines are encouraged to participate in individual research, with up to 40 percent of the student body conducting at least one research project during the course of their undergraduate studies.

Dr. **Lisa Brown**, professor of psychology, said research builds skills that relate to nearly all career paths. "Research in psychology, particularly in social psychology, requires planning, attention to detail, perspective-taking, patience, and creativity," she said. "Subtle variations in conditions or questions may undermine a study, so precision is key. Some studies focus on controversial or personal subjects, so undergraduate researchers must be particularly sensitive to responding to people's verbal and non-verbal cues. These skills of being able to follow a specific protocol and maintain confidentiality, but also being flexible enough to respond to participants' needs, can easily translate into jobs in which sensitive information is at stake and customer relations are pivotal."



In the Footsteps of Women Writers

A Lemuel Scarbrough Jr. Summer Research Fellowship funded a project for **Callie Graham** '17 that earned her Honors in English with the thesis, "Hope Ridings Miller: Women in Journalism, Gendering the News, and Literary Scrapbooks." Callie found that women's pages were the vehicle for many women to enter American journalism, though the stories on fashion, society, homemaking, and cooking were viewed as less serious forms of news—and that description often extended to the women who wrote them. She chose alumna **Hope Ridings Miller** '26, a society writer in Washington, D.C., during the 1930s and 1940s, as a case study of the impact of women in journalism. "Studying the work of female journalists shows the complexity of women as writers, their place in the professional world, and how women gained visibility in the public and press through their writing," Callie wrote. Pictured with her thesis advisor **Dr. Randi Tanglen**, at left, of the English faculty, the 2017 graduate plans to obtain a master's degree in publishing.

Barton, who advises and collaborates with biology research students, said, "Traditionally students in the sciences are taught to memorize; they learn theory instead of practice, and they cover content quickly to have it for the short term. They definitely can rock a test. However, it seems that the knowledge does not make the leap to the workforce because it's long gone by then. Reinforcing knowledge through hands-on research helps Austin College students retain what they have learned." At Austin College, with a 13:1 student-faculty ratio and access to facilities and resources that may rival some larger institutions, student researchers in all disciplines are able to create their own tradition. And, it begins with a strong mentoring relationship with an overseeing faculty member.

Students reap many benefits when working shoulder-to-shoulder with a faculty research advisor. "First, at the most basic level, being involved in research provides the student with another potential reference for a job or graduate school," said Brown. "Having worked at a large university, I have been approached for a recommendation by a student whom I did not even recognize because she had been in a lecture of more than 100 people. While she knew I probably did not know her, I was one of the few professors she had a class from as most of her instructors had been graduate students."

"So at a small college like Austin College, conducting research alongside a faculty member is another way in which students are able to make their strengths and abilities known to faculty who can then knowingly speak highly of them, in detail, to a potential employer or graduate or professional school," Brown concluded.

Rami Batrice '08 entered Austin College with plans to attend medical school and hoped to boost his academic résumé with a research project. **Dr. Bradley Smucker**, professor of chemistry, agreed to mentor Batrice, then a sophomore, on his first project. Rami's career plans transformed from medical doctor to scientist soon thereafter. "One semester of research turned into two, and so on," Rami said. "Along the way, I realized I really liked the process, and I changed my major from psychology to chemistry. Starting off, I never thought pure science was my future." By putting in the effort, he says he developed his critical thinking skills and a desire to *discover* knowledge rather than just use it.

Rami holds a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and now is doing post-doctorate work at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. His lab conducts environmental chemistry research, including work on containing nuclear waste, seeking a replacement for rare earth elements in high-tech production, and degrading waste to make polluted water non-toxic.

"Even today, one thing that Dr. Smucker would say I can still hear in my head: 'one hour in the library will save you a week in the lab.' Meaning, you can gain inspiration and clever ideas from others doing similar work. And of course, since research is intended to develop new information, it's very frustrating to learn that something you've put a month into has already been published," Rami said.





Communicating Research Findings

Scholars emerge from labs, studios, and rehearsal halls each spring to showcase their work at the Austin College Student Scholarship Conference, which in 2017 included nearly 160 students from 10 academic departments. "In the spirit of the liberal arts, this conference brings together the intellectual stimulation of an academic pursuit with the thrill of creative expression," said **Lance Barton**, director of the Center for Research, Experiential, Artistic & Transformative Education (CREATE) and coordinator of the College's first scholarship conference in 2013. The two-day 2017 event featured poster, oral, and panel presentations of individual and collaborative research findings, as well as art exhibits, music recitals, improv and theatre performances, and more. Presentations ranged from the role of women in the rebuilding of Haiti to the diets of hibernating squirrels to chemical compound actions too complicated for most non-scientists even to pronounce.

THOROUGHLY EXPLORING ALL THE OPTIONS

As a biology major with plans for a medical career, **Dilan Shah** '17 worked through several research questions in his years at Austin College, starting as a freshman. He admits that early on, he expected only to hone basic laboratory skills such as protocols or handling a pipette. But, many, many hours, days, and nights in the lab later, he says the experience was all-inclusive.



"I have friends who have done research at other institutions, and they have mastered one aspect of a project. But I have been privileged to do all aspects, and work with people who trust me with the resources to do the whole thing: develop the idea, design the experiment, and figure out how we're going to afford it,"

Dilan said. He completed a grant proposal and received a \$964 grant from

Sigma Xi scientific research society and the American Academy of Sciences, and a \$500 Beta Beta Beta (biology honor society) Research Scholarship to help fund his senior honors thesis work on anti-cancer drugs. (Yes, that's an undergraduate working to end cancer.) He's not alone in that. Austin College has offered a Cancer Biology course since 2014, which receives support from The Discovery Foundation of Dallas, Texas. During the class taught by Barton (and during a summer research component), students generate new cancer

cell lines that can be further characterized in the course. For each new cell line generated, students collect data on genetic and genomic instability, metastatic potential, and proliferative capacity, while also learning the biological mechanisms behind these phenotypes of cancer and delving deeply into the primary literature through classroom discussions. Students take part in an open-to-the-public Women's Health and Cancer Forum each fall. Last November, Dr. Sendurai Mani, associate professor in the department of Translational Molecular Pathology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, spoke during the event.

As Austin College students work a research problem from front to back, they collaborate rather than compete for ideas in the lab. Rami said he loved the collaborative effort and the opportunity to learn from one another. "I know I didn't think it was a big deal to work in a cooperative setting at the time, but in the profession, it's very competitive—cutthroat even," he said. "Students helping one another out without worrying if someone is going to steal your ideas is a great way to grow as a scientist."

CREATE also is working to develop a Community of Scholars for students who are interested in taking collaboration a step further through sharing best practices, general support, and camaraderie—and maybe a little competition, but just for motivation. Access to mentors and fellow students builds communication and relationship skills, while access to current, real-world tools builds practical research skills.

Brady Flanery '17 completed his honors thesis, titled "You May All Go to Hell, and I Will Go to Texas: Migration Patterns



Delving Into the Past

Research is the very heart of the field of history. Few know that better than Dr. **Light Cummins**, former Texas State Historian and Guy M. Bryan Chair of American History at Austin College, and Dr. **Victoria Cummins**, Austin College's A.M. Pate Jr. Endowed Chair of History. They've searched many archives and documents—and more recently, online sources—to write numerous books and publications, including a chapter each for the book *Eavesdropping on Texas History*, published in February. They share their expertise and love of history with their students, including, pictured with them, **Alexandria Lux '17**, who earned Honors in History with her thesis, "Texas Centennial Celebrations and the Rebranding of Texas." She said it was important initially to distinguish between myth, memory, and history, and in doing that, it was clear that the message of the Centennial Celebrations differed from the actual past.

and the Evolving Political Culture in Texas 1850-2010," with supervision from Dr. **Nate Bigelow**, associate professor of political science.

"During the early parts of my research, Nate and I used SPSS, software commonly used for statistical analysis in social science, to run certain tasks that included many steps and certain settings. It was extremely valuable to take note of each step so that it would be easier to write about the methods of my project four months later," Brady said.

Even in the study of classics, Austin College students have the advantages of digital resources. **Desiree Coleman '17** completed an honors thesis, titled "Cicero and the Complexities of Reciprocity in Friendship in the Late Roman Republic" to earn Honors in Classics. "Although still in its infancy, there are great online resources for academics in the field of classics such as the Perseus Digital Library at Tufts University and Whitaker's Words software. That said, nothing replaces physical books, especially since some books and journals I needed were not available online, and they are handy references for citations. For the classics, books also have the advantage of being subjected to more thorough editing and review, making them more reliable sources at this point," Desiree said.



This fall, Desiree will attend graduate school at the University of Arizona to complete a master's program in classics with an emphasis in Latin pedagogy. She plans to become a Latin teacher at the elementary and high school level. "Dr. **Bob Cape** (professor of classics) repeatedly told me to 'narrow down' what I was emphasizing in my research and to make sure that it was backed up with solid evidence from the original Latin and Greek. This advice not only helped me to realize what I should focus on while researching but prepared me to know what to expect when I enter graduate school this fall," she said.

“

I have friends who have done research at other institutions, and they have mastered one aspect of a project. But I have been privileged to do all aspects, and work with people who trust me with the resources to do the whole thing: develop the idea, design the experiment, and figure out how we're going to afford it.

– Dilan Shah '17

”



Analysis of Economics and Finance

Austin College and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas created the Economics Scholars Program in 2007 to create opportunities for undergraduate students from across the country to share research in economics and finance in Dallas each spring. In 2017, several Austin College students and faculty attended, including the group pictured here, left to right, **Thomas Samonig '18**, **Joshua Zakhary '18**, **Zabastian Alzamora '19**, **Rohail Rahman '17**, **Alexandria Lux '17**, **Wes Nichols '19**, **Collin Vu '18**, and **Victoria Severance '18**.

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CULTIVATING CHARACTER QUALITIES

Student researchers commonly attend regional and national conferences in various disciplines, such as economics, history, psychology, sociology, and specific fields in the sciences. Spending time with students and faculty from across the nation exposes Austin College students to the many possibilities in their field of research.

Six summer 2016 research students presented their results at the American Chemical Society Southwest Regional Meeting in Galveston, Texas, last fall. They exchanged ideas and fostered collaborations with chemists from all over the Southwest. Smucker accompanied the group and said the students learned about research happening at graduate schools, explored careers in chemistry, and saw the latest instrumentation technologies.

Barton explained that because Austin College students bring their own highly developed skills when they attend these competitions, they don't just do well—they dominate.

Dr. **David Aiello**, associate professor of biology, and several of his research students attended the Annual Meeting of the Texas Genetic Society, hosted by Texas A&M University. **Francisco Neal '17** won Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation at the conference. "I enjoyed the variety at the conference," Francisco said. "The general theme was genetics, but the projects investigated genetics in a variety of systems, including monarch butterflies, yeast, and cattle. It also reinforced the point that proper communication is a key feature of science." He begins an M.D./Ph.D. program at The University of Texas

Health Science Center–San Antonio this fall. Other winners at the conference were **Katrina Ngo '17** and **Rebecca McDonald '18** for Best Undergraduate Platform Presentation.

Dr. **Renee Countryman**, associate professor of psychology, said, "The benefits of preparing and presenting at these conferences are to *experience* an academic conference and, more importantly, to improve a student's ability to discuss research with an audience. I think that for our naturally outgoing students, conference presentations are just plain fun."

"But, when our more reserved students present their research, they are pushed to grow in ways that they wouldn't seek to grow," Countryman said. "This experience prepares them for what is a normal expectation of students in graduate school. When I speak to our alumni who have gone on to graduate programs, they always report how prepared they were, and they are thankful for their experiences at Austin College."

While in research mode, students often develop new knowledge of themselves. Austin College's STEM Teaching And Research (STAR) Leadership Program is designed as a unique program to integrate the development of vital leadership skills in interpersonal effectiveness, collaboration, problem solving, and ethical responsibility into the curriculum in the sciences.



“**Failure is the norm when doing research. If you are not stuck on a problem while doing research ... then you are about to be. ... there also is no greater feeling than solving a difficult problem previously thought to be impossible. Doing so requires resilience.**”

- Ryan Hood '17

So, students cultivate the skills they will need in the workplace and beyond as they are learning their subject matter.

“Being in a research group, of course, helps with your people and cooperative skills, and that’s a big part of the STAR Leadership Program as well,” said **Eva Natinsky '19**, a student researcher working in Adams Observatory. “We had a few STAR mini-project sessions where we evaluated how well our group worked together and what each member contributed; I think discussing it helped me contribute better work to the group.”

“I’ve always been a quiet and reserved person,” said physics major **Ryan Hood '17**. “It was hard for me to be the leader in a group even when the group needed that from me. Like pretty much everything in life, the only way to become a leader is to lead. These research classes, unlike typical lecture-based classes, provide people like me the opportunity to practice these skills. I think I am a better leader because of it.”

Failure, too, has its lessons. “Failure is the norm when doing research,” Ryan said. “If you are not stuck on a problem while doing research ... then you are about to be. In that sense, research is humbling. But there also is no greater feeling than solving a difficult problem previously thought to be impossible. Doing so requires resilience.”

Dylan said that he learned about his own ethics and morals while studying biology and potential treatment protocols for cancer. “With the current climate, you have to be skeptical of yourself and everyone else,” he said. “It’s very easy to interpret data how you want to. You have to ask yourself, are you willing to be challenged with a failure and keep working, or will you move forward with your own interpretation of the data?”

MAKING DISCOVERY POSSIBLE

Research at Austin College is supported by several generous grants and endowment gifts.

GRANTS

- The Discovery Foundation
- Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation
- National Science Foundation S-STEM Grant
- The Robert A. Welch Foundation

ENDOWED AWARDS

- The Bradshaw Frederick Armendt Fellowship in Chemistry, established in 1996 by Dr. and Mrs. Joe Dennis of Lubbock, Texas, and alumni of the College
- The Lee Harrison Bratz Field Laboratory, a gift from Dr. Robert and Dorothy Bratz and their family in 1994
- The Barry Buckner Biological Preserve and Research Area, established in 1995, donated by Andrew and Narcadean Buckner in honor of their late son, Barry
- The Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Erwin Fellowship, endowed by Mrs. Boude Storey, Mrs. E. M. Munroe, Dr. J.C. Erwin Jr., and Mr. T. Wilson Erwin in memory of their parents
- The Garnett Prairie, donated in 2002 by Hugh B. Garnett, now Austin College professor emeritus of economics
- The Dr. Paul E. Geers Award for Excellence in Pre-Medical Achievement, established in 1987 in memory of Dr. Paul E. Geers by his daughters, Betty Kay Geers and Paula Geers King
- The Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Endowed Internship in the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies at Austin College, established in July 2009 by the Long Foundation
- The McCarley Science Endowment, established in December 2004 by Marian McCarley. The fund currently holds the deed to the McCarley Woods Nature Preserve.
- The Howard McCarley Biology Student Research Endowment, established in 1995 by alumni of Austin College and family and friends of Dr. Howard McCarley
- The Lemuel Scarbrough Jr. Summer Research Program in Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Erwin E. Smith Foundation Endowed Internship in the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies at Austin College, established in 2009 by the Erwin E. Smith Foundation
- The Clinton and Edith Sneed Environmental Research Area, established in February 1986 by a gift of land from Clinton and Edith Sneed
- The P.S. Wharton Memorial Fellowship in Chemistry, established in 1963 by faculty members, friends, and alumni of Austin College



An Off-Campus Research Invitation

Abigail Ballard '19 spent nine weeks at the University of Oklahoma during summer 2016 in structural biology research through the National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Program there. She was one of 10 students from colleges and universities across the country selected for the summer program designed to teach students skills in laboratory research, how to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, understand the process of science, and communicate research results to their peers and the public. She worked with a mentor and shared her findings at a poster presentation at the conclusion of the program. In the photo, she is examining a tray that contains a crystallization screen; a “hit” in this screen is when a drop contains protein crystals. Completing majors in biochemistry and political science, Abigail also is an Austin College Hatton W. Sumners Scholar, recognized for academic excellence, civic engagement, and leadership skills.

A SCHOLAR IN MOTION, STAYS IN MOTION

Due to the early and frequent access to undergraduate research and cutting-edge resources, many students confirm their interest in a certain field.

“I’ve always had an interest in physics,” said Ryan. “I knew I wanted to work with either very small-scale physics—such as quantum mechanics, particles physics, or nuclear physics—or very large-scale physics such as astronomy. It became clear when I took observational astronomy.”

Dr. **David Baker**, physics professor and director of Austin College’s Adams Observatory, said students in the Physics Department Research Experience course observed exoplanets called “hot jupiters” with the research-grade Adams Observatory telescope. Though they observed known planets and had no discoveries, it was a good test of students’ capabilities as this was the first time hot jupiters were observed in Adams.

“I realized the power of astronomical imaging devices,” Ryan said. “My mind already was set on astronomy but the research class really solidified my choice.” He begins graduate work in astronomy at the University of Oklahoma this fall.

Eva joined Ryan and Baker in Adams Observatory. “Working on exoplanet detection methods was something I was excited about and really enjoyed,” she said. “I’m still unsure about what specific career path I’d like to pursue, but

I definitely think astrophysics research is an option.” Due in part to a strong research résumé from Austin College, this summer Eva is doing undergraduate research funded by the National Science Foundation at Rensselaer Polytechnic in New York in the field of particle astrophysics. She’ll return to Austin College this fall and take on advanced research with Dr. **Don Salisbury**, professor of physics.

Each spring, researchers proceed from Austin College labs and libraries to careers and further study to apply knowledge gained and experiences achieved.

Research yields results, the kind measured by data and the kind measured by solutions. As problem solvers, Austin College students grow in goal-setting, discernment, resilience, work ethics, and moral ethics. In building skills, knowledge, relationships, and résumés, Austin College students who dare to ask new questions and dream new dreams are propelled forward, ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. ■

**40% of the
Austin College
student body
completes at least
one research
project**



Carr, Wright

Calhoun, Barton

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

Austin College's newly created [Enhancing New Student Success through Undergraduate Research Experiences \(ENSURE\)](#) is a program designed to put incoming freshmen in science laboratories before their first college class. ENSURE scholars are selected from underrepresented groups and first-generation college students.

This year, support from the regional Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation allowed **Wesley Wright** '21 and **Condey Calhoun** '21 from Grayson County to be the first program participants. Additional funding has been secured by Independent Bank, based in McKinney, Texas, to recruit students from a broader area in 2018.

For four weeks in the summer before their freshman year, ENSURE program students work alongside returning students and faculty mentors on research questions. They have a hands-on role in the lab and later, in presenting at the Women's Health and Cancer Forum or the Austin College Student Scholarship Conference. This summer, Wright works with Dr. **Andrew Carr** and his student researchers in the chemistry lab; Calhoun, with Dr. **Lance Barton** and students in the biology lab.

"We feel these students will benefit academically and have higher success rates long-term after this early investment in the research process," said Carr, associate professor in chemistry.

"It's like when you go to the pool, and you want to put your toe in to see what it's like," Calhoun said. "That's what this is for me." She plans to major in public health and minor in biology with the hope of being a surgeon one day. Wright, whose career goal is cardiology, plans to major in biology and chemistry.

In addition to the Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation, funding also comes from the Brittain Biology Student Research Endowment, The Andy and Narcadean Buckner Biology Scholars Program, the Howard McCarley Biology Student Research Endowment, and the Independent Bank Community Grants Program.

'ROO NOTES

55



Stan Cobbs, longtime Kerr County resident and community volunteer, at left, was honored in February as 2016 Volunteer of the Year by Schreiner University. At the awards

dinner, he was introduced as a "super volunteer who shares his time and wisdom with local organizations from Red Cross to Habitat for Humanity to the Hill Country Arts Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce and, of course, Schreiner University." Stan's contributions to Schreiner span nearly four decades. In the '70s, he became head of the development program at Mo Ranch and became involved with Schreiner through the Hill Country College Fund campaign. He has been active in that effort since then, and served a term as chair of the campaign. In 1992, Stan became the director of Church Relations at Schreiner, a position he held until his retirement in 2001. In addition to his continuing efforts on behalf of the Hill Country College Fund, he has helped recruit new students, and "continued to faithfully respond when we put out last-minute calls for volunteers." His current service includes membership on the Church Relations Advisory Board.

62

John C. Hitt was honored this spring for 25 years of service as president of the University of Central Florida—and now he's moving forward in year 26. He and his wife, **Martha (Halsted) '60**, joined the UCF family in March 1992. The university made remarkable strides under John's leadership. *Read more on Page 46.*

'Roo News



GOLDEN VOICES

The Four ACs, plus one, performed at the Golden 'Roo celebration in May 2017, having also thrilled audiences at the 2016 event. The barbershop group formed in 1964 to travel with President **John D. Moseley** to entertain at fundraising events; he said he received larger checks for the College when they sang! The group also was known for serenading outside the women's residence halls after evening curfew. Left to right above are Ruth Ann Parker (the plus one and wife of Gary Parker); **Bill Vandivort '66**, tenor; **Mickey Bonesio '66**, lead; **Andy Sansom '68**, baritone; and **Gary Parker '67**, bass.

66

Laurie Robinson Coker has collaborated with Texas watercolor artist Mickey Archer on a new book, *Rhymes and Reason*, featuring Mickey's art and Laurie's poetry. The book

is available through the artist's website: www.mickeyarcher.faso.com/events.



68

Harry F. Wistrand, emeritus professor of biology at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, was the 2017 alumnus inductee of Austin College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter. After graduating from Austin College, he earned a master's

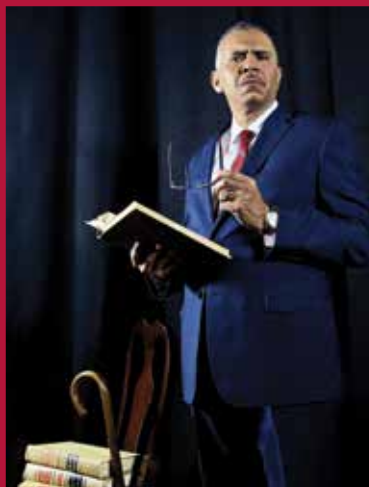


degree in biology and behavioral ecology at the University of North Texas, under a National Science Foundation graduate traineeship. In 1973, he earned a Ph.D. in zoology and genetics at Arizona State University. The following year, Dr. Wistrand held a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University. In 1974, he began his nearly 40-year career at Agnes Scott College. In addition to teaching courses in molecular genetics and evolutionary biology, Harry served in various positions of leadership, including associate dean of the college, several stints as chair of the Biology Department, and the founding co-director of the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program and the Program in Public Health. He also offered several courses in the Galapagos Islands, as well as courses in Japan, China, and Turkey. Dr. Wistrand retired in 2011.

77

Wade Cottingham and **Robert Rothbard** '78 have produced and released their second album of original music, *Fifty, Fifty, Fifty*, by their band, The Rothbard Cottingham Bandwagon. The musicians have not played "live" together since their days in college. The tracks for their new materials were recorded more than 600 miles apart. Cottingham mixed and mastered the music, on which Robert plays handpans as well as hand percussion, drums, and electronic input. Wade plays piano, keyboards, and the rest of the instruments and provides the vocals.

THURGOOD MARSHALL'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE COMES TO LIFE ON STAGE



Selmore Haines III '80 brought Thurgood Marshall to life in the one-man play *Thurgood* at Jubilee Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas, last winter. Selmore is no stranger to the one-man theatrical format. While a senior at Greenhill Preparatory School, he compiled an original one-man show, *Color Me Black*, and toured it for more than a decade. After earning his Austin College degree, he worked in the corporate sector for 35 years, but held on to his aspirations of working as a professional actor. In 2013, he auditioned at Jubilee Theatre and was cast in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which inspired him to pursue his acting

dreams. He has performed with the African American Repertory Theater, Bishop Arts Theater, Shakespeare Dallas, and Kitchen Dog Theater. His performance in Jubilee's production of *Do You Hear What I Hear*, earned him the Irma P. Hall Theatre Award for Lead Actor in a Musical. He also has a passion for working with young thespians. He is the production director for NIA Kids Center for the Performing Arts and has written and directed many of their major productions.



Save the date for GOLDEN 'ROO WEEKEND 2018 • MAY 11-13

More details to come.

GOLDEN 'ROOS

Members of the Class of 1967 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation during Austin College's Commencement 2017. Sixty-five alumni were presented anniversary medallions from President **Marjorie Hass** as their official induction into the Golden 'Roo Society (alumni of 50-plus years). The new inductees and Golden 'Roos from previous classes enjoyed a number of special events and reminiscences throughout the weekend. Find more information and photos at www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos.



[ACCOLADES]



LEADING THE TEXAS PHYSICIANS



Dr. **Carlos J. Cardenas** '81 leads the Texas Medical Association (TMA), taking the helm as president in May as Dr. **Don Read** '64 completed his term in the role. Austin College alumni have a long history of TMA leadership. According to TMA archives, **E.P. Becton** held the office in 1885-1886, and other alumni presidents were **Samuel Clark Red** in 1902-1903, **Joe Becton** in 1922-1923, and **Allen T. Stewart** in 1951-1952.

Dr. Cardenas has more than 25 years of experience in medicine and health care management. He graduated with honors from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, in 1985, and began his career as an intern and resident at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. Board chair of Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg, Texas, Dr. Cardenas is a board-certified internal medicine specialist, has served in various medical organizations, and co-founded South Texas Gastroenterology Associates in 1992. He served as president of the Hidalgo – Starr Medical Society in 2001, and was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Medical Association in 2005.

Committed to mentoring the next generation of physicians, in 2015 he was instrumental in opening a teaching hospital with 26 residents. Hosting students from the new University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Medical School, the hospital will play an integral role in creating a new medical school model.

Your Legacy Matters Here!



Austin College has provided transformational education for generations of students since its founding in 1849. An initial bequest from Emily Austin, sister of Texas leader Stephen F. Austin, helped lay the financial foundation for the College. Her legacy gift, and those of numerous donors who have followed, ensures Austin College's place among today's acclaimed colleges.

The **John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley Covenant Society** acknowledges the College's friends who have named Austin College as beneficiary in their legacy plans. Through their future estate gifts, the members of this special society will ensure the future financial well-being of the College. From one generation to another, Austin College remains grateful that so many families have entrusted it with these special gifts.

To learn more, contact Suzanne Crouch, CFRE, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of Estate Planning, at 415.686.6965 or scrouch@austincollege.edu.

78



Sallie Sampsell Watson was installed as the general presbyter of Mission Presbytery in a commissioning service at First Presbyterian Church of McAllen in October 2016. A number of 'Roos were in attendance, as pictured, left to right: **Sarah Demarest Allen** '03 and children, Austin College Parents Rom and Jean Johnson, **Michelle Vettters** '88, **Sallie Sampsell Watson** '78, **John Williams** '84, **Frank Seaman** '59, **John Brantley** '00, **Bill Clark** '83, **Joshua Sutherlun** '01, and **Edward Sansom "San" Williams** '69.

84

"Chico" Aleman (MA '85) marked his 35th year at Sherman High School and his 33rd as head coach of the boys soccer program last fall. He was a freshman at Sherman High when the school's soccer program began in 1976 and was away only to earn his teaching degrees. Returning to Sherman High as teacher and coach, he later began work on a doctoral degree at University of Guadalajara and took one year off from coaching to earn a master's degree in Mexico (the educational agency there would not recognize his Austin College master's degree). He completed his second master's degree and last year, earned his doctorate in holistic education. He and his wife, Malina, a physical education teacher, have two children.



Pamela Allen is a lead faculty area chair in the College of Counseling Psychology and Social Sciences for University of Phoenix. After graduating from Austin College with a degree in psychology, she earned a master's degree in counseling psychology at Texas Woman's University

See news of
recent weddings
in 'ROO-MATES
on Page 41

and a doctoral degree in management and organizational leadership from University of Phoenix. In addition to University of Phoenix, she is a faculty member for three online universities. She has worked with a research team to publish numerous articles and present her work at tier-one conferences across the country. She also is an executive life coach and has her own business, Another Level Life Coach. She lives in Houston, Texas, where she sings in her church choir, continuing her singing from Austin College where she was in concert choir and took part in a European tour. A former country and western dance champion, she also enjoys a good triple two-step and country waltz.



Rodney Moore is an accomplished attorney serving the energy industry and co-managing partner in the Dallas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, splitting his time between the firm's Dallas and Houston offices. He has been named to the *American City Business Journal's* Who's Who in Energy 2016-2017 list for the Houston market. He has been recognized in the publication for four consecutive years. His professional accolades also include recognition in *The Best Lawyers in America* for corporate as well as mergers and acquisitions law, and as a Texas Super Lawyer by *Texas Monthly* magazine. Last year, he was named an MVP in Energy by *Law360* in recognition of his work on more than \$30 billion in energy transactions for the past year. He also was recognized as a leading lawyer in *Energy: Oil & Gas (Transactional)* by Chambers USA 2014.

87

Brent Thomas Williams, University of Arkansas associate professor of rehabilitation education and research, received an Educator of the Year Award from Langston University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at its annual Social Justice Symposium in November 2016. The award recognized his service to social justice, his mentoring of doctoral students, work with the Arkansas PROMISE project, and other efforts in the rehabilitation field.



88

Jeff and Jill Grobowsky Bergus '95 do a booming business each day at their Lockhart Smokehouse, located in Dallas'

'Roo News



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

In May, **Helen Lowman '88** became president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful, a national nonprofit that envisions a country in which every community is a clean, green, and a beautiful place. More than 5 million volunteers work through over 650 community organizations and affiliates.

Helen has more than 20 years of leadership experience in international diplomacy and development, youth engagement, environmental education, disaster resilience, global leadership, volunteerism, social justice, and human rights. She served as an appointee of President Barack Obama in the senior foreign service and the senior executive service from 2010 to 2017, most recently with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, D.C. She also has held several leadership roles within the Peace Corps, working in the U.S. and abroad. She began her Peace Corps involvement in 1988 as a volunteer in Thailand.

"Keep America Beautiful's strong grassroots affiliate network reflects the diversity of America, and is engaged in meaningful volunteer work that empowers and enriches the communities we serve," Helen said. Early in her career, she served on the boards of Keep America Beautiful affiliates in Austin and El Paso while working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Helen holds a master's degree in international economics and development from the University of Denver Joseph Korbel School of International Studies. She is pursuing a Ph.D. at Antioch University in the Graduate School of Leadership and Change.

Bishop Arts District. But when their water meter was stolen last winter, no water meant no operating restrooms, which meant no business could be done. Rather than waste the 1,000 pounds of smoked meat and food that had been prepared, the restaurant owners got creative and came up with a plan: Feed the homeless.



With the help of The Stewpot and The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center, some 700 people had some true Texas barbecue that day. Water and business-as-usual were restored the next day. The couple also own a Plano location and recently announced the opening of a third location in Arlington at the new Texas Rangers complex, Texas Live! Among many recognitions, the Dallas restaurant was included this spring in the *Texas Monthly* listing of "The Top 50 Barbecue Joints in Texas."

'Roo News



A Growing Family Tree: Left to right, Margaux McCartney '18, Victoria Marie McCartney '17, Karah Garcia '13, Montine Garcia-Miller '11, Michael Garcia '96, Edward Garcia '80, and Gilbert Garcia '79

THE 'ROO FAMILY TREE KEEPS GROWING

The Garcia brothers—Gilbert, Edward, and Michael—all attended Austin College. Gilbert's daughters Montine and Karah decided in high school that they would follow their dad's footsteps, and they applied only to Austin College. While they were students, their cousins Margaux and Victoria came to visit, and they, too, applied only to Austin College. The entire family came to cheer on Victoria for Commencement 2017, and all will return in 2018 for Margaux's graduation as she continues toward her dream of a career as a physician. Today, Gilbert is a pediatrician in Houston, where Edward is an insurance agent. Michael is a reading specialist in Austin, Texas, where Karah works as a librarian. Montine is a special education teacher in Maryland.

Minnesota Residency Program of Mayo Clinic in Mankato. He also is completing his PADI Scuba Certification and having fun skiing and sledding in the cold with his wife, Courtney, and three children.

Bobby Hardin retired from Bank of America in December 2016 after 25 years of service. He began his career immediately after college in Dallas with what was originally NationsBank, before becoming Bank of America. He later earned his Executive MBA from The University of Texas at Dallas in 2003. He joined Ernst & Young in January 2017 as an executive director in financial services. He lives in Highland Village, Texas, with his wife, Hillary. They have a son, Taylor, and a daughter, Sydney '20, who is now attending Austin College.

93



Erin Camp Redden, director of accountability and instructional support for Caddo Parish Public Schools in Shreveport, Louisiana, was selected to serve in her district seat for the statewide professional organization of Louisiana Association of School Executives (LASE). LASE serves to protect and promote the education interests throughout the state and nation while providing a strong professional leadership with schools and districts.

94

Adam Reed has formed Reed Carter PLLC, a litigation firm in Dallas, Texas. His practice concentrates on representing both plaintiffs and defendants in tort and commercial litigation, with an emphasis on matters involving the transportation, hospitality, and bar and nightclub industries. Adam lives in Dallas with his wife, Jennifer, and son, Michael, 7.

95



Art Clayton has been named the chief prosecutor of the Intimate Partner Violence Unit at the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office. This felony-level

unit prosecutes homicides, aggravated assaults, sexual assaults, burglaries, strangulations, and assaultive conduct between intimate partners. Art, who has been a prosecutor since 1999 and with the Tarrant County office since 2003, recently has prosecuted several high-profile cases. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Lily Kate and Arthur.

91



Thomas Ortiz and Patrick Miller '90 were invited by the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas to travel to Havana, Cuba, in February as members of the

delegation to the Cuban Episcopal Church. Thomas represented the Episcopal Health Foundation as a member of its board. Patrick is rector of St. Mark's Church in

Houston, where he lives with his wife, Allison, and their two children. Thomas lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Halley, and their two daughters, who attend "a wonderful small liberal college in Sherman, Texas," where Grace is a rising senior and Sarah is a rising sophomore.

92



Javier Cardenas became Chief of Staff Elect at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minnesota, in January. He is chair of the Credentials Committee, sits on the Delegate Credentialing

Committee for Mayo Clinic, and is in his second term on the Hospital Board of Directors. He has enjoyed his work as an obstetrician and gynecologist with Mayo Clinic Health System for the past five years. He was honored as the 2016 Educator of the Year by the University of

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acroosstore.com

97



Steven Barnes was installed as associate pastor for children, youth, and families at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia, in December 2016. Pictured with Steven, Rev. Katy Walters '07, left, and Rev. Camille LeBron '98, took part in the installation commission.

98

Brandy Baxter-Thompson is now a named partner in the Calloway Norris Burdette Weber & Baxter-Thompson law firm in Dallas. She is board certified



in estate planning and probate. Brandy earned her law degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (now Texas A&M University School of Law), graduating in the top 15 percent of her class. She served

two years on Law Review and was elected as editor. She operated her own law practice before joining her current firm in 2012.

00



Amanda Jester, a partner and member of the board of directors of the law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, was named to the *Ambulatory M&A Advisor* annual "Leading Lawyers"

list in January. She represents private equity funds, hospitals, emergency care centers, surgery centers, physician and dental practices, and specialized service providers in mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures. The firm has offices in Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; and Austin, Texas. Amanda earned her J.D. degree at University of Chicago Law.

Chandini Kumar Portteus was named in March as president and CEO of Wipe Out Kids' Cancer (WOKC), a Dallas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funding for pediatric cancer research. She served in 2015 as president and CEO for the Livestrong Foundation after 10 years as the chief mission officer at the Susan G. Komen

[ACCOLADES]



ONE OF 5,000 SPECIALISTS IN U.S.



Sharon Larson '01 became the first female cardiothoracic (CT) surgeon at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics when she joined the staff in November 2016. There are barely 5,000 CT surgeons nationwide, and only 3 percent of them are female. In her select field, Sharon specializes in cardiothoracic surgery, transplants, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation.

The small number of available CT surgeons keeps the doctor's goals very clear. "I want to make sure that my patients are benefiting from any interaction they have with me, whether that be clinical, at the bedside, or operative. My goal will always be providing excellent patient care."

Sharon completed her master's degree at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth and her doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Touro University College in California. She studied general surgery at New York University Lutheran Medical Center and completed fellowships in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and thoracic transplantation and mechanical circulatory support at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina.

Global Headquarters. During her tenure at Komen, she led international fundraising efforts and programming spanning more



than 125 domestic affiliates in over 30 countries. In the WOKC position announcement, Chandini said she is pleased to join the fight against pediatric cancer and leverage her former work in the effort to find a cure for cancer. She also is principal and CEO of CP & Associates—Porteus Consulting group, a management consulting firm.

within the issue as presenting the "young talent behind the rejuvenation" of the print industry. At 38, Travis is principal of The Odee Company in Dallas. He has been with the company since 2001 when then-owner of the company, Buzz Tatom, selected him when seeking a young college graduate who had played football and had given his best on the field in the face of adversity—something with which the owner particularly identified. Travis began a six-month training program on the presses that led to a sales position after three months, and in 2011, he had the opportunity to become a co-owner. In 2016, he started a B2C (business to consumer) called CanvasKick, featuring the popular Artist Series. Before taking on that more demanding role, he said he had enjoyed golf, fishing, and college football Saturdays in support of his Fighting 'Roos. He and wife, Megan, had their first son, Henry, in 2012, and Edward was born in 2016, so enjoying his wife and sons now consumes his time outside the office.

01



Travis Stein was included in the February issue of *PRINT+PROMO*, a commercial printing industry publication, in the feature "Under 40." The article was described

Additions to the
'Roo family:
see Joeys on Page 43

[ACCOLADES]



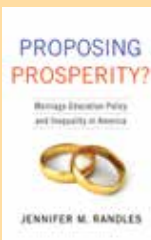
A PROMISING CAREER



Jennifer Randles '03, assistant professor of sociology at California State University, Fresno, received a Provost's Award this spring as one of seven "Promising New Faculty" recognized for exemplary achievements in teaching, research, scholarship, or service. She also was granted early tenure this spring, having joined the faculty in 2013 after teaching two years at Austin College.

Her first book, *Proposing Prosperity?: Marriage Education Policy and Inequality in America*, was published this year by Columbia University Press. Jennifer offers the following overview of the book:

"In the 1990s, the U.S. Congress overhauled welfare policy to encourage work, marriage, and responsible fatherhood for Americans in poverty. This led to the creation of the Healthy Marriage Initiative in 2002 and the funding of hundreds of marriage education programs across the country. Based on over 500 hours of participant observation in marriage education classes and interviews with those who taught and took them, this book takes the reader inside the marriage education classroom to reveal how healthy marriage policy promotes the idea that family well-being and poverty prevention depend on individuals learning to love in a responsible and rational way, minimizing the economically costly and socially destabilizing consequences of uninformed romantic choices. Sociologists have long described how social and economic inequalities pervade the most intimate aspects of individuals' lives. The unique contribution of this book is that it shows how romantic love and interpersonal commitment have recently become direct objects of policy efforts to address inequality."



Jennifer's peer-reviewed articles have appeared in *Gender & Society* and *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. Her paper, "Redefining the Marital Power Struggle through Relationship Skills: How United States Marriage Education Programs Challenge and Reproduce Gender Inequality," received the 2016 Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminists Scholarship Paper Award at the National Council on Family Relations conference in November 2016.

04

Amanda Newton Kisselle left her position



as executive director of admission at Austin College on June 30, after 12 years of recruiting new 'Roos, to become director of college counseling at Casady School in Oklahoma City. She can be reached

at kissellea@casady.org. Amanda looks forward to spending many weekends in Sherman, where her husband, **Keith**

Kisselle, continues his work as associate professor of biology and environmental science at Austin College.

10

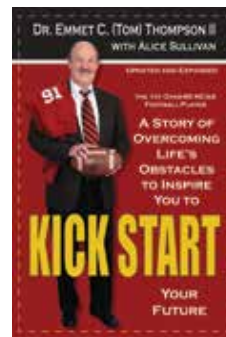
Mike Carlson graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in May 2016, earning a master's degree in public affairs. He studied economic policy, focusing on international macroeconomics and finance. At graduation, he received the school's prestigious Stoke's Prize in recognition of academic achievement and public service leadership, an award similar to

Austin College's Kidd Medal, which Michael received. After graduation from Princeton, Mike worked briefly at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington, D.C.,



where he focused on financial regulatory reform. In January 2017, he began work as an international economist at the U.S. Treasury in the office of international banking and securities markets. Before attending the Wilson School, Mike spent four years at the Federal Reserve Bank in Washington, D.C., first as a research assistant in the international banking section and then as a financial analyst in the stress testing group. Mike is the son of proud parents John '79 and Jean Beck Carlson '82 and the grandson of Mary and the late A.J. "Jack" Carlson, who taught history at Austin College from 1962 until his retirement in 1994 when he was named emeritus professor.

Tom Thompson MAT '10 kicked an extra point for the 'Roos in 2009, and at 61, became the oldest player to play in a



college varsity football game. He scored again with his book *Kick Start*, written with Alice Sullivan, which was updated and revised this year. The book, which tells his story of stamina, determination, and overcoming the odds, is available

at **Amazon.com** and **www.91kick.com**.

Tom said he had no real plan as an adult, and his lifestyle led to divorce, financial stress, and physical injuries. However, his life intersected with and was influenced by an assortment of fascinating characters, including martial arts champion and legend Chuck Norris, Elvis and Priscilla Presley, and U.S. President George W. Bush. And in time, Tom found his faith, his purpose, and his soul mate. "My life began to have purpose when I became more concerned about what I was giving than what I was getting," he said. "By doing so, I received far more than I ever could have gotten on my own." Tom continues his relationship with Austin College as an adjunct faculty member in leadership studies, assistant football coach, and dad of Rachel '18.

'ROO-MATES

02

The Rev. Dr. **Stacy Smith** and Kevin Gallagher were married at First Congregational Church in Memphis, Tennessee, in December 2016. Stacy is the happy stepmother to Clayton, 23, Molly, 16,



and Spencer, 13. Stacy completed her doctorate in education at the Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in May 2016. She is the director of education and innovation at the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis and recently served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

06

Dennis Kelly and **Emily Webb** '10 (MAT '11) were married December 30, 2016, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sherman. Alumnae **Cara Marusak Rouvaldt** '10, **Kelley Eidt Batey** '10, **Caroline Webb Martell** '11, **Jessica Webb** '12, and **Sarah Buhidma Caudill** '05 were among the bridesmaids. Groomsmen and ushers included **James Erdle** '06, **John Davenport** '06, **Jake Shockley** '06, **Don Ferguson** '06, and **Paul Hoffmeyer** '06. **Mallory Duesman Eichenberger** '10 (MAT '11) and **Molly Banas** '09 were lecturers. Other alumni in the wedding party included the bride's father **Claude Webb** '77 (MA '79) and her brother-in-law **Patrick Martel** '08. Dennis and Emily live in Plano, where Emily is a high school Spanish teacher. Dennis is a professional baseball trainer at Strike Performance, the junior varsity baseball coach at St. Mark's School of Texas, and hockey trainer at Clarke Athletics. Many alumni attended the wedding and reception, especially representing baseball, Alpha Delta Chi sorority, and Phi Sig fraternity members from the 1970s.



13



Victoria Briscoe and **Michael O'Connor** '10 were married July 3, 2016, in Fort Worth, Texas. Victoria is the daughter of alumni **John** '81 and **Tina Cornelius Briscoe** '82 (MA '83) and niece of **David** '83 (MA '84) and **Margie Briscoe Norman** '83. Many, many 'Rooes were in attendance. The bridal party included maid of honor **Hannah Briscoe** '15, matron of honor **Lauren Hill Rose** '13, and bridesmaid **Emily Olvera** '13. Groomsmen

were **Jordan Rose** '11, **Navid Daryapayma** '10, **Dallas Key** '10, **Tres Ellis** '11, and **Neal Spradlin** '10.



Karah Garcia and **Joey Bergeron** were married December 30, 2016, in Katy, Texas, with many alumni attending, including father of the bride **Gilbert Garcia** '79 and officiant **Michael Garcia** '96, uncle of the bride. Matron of honor was **Montine Garcia-Miller** '11, sister of the bride, and the bride's cousins **Victoria McCartney** '17 and **Margaux McCartney** '18 were bridesmaids. Many other alumni attended including those pictured, left to right, **Scott Meara** '13, **Gilbert Garcia** '79, **Edward Garcia** '80, **Joshua Zachary** '18, **Margaux McCartney** '18, **Karah Garcia** '13, **Montine Garcia-Miller** '11, **Victoria McCartney** '17, **Vidur Marwaha** '17, **Kimberly Tamara "Earles" Pollini** '98, and **Michael Garcia** '96. Karah and Joey live in Austin, Texas. Karah works as a library assistant while she completes her master's degree in library sciences with a focus on youth services. The new couple honeymooned in Disney World.

14



Liann Harris and **Jon Payne** '12 were married March 11 at Austin College's Wynne Chapel. Alumni in the wedding party included **Catherine McKenas** '14 and **Anna Sliz** '14 as bridesmaids and **Greg Payne** '14 as best man. The couple lives in Dallas where Liann is a management trainee for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and Jon is in his second year of residency at Methodist Dallas Charlton Hospital.

12



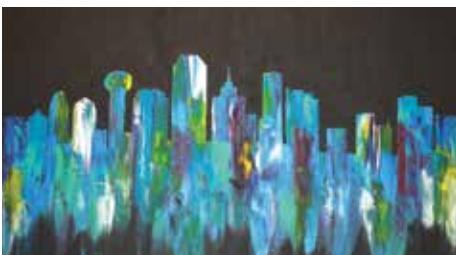
Marian Fields is earning her Master of Fine Arts degree in playwriting at Columbia University, where she is the School of the Arts Dean's Fellowship recipient for the playwriting Class of 2018. She also is the

founder of the video series "Black And Making It" and Bible & Penn Productions. But you won't find Marian's name among her current credits. She works under the artistic pseudonym Ayvaunn Penn. That pseudonym became a bit more well-known after her latest production, *King David: The Original Musicless Musical*—which she wrote and directed—hit the stage at Columbia University in March. Marian earned a master's degree in theatre at Louisiana Tech University, with a double concentration in acting and playwriting. At Louisiana Tech, she was honored with the 2015 Lula Mae Sciro Award of the Year for Theatre Excellence and the 2015 Arthur W. Stone Playwright of the Year Award. An inductee of Alpha Psi Omega national theatre honor society and a member of the Dramatist Guild of America, her interest in writing also takes other forms. She is the author of *Ephemeral Moments*, a book of poetry and short stories exploring issues such as domestic abuse, struggles of faith, and contemporary love.



Ashley Jones joined Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas last year as an Artist-in-Residence: Art Therapist, working as a member of the Arts in Medicine team to offer art therapy opportunities tailored

to patients and the health care system. The goal of her work is to engage patients, at their bedsides or in small group settings, in the creative process as an antidote to the pain, anxiety, and boredom often associated with a hospital stay or diagnosis of a serious illness. Her work also includes staff education and development of the Arts in Medicine programs. She runs an open art studio five days a week for patients, caregivers, families, and staff



[ACCOLADES]



CONTRIBUTING TO HER COMMUNITY



Elizabeth Lauderback Isaac '08, a registered patent attorney with Dunlap Coddling intellectual property boutique law firm in Oklahoma City, was named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the *Oklahoma Gazette*. The program honors "exceptional individuals who have made a significant contribution to shaping the Oklahoma City landscape."

Elizabeth's practice focuses on patent, design, trademark, and copyright law. After graduation from law school, Elizabeth pursued additional education in the field of biological sciences that enabled her to sit for (and pass) the United States Patent and Trademark Office bar exam. She did so while working full time and serving as the inaugural board chair of IgniteOKC. She spent more than 500 hours building what had been a small group of volunteers hosting a one-night event into a fully formed and self-sustaining nonprofit organization that offers numerous public community events. IgniteOKC connects people of diverse backgrounds in support of collaboration, creativity, innovation, and leadership in Oklahoma City.

Elizabeth also works closely with the Oklahoma Film+Music Office to provide resources and growth opportunities for local artists. A Leadership Oklahoma City member, she teaches Sunday school at St. Thomas Orthodox Church; is vice chair of membership for Catalyst, a young professionals board committed to supporting the local cultural community through Allied Arts; serves as an active member of the women's group Lean In; and is a regular volunteer at the Exchange (formerly Premier) on Film Row.

members. She also facilitates expressive therapy groups on topics like anger and frustration, to relaxation and self-care.



Ashley took private art lessons throughout middle school and high school, completed majors in art and psychology at Austin College, and earned a

master's degree in art therapy at Florida State University.



Brittnay is pictured in her classroom on the first day of school last fall.

14

Brittnay Connor was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year at Jerry R. Junkins Elementary School in Dallas ISD, where she teaches bilingual kindergarten. This was her first year in Dallas ISD, having previously been a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Cali, Colombia. She also heads Project Comeback, a community engagement opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to come together and revitalize the neighborhood in which they live, work, and teach.

15



Alex Ocañas began working for Austin College in December 2015, serving as coordinator of the Center for Environmental Studies. She worked extensively with students in Thinking

Green projects and coordinated the Sneed Prairie field trip program, handling

arrangements and scheduling with area elementary school teachers and training Austin College's student leaders. During her time on campus, the Sneed field trip program celebrated reaching 10,000 children to participate in the field trips. Alex also completed a greenhouse gas emission inventory annually for the campus. She left the College in June to begin a master's degree program at the University of Montana. Her degree will be in resource conservation, with a focus in international conservation and development. Pictured, Alex teaches a group of children at Sneed Prairie for a field trip and learning experience.



00



Joe Fox and Delynn Davidson '03 welcomed their fourth child, Tessa Beth Fox, on March 16. She is well loved and protected by her big brothers, Tiago 6, Tycho 5, and Tadeo, almost 2. Tessa means "fourth born," and the middle name of Beth honors her late cousin, who lost her young life to brain cancer. Besides spending their time wrangling tiny "fox cubs," parents Joe and Delynn operate and teach yoga at their small business, SWEAT Yoga Studio, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

02

David and Sarah Beaty Snyder '04 announce the birth of their daughter, Emilia Grace, born July 14, 2016. The proud



parents have enjoyed working at Austin College for the past several years.

David is director of institutional research and assessment and Sarah has served the Office of Admission in several roles, most recently director of transfer admission.

04



Hunter and Rachel Baumann Kennedy '06 welcomed their son, John William "Will," on January 21. The couple lives in Dallas, Texas, where Rachel works as a recruiting manager for The Container Store and Hunter works as land manager for Source Minerals.



Cory and Jennifer Whetsell McDowell announce the birth of their son, Jack Allen, born October 12, 2016. Jack's sisters, Cori Ann and Carli, 5-year-old twins, welcomed him home. Jennifer is taking time off from teaching to care for their children. The family lives in Midland, Texas, where Cory is a shareholder with Stubbeman, McRea, Sealy, Laughlin & Browder. He recently was named one of Midland's "20 Top Leaders Under 40."

08

Ryan and **Becca Webb Buell** welcomed their daughter, Harper Rose, on October 30, 2015. The family lives in Frisco, Texas, where Ryan is an IMS supervisor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Becca is the vice president of finance for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. 🐾



16



Grant Marcinko began working for Austin College upon graduation, serving as a development officer and reunion giving coordinator in Institutional Advancement. He leaves the position

this month to move to Washington, D.C., to pursue a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

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



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

2017

AUSTIN COLLEGE HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

• OCTOBER 13 – 15 •



**Alumni College
Awards Dinner
Tailgating in the Outback
Reunion Celebration**

Registration opens in August
www.austincollege.edu/homecoming

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings, 'Roo Nation!

The month of May is always such a special time at Austin College: warming weather has nature blooming; final exams have students scrambling; the summer has started beckoning; and of course, it is graduation!



This year, I was privileged to attend Commencement and to address the Class of 2017. This class is so very impressive and exhibited many honors and aspirations. The hopes and dreams and eagerness to take their

next steps were clear to all as they walked across the stage to claim their degrees. Families cheered and cried, and the promise of the future was palpable in the air.

On behalf of the Austin College Alumni Board, it was my honor to share the message of continuing connection to Austin College as they begin their alumni careers, and to encourage them to stay in touch from their first day as new alumni.

As we bid them goodbye as students and hello as alumni, we added two additional members to the Class of 2017 alumni roster: our own Dr. Marjorie Hass and Dr. Larry Hass! The Alumni Board named them honorary alumni with all the rights and privileges. And in addition to this, we also pronounced them to be "'Roo Sweethearts."

As our latest alumni – Class of 2017 – depart from campus to new adventures, they remain ever connected to our amazing Austin College community! Let us all reflect on graduation and use this milestone event to pledge that we too will stay connected to this amazing institution. Look for local AlumNight events in your area; watch for Women Get Connected announcements; join Austin College Facebook groups; and keep the magic of Austin College and our great 'Roo community alive and blooming.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful summer!

Jeanne (Holland) Thoes '84
Alumni Board President



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



Mike Sorrells '65 played football at Austin College while earning a degree in business. When he graduated in 1965, the head coach at Highland Park High School, where Mike attended, offered him a football coaching job. A year later, HPHS added \$500 to his stipend to also coach swimming. Eventually he devoted his time only to swimming, guiding his teams for 33 years. When he retired in 2002, he had coached more than 40 individual and relay state champions and five Olympic swimmers.

He left retirement from 2009 to 2011 to serve as Rockwall ISD aquatic director at the district's new aquatic center.

Mike was voted Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2001 and inducted to the Texas Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame in 2012.

2017 Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year Awards

To be announced

2017 Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees

FOOTBALL



Paul Alexander '60

- Retired dentist
- Woodway, Texas
- Former geophysicist, Shell Oil Co.

SWIMMING & CHEERLEADING



Dale R. Huggins '95

- Operations director, Action Pawn; co-owner, Jonathon Todd Staging & Design
- Round Rock, Texas
- Former swim coach

BASKETBALL



Margaret Roe '95

- Portfolio lead, Prime Therapeutics
- Burnsville, Minnesota
- Committee Chair for Twin Cities Walk-to-End Alzheimer's

FOOTBALL & BASEBALL



Bob Sheffield '70 ('75 MA)

- Cost engineer, project manager, Brown & Root Inc. and KBR Inc.
- Katy, Texas
- Traveled to 49 states, 24 countries, 5 continents

FOOTBALL & BASEBALL



Jeffrey Timmons '85

- Teacher, head baseball coach, Amarillo ISD
- Amarillo, Texas
- Texas Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame Coach of the Year

BASKETBALL



Katy F. Williams '10

- Assistant director, Austin College Academic Skills Center
- Sherman, Texas
- Program director, Special Olympics Texas, 2012-2015

Honorary Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees



Jack Pierce (posthumous)

- "Number One Fan" of 'Roos, 1967-2016
- Austin College biology faculty



John Prudich '78

- Longtime 'Roo team physician
- Orthopedic surgeon, McKinney, Texas



E. Don Williams

- Swim team referee for 22 years
- Austin College professor emeritus of mathematics, former Dean of Sciences

Celebrating 25 Years ... and More to Come

By Vickie S. Kirby



John C. Hitt '62 was honored in March for 25 years of service as president of the University of Central Florida. He and his wife, **Martha (Halsted) '60**, joined the UCF



family March 1, 1992. Under his leadership, UCF made remarkable strides in academic quality and diversity, became a major metropolitan research university, and established a medical college. The first in his family to attend college, Dr. Hitt knows firsthand the power

higher education yields to transform lives.

During a packed celebration at UCF's Student Union, community leaders and members of the UCF family praised the Hitts for their impact on the university and the entire Central Florida region. "Some would say we have been lucky," the UCF board chair said at the event, calling President Hitt "one of the most important leaders, in my opinion, in all of Central Florida in the past 25 years. I choose to believe we have been blessed to have Dr. Hitt and his not-so-



secret weapon, Martha, leading our university."

The celebration concluded with the Hitts receiving UCF's Honorary Alumni awards, which recognize outstanding service and philanthropy to UCF. "Today, on the 25th anniversary of the black and gold's most dynamic duo, a grateful community knows we are better because of you," the chair elect of the UCF alumni

board and a member of Hitt's first class of graduates in 1992, said. "We also know that you are better because of each other. And, because you have made us part of your family, it is with great joy and pride that we take the step today of officially making you part of ours." In the future, Honorary Alumni awards will be given in the Hitts' honor.

"While I have learned many things during my tenure as president, one stands above all others: No one succeeds on their own," Dr. Hitt said to the faculty and staff of UCF. "Together, we have created a culture in which we do more than wish for success. We plan for it, then make it happen."

Hitt has greatly increased students' access to a high-quality, affordable education. UCF's enrollment has tripled during his tenure. He has conferred nearly 250,000 degrees, accounting for more than 80 percent of all degrees awarded since UCF began classes in 1968.

"Martha and I are humbled by the kindness you have shown us regarding this anniversary," President Hitt said. "I'm standing here marveling at how these past 25 years have passed so quickly ... and joyfully. ... Like with all anniversaries, today's is infused with nostalgia. It's a potent and powerful feeling. But more powerful is the belief I have in the future. Our future."

Through the years, President Hitt has been recognized as the *Orlando Sentinel's* Central Floridian of the Year, among America's 10 Most Innovative College Presidents (2015), and is consistently listed among the *Orlando Sentinel's* 25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida.



IN MEMORIAM ☹️ ALUMNI

1940	Emmett Essin	April 17, 2017
1943	Haden Brashier	April 16, 2017
1948	Elizabeth Thorington Cunningham	May 7, 2017
1948	Rudolph Inman	December 19, 2016
1948	Frances Park	May 13, 2017
1950	Betty Binion Keys	December 1, 2016
1950	Troy Martin	April 21, 2017
1950	Yvonne Guion Pierce	February 8, 2017
1951	Marilyn Bratcher	February 23, 2017
1952	Jimmie McDonnell	January 4, 2017
1952	Richard "Dick" Schmidt	June 6, 2017
1952	Delores Barnett Simmons	December 17, 2016
1952	Paul Yeager	April 13, 2017
1953	Ann Whitworth McDaniel	May 21, 2017
1954	Mona Roberts Wright	January 1, 2017
1955	Martha Moss Hunt	April 14, 2017
1956	John Brand	January 25, 2017
1956	Clifford Grum	December 19, 2016
1956	Robert Moore	December 14, 2016
1957	Luther Harvey	March 7, 2017
1958	Claudette Speaker Cogswell	May 15, 2017
1958	Earl Fredrick Walborg	May 24, 2017
1959	Eddie Polk	January 24, 2017
1959	Wally Reddick	January 7, 2017
1959	Charles Raymond Sessom	May 4, 2017
1960	Bonnie Smith Beardsley	March 15, 2017
1961	Dawn Belden Cantrell	December 19, 2016
1964	William "Bill" Richardson	February 15, 2017
1965	Michael Jenkins	March 25, 2017
1966	Walter Lewis	January 28, 2017
1967	Dan Goldsmith	April 1, 2017
1968	Clara "Jo" Vandivort Hickey	February 17, 2017
1971	Judd Bell	February 9, 2017
1971	Ann Sebastian Black	May 24, 2017
1975	Dana Lee Davidson Baker	May 7, 2017
1976	George Cason	December 31, 2016
1981	Jill Ellen Griffin Stover	May 26, 2017
1990	Noelle Varner Malcom	February 21, 2017

Remembering Our Own

The Austin College community lost three faithful friends in recent months.



Bonnie Beardsley, assistant professor emerita of communication arts, died March 15 at age 94. She and her husband, Paul, came to the College in 1950 when he joined the communication arts faculty. She served as an acting coach and worked closely with her husband on several programs before she joined the faculty in 1960 upon completing her undergraduate degree at Austin College. The two worked together to produce and direct many plays, performed together in several duo-dramas, and established arena theatre at the College. After Paul died suddenly in 1973, she continued her work in the department until retiring in 1984 when she took an artist-in-residence position at the College and pursued her interest in writing. Beloved by her students and alumni, each year at Honors Convocation, her name is remembered in the awarding of the Bonnie Beardsley Fellowship for an Outstanding Student in Communication Studies. For many years after retiring, she attended the annual event to meet the student recipient.



Senior trustee **Clifford J. Grum**, also a 1956 alumnus, died December 19, 2016, at age 82. He served on the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1992 and from 1993 to 2001. He served as chair or vice chair of the Development Committee throughout his active service. He also was on the Investment Committee and continued to attend that committee's meetings for many years as a senior trustee. A longtime citizen of Lufkin, Texas, he was very involved in his community and in First Presbyterian Church. He also spent more than a decade in New York where he served as publisher of *Fortune* Magazine and executive vice president of Time, Inc. He also had a passion for horse racing and was a thoroughbred owner. He served on several national boards during his years as a business leader.



Senior trustee Dr. **Charles "Mickey" LeMaistre** died January 28 at age 92. He served on the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1983, serving on the Education Committee and the Trustee Committee. He spent seven years as chancellor of The University of Texas System before serving nearly 20 years as president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. A pioneering crusader against the harmful effects of tobacco use and a catalyst of the field of cancer prevention, he was on the first U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health, and he served as national president of the American Cancer Society in 1986. Named chancellor emeritus by the UT System Board of Regents, LeMaistre returned to MD Anderson as a part-time professor in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences, which he founded years earlier. The Texas House of Representatives passed a formal resolution of tribute to the physician upon his death.

Other Friends We Will Miss

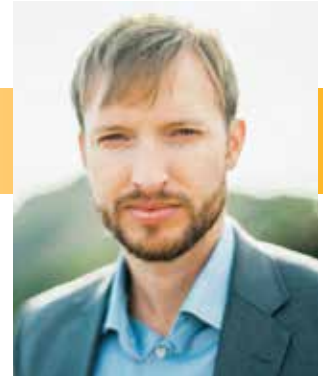
Juliette McClendon, a member of the Austin College Spanish faculty from 1963 to 1979 died March 30. After retirement, she and her husband served with the Peace Corps and returned to work in missions, as they had spent 20 years before she became a faculty member.

James Norman, who served as head baseball coach, assistant football coach, and faculty member at Austin College from 1980 to 1982, died April 23.

“ In Other Words ”

An Education Rooted in Inquiry Facilitates Science and Society

By Kole T. Roybal '05



Liberal arts institutions are needed as much as ever in our country today. We need an electorate that is informed about the major challenges facing the world, all of which are multifaceted and require a collection of expertise. The onslaught of attacks on science in the public sphere and the undercurrent of contempt for intellectuals is troubling to say the least. Schools like Austin College are the antidote for these sentiments as solutions come from rigorous thinking and a concerted effort to understand others and other cultures. Austin College forces students to acquire a breadth of knowledge and the skills for taking problems apart and assessing them from multiple unique, but credible viewpoints. An education rooted in diversity of thought and rigorous inquiry can lay the foundation for success in a wide spectrum of careers when it is combined with the deep knowledge of a discipline.

My chosen field is biomedical research, and I now lead a lab at the University of California, San Francisco, working to develop next-generation cancer therapeutics. As I navigate my career, I periodically reflect on the experiences at Austin College that prepared me for my job, which requires management, mentorship, teaching, community outreach, and continual work at the edge of the unknown. The core tenants of a liberal arts education form the foundation of scientific thought and instill the collaboratory mentality needed to tackle the most pressing scientific questions of the day.

If we dissect what is required to take scientific research from the early stages of discovery to the treatment of patients, a liberal arts education provides many necessary skills. At the early stages of a project, it is important to identify critical areas of research that could lead to breakthrough therapies, and this is often facilitated through interaction with other scientists with a diverse set of expertise. Some of the most important advances in science and medicine come from research at the interface between different disciplines, and a liberal arts education prepares you for this by offering a broad curriculum that forces you out of your comfort zone.

We are in exciting times in cancer therapy with pioneering scientists working at the interface of cancer biology and immunology—the study of our immune system and how it combats disease. Scientists such as Jim Allison, who is now at MD Anderson, worked through initial pushback in the cancer field and have shown that our immune system is incredible at combating deadly cancers if it is effectively stimulated. This area of research, called cancer immunology, seeks to understand how our immune system interacts with tumors

and how we can stimulate immunity to the disease, much like we think about eradicating a virus or bacteria from our body. We now have breakthrough immunotherapies that can drive a curative immune response to cancers, and we can even engineer our body's own immune cells to better detect and get rid of the disease. These types of therapies will become standard of care over the next decade and will relieve the need for highly toxic therapies like chemotherapy and radiation.

Biomedical research goes well beyond the lab and experiments. The next stages require clear communication of your research to make sure the community understands the importance of new findings and how they can impact their lives. Many of the best scientists think deeply about how they can foster understanding of science in the community as we all rely to some degree on taxpayer-funded institutions for funding. The onus is on scientists to convince the public that what we do is important, and the process of explaining our work in simple terms can help to distill ideas. It doesn't matter if you have made the most exciting discovery or therapeutic if you can't convince the medical community and public that it is a viable approach to treat disease.

A liberal arts education can aid in the process of dissemination of important scientific breakthroughs as it incentivizes people to go out in the world and community and talk about ideas and build common ground. The desire to teach and inform through direct interactions with other scientists and society is essential to assuage the science skeptics. Many scientists could benefit from a liberal arts perspective. Scientists need to go out and change the perceptions in the community and truly understand where our message is lost. To tackle major societal concerns like cancer and global warming, we need an educated population that feels empowered by science rather than constrained. ■

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