

# AUSTIN COLLEGE

Magazine Winter 2018

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# Austin College

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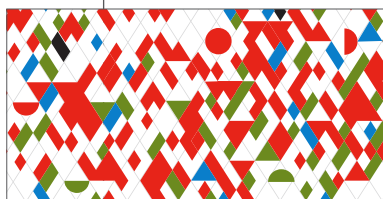
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# SNAPSHOT



## Snapshot


**Lola Olaleye '19** combined the traditional dress of the Nigerian tribes (Kwale) of her mother and of her father (Yoruba) for the Student International Organization (SIO) Fashion Show in October 2017. She participated in the annual SIO event as a member of Black Expressions. All members were encouraged to wear representation of their culture for a presentation that included African, Caribbean, hip hop, and traditional dance moves.

Lola grew up in Nigeria, and she, her mother, and two younger sisters moved to New York when Lola was high-school age, attending Bronx Envision Academy. Her mother wanted her daughters to have opportunities beyond marriage in their futures. They had family in New York and in Houston, where they moved a few years later and where Lola graduated from high school.

A permanent resident of the U.S., Lola hopes to attend law school and pursue civil rights work, advocating on behalf of women.

PHOTO BY HANNA PAINE '21



A photograph of a young woman, Michelle Zhou, and a Maasai man standing in a savanna landscape. Michelle is wearing a red and orange striped shuka. The Maasai man is wearing a blue and red striped shuka and a yellow and red striped wrap around his waist. He is holding a wooden staff. The background shows a grassy field with scattered trees and a cloudy sky.

“In the future,  
I hope to be  
treating  
underserved  
patients both  
locally and abroad,  
using the skills  
learned in my  
academic career.”

—Pre-dental student  
**Michelle Zhou '18**  
Plano, Texas  
Major: Business Administration  
Minor: Art  
Scholarship Recipient

## OF TUSKS AND TEETH

Pre-dental student Michelle Zhou spent a semester abroad in the Arusha Region of Northern Tanzania, conducting research on tusk breakages in African elephants across protected areas. “My research on elephant tusks has greatly impacted my commitment to dentistry because I realized my passion for diet and how that affects the teeth. Elephant teeth and human teeth have similar structure, so learning about the tusks parallels my career interest.” Michelle has been accepted into the Class of 2022 at UT Health-San Antonio School of Dentistry.

The breadth of Michelle’s Austin College experience is possible because of generous scholarship support for talented students. Every gift changes a life and has impact on the future — make your gift today!



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[austincollege.edu/giving](http://austincollege.edu/giving)

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

“So, we begin!”



Dear Friends,

On October 30, 2017, I began my tenure as the 16th president of Austin College.

The past year was one of profound milestones. For Cece and me, 2017 was life changing in so many ways. It brought presidential interviews at the same time my father's health began to fail, which ultimately led to his passing after a full and joyous life. It brought great happiness and deep sadness. It brought an ending while ushering in a new beginning. Our move halfway across the country has been exactly what you would imagine it to be—packing boxes while unpacking reports, budgets, and articles about AC, calling movers while calling friends of the College, waving goodbye while saying hello. A new adventure is not always easy but it is what life is all about. For us, this was our time to practice what we have preached to students these past 20 years. Step away from what is familiar and explore the world. We are thrilled to do that here in Sherman!

Now we find ourselves in a new place, a new community, a new home, and a new college, looking forward with confidence and great optimism. These first months immersed in the life of the College have reminded me of what drew us to this special place from the beginning. I see a college that transforms students so that they can transform the world. I see a college that educates through personal relationships and experiences in and beyond the classroom. I see a college that has energy. I see a college committed to educating the whole student—mind, body, and spirit.

Since arriving, Cece and I have learned many things, but one stands out above all others—Austin College is defined, distinguished, and made truly special by its people. Our welcome to Sherman has been one of open arms, firm handshakes, and genuine Texas hospitality. The President's Home has gotten a refresh (you'll read more about that in the pages that follow), and we have been inspired, as have first families and presidents of the past, by an Austin College mission that is as relevant today as it was in 1849.

The year ahead holds great excitement and promise. I look forward to celebrating 100 years of co-education at Austin College. I look forward to making connections and cultivating partnerships not only in Sherman but across the country. I look forward to building on the proud traditions of excellence at the heart of 'RooNation. This opportunity to serve and lead one of the finest colleges in the country is one that I cherish. Now is the time to showcase the value of what we do at Austin College—transform lives through personalized learning—every day and everywhere.

So, we begin!

Sincerely,

Steven P. O'Day





BIG: Biology Interest Group



2017  
HOMECOMING  
& FAMILY  
WEEKEND  
HIGHLIGHTS





# ALONG GRAND AVENUE

## HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2017

### MARK IT A SUCCESS

Hundreds of Kangaroo alumni “came home” and family members gladly reunited with students during the College’s Homecoming and Family Weekend in October 2017. Something was offered for everyone, from Kids College activities for the younger guests to sports competitions in soccer, swimming, and football; from alumni art exhibits to “An Evening in Paris” Community Series performance; and more. A number of faculty even opened their classrooms to alumni and parents wanting a taste of Austin College academics.

The weekend was highlighted by “A Conversation with President **Steven P. O’Day**,” with interim president **Mike Imhoff** asking questions to introduce the incoming 16th president to alumni and parents.

The creation of a writing resource center has been a priority of the College’s 2015-2020 strategic plan. A portion of the 2016 estate gift from **Lemuel Scarbrough Jr.** ’58 established the Scarbrough Center for Writing, and it was dedicated during the celebratory weekend. New director Dr. **Lisha Daniels Storey** is hard at work with students and faculty.



The Family Weekend side of things offered special sessions on internships and study abroad opportunities. A coffee hour with faculty allowed parents to meet students’ mentors or reconnect with those they met during Opening of School activities.

Traditional gatherings of alumni groups—choir, theatre, law, education, health, and LGBT—provided connections, as did Greek reunions and many other opportunities to join with friends old and new. Several faculty took advantage of the opportunity to have alumni share career and graduate school experiences with current students.

Alumni were honored at the Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards dinner, and others served as interview volunteers to assist student participants in the Career-Readiness Check, coordinated by Career Services.

Whether reliving student days, dancing the night away at the Saturday Homecoming celebration, or just enjoying time with family, ‘RooNation collectively marked the weekend in the books as a success. Let’s do it again next year!



## Mendel Shares Thoughts on Leadership



**J**ohn Mendel '76 visited campus as the Todd A. Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecturer in November 2017 during Global Entrepreneurship Week, interacting with students in several business and economics classes and presenting a campus-wide lecture. That presentation, "Leading by Heart Count, Not Head Count," challenged students to develop the talents and characteristics that will make them stand out to employers and in the workplace.



Reminding students that a liberal arts education prepares them to "think around corners," he said their adaptability and attitude will be important, as they can expect to hold nine to 14 jobs in a lifetime. "That's not a bad thing," he said. "You will have greater impact and potential with a broader base of pursuits than the generation ahead of you."

Mendel recently retired from American Honda Motor Company, where he spent 13 years as executive vice president. The auto industry veteran previously had spent several years in leadership with Ford Motor Company. He is a co-founder with his sons of Devil's Creek Distillery, which they operate in Mammoth Lakes, California.

The speaker series is supported by **Todd Williams '82**.

## Global Entrepreneurship Week Continues

**T**eam Unicap won the final round of the Austin College Product Lab Pitch Competition during Global Entrepreneurship Week. Team members isolated a common problem for many: they don't like tap water. So, they developed a universal filter cap that fits any beverage bottle with a standard, threaded neck—



and tap water becomes filtered water without a negative impact on the environment. The team was awarded \$2,000 in seed money to pursue further development of the Unicap product. **Raquel Vara '18**, **Deric Richardson-Riddle '18**, **Rebecca Franklin '18**, and **Michelle Zhou '18** are shown, left to right, celebrating their win. **Tom Buttine '07**, Austin College entrepreneur in residence, leads the Product Lab.



Sherman's Landmark Bank invited Austin College business students and faculty to meet area business leaders at a reception.





## TEDx Features Alumni, Faculty, and a Student

Austin College hosted the second annual TEDxAustinCollege event in September 2017, featuring members of the Austin College community as speakers:

See the videos of the 2017 talks  
and nominate speakers for 2018:  
[www.austincollege.edu/tedx](http://www.austincollege.edu/tedx)



**Rob Kelso '77**  
NASA shuttle flight  
director for 37 years;  
"Paving the Way to  
Planetary Settlement"



**Sierra Salser '20**  
International  
relations major;  
"First Glances and  
First Words"



**David Savage '07**  
M.D./Ph.D. candidate,  
UTHealth McGovern  
Medical School,  
Houston, Texas;  
"International  
Refugees in Texas:  
How They Get Here and  
What Happens Next"



**Peter Schulze**  
Austin College  
professor of biology  
and environmental  
studies, director of  
the College's Center  
for Environmental  
Studies; "We Aren't  
Going to Mars"



**Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan**  
Austin College  
associate professor  
of religious studies;  
"Paradigm Shift  
Toward Universal  
Compassion"



**Aaron White '04**  
Associate minister,  
First Unitarian Church  
of Dallas; Harvard  
Divinity School; "What  
Part of You Will Live  
Forever?"



**Asil Yassine '12**  
Educator; M.A.,  
Harvard University;  
"Literacy: The Great  
American Theft"

## Healing for the Desperate

American physician Dr. Rick Hodes has dedicated his life to caring for those in great need. Since 1990, that has meant working in Ethiopia as medical director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He visited with students on campus November 30 and presented a lecture hosted by the Posey Leadership Institute and the STAR (STEM Teaching and Research) Leadership Program.



## Expanding Academic Options Increase Career Opportunities

**A**cademic departments across campus are developing new, relevant majors and minors to better prepare students to achieve their educational and career goals.



**Business**—Business and economics students have five tracks from which to choose a major: economics, international economics and finance, business administration, business finance, and global management. A minor in accounting also is now offered.

“These options allow Austin College students to combine the benefits of a strong liberal arts education with exceptional professional training,” said Dr. **David Griffith**, dean of Social Sciences and Jack B. Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies. “Business finance allows students to develop greater specialization in investment management and international finance, two areas in high demand for our graduates. The accounting minor qualifies students for Gateways programs with Texas Tech, Rice, and other universities, leading to master’s degrees in accounting and CPA exam qualification.”

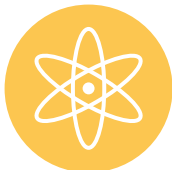


**Neuroscience**—An interdisciplinary minor in neuroscience includes courses from the biology, psychology, and philosophy departments to build a foundation for understanding the study of the brain and nervous system from molecules to behavior and thought. Dr. **Renee Countryman**, associate professor of psychology, is director of the program.



**Public Health**—A major and minor in public health promote a multidisciplinary approach to studying ways of preventing disease, promoting health, and prolonging life. In May 2017, 20 graduates completed majors and two completed minors. In 2017-2018, some 60 students are majoring or minoring in public health, making it one of the College’s larger programs.

“Public health also fits well into the liberal arts context,” said Dr. **George Diggs**, Donald MacGregor Chair in Natural Science and co-director of the Public Health Program with Dr. **Saritha Bangara**, assistant professor of public health. “It draws on a wide variety of fields ranging from the Sciences to disciplines in the Humanities including philosophy, to Social Sciences such as psychology, anthropology, and sociology, as well as economics and business. Hence, our students are exposed to a number of fields and disciplines, preparing them for a promising future in a variety of health-related professions in addition to a career in public health,” Diggs said.



**Engineering Physics**—As of fall 2018, the Physics Department will offer a major in engineering physics that can prepare students for a career in engineering or graduate-level education. The benefits of an engineering degree from Austin College include research opportunities for all students, access to state-of-the-art labs and research facilities, nationally recognized Ph.D.-level professors, and a small student-to-faculty ratio. Dr. **Andra Petrean** is the engineering physics advisor.



**Teacher Education**—Since 2014, the Austin Teacher Program has offered a minor in education that provides several benefits to students. Significant savings in tuition are possible as students can complete three graduate courses during their undergraduate studies. Participants can graduate with a bachelor’s degree and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in just 4.5 years, thereby saving time and money.

In 2017-2018, 65 students are pursuing an education minor, with a majority of those seeking a secondary grade-level certification, though that trend may swing toward elementary certification, according to Dr. **Julia Shahid**, associate professor of education and Austin Teacher Program chair. “Even if we have students who make different career choices, they ultimately will be more knowledgeable about the world of education, which should serve them well as future taxpayers and parents of school-age students,” she said.



## Mock Trial Team Excels on the Road



The Austin College Mock Trial team brought home individual and team recognition from competition in several tournaments last fall. Growing in popularity on campus, the program, coached by Sherman attorney **Ed Richardson '95**, now has enough participants to field two teams and thereby increase the program's impact in competition.

**Nicolas Rodriguez '19**, captain of the "A" squad, ranked in the top five for Best Attorney in tournaments at University of New Hampshire and at Baylor University. **Khaliah Owens '21** was recognized as a Best Witness in New Hampshire's Annual Wildcat Invitational, and **Anna Long '21** earned that distinction at Baylor's Green and Gold Tournament.



In Durham, North Carolina, the "A" squad achieved Honorable Mention, finishing seventh of 20 teams; the "B" squad, composed almost entirely of new participants, finished the tournament near the middle of the competitors.

In January, the 'Roos host the first Austin College – Texas Tech Mock Trial Invitational at Austin College in the Kenneth Street Advocacy Courtroom in Abell Library. More than 12 teams from across the country are expected to compete in the Kangaroo Brawl.

"Mock Trial students at Austin College are very appreciative of the vision and generosity of the alumni and friends whose gifts made the beautiful Kenneth Street Advocacy Courtroom available to our programs," Rodriguez said. "They will proudly tell you that the Austin College courtroom is one of the nicest facilities we see in our travels around the country—rivaled only by those at law schools."



Dr. Kenneth Street Law Symposium at Austin College

The Path to Justice:  
Guidance from the Trenches

Plus Oral Argument before the Texas Fifth Court of Appeals

Monday • February 12, 2018

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Reception 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Keynote Address: Tom Vick '77

Details at [www.austincollege.edu/lawsymposium](http://www.austincollege.edu/lawsymposium)

Dr. Kenneth Street Memorial Service • 4 p.m. • Wynne Chapel

## Steps to a Career

**J**acob Dowell '18 spent much of summer 2017 thinking about one weekend in November: the dates *The 39 Steps*, which he would direct, would play in Austin College's Ida Green



Theatre. In fact, he estimates he spent some 300 hours thinking about it before the curtain raised opening night. Theatre faculty offered him the opportunity to direct based on his work in the directing class in fall 2016. He chose a parody with all the elements of a spy thriller, something he called "challenging but fun." English playwright and comedian

Patrick Barlow wrote the stage adaptation of the 1915 novel by John Buchan, which also became the classic 1935 movie by Alfred Hitchcock.

Jacob is completing majors in theatre and computer science. The first happened naturally as he enrolled in classes he enjoyed. He chose the second after taking a computer class and finding he was good at it and liked it. This hybrid education path is the perfect combination to move him toward his career goal as a video game designer.

"I initially thought there was not a lot of overlap," Jacob said. "But one of my professors introduced me to author Brenda Laurel and her book *Computers as Theatre*. It essentially said



theatre is the closest form of media to video games and that the lessons learned from the theatre could and should be transferred to video games. So, game design ended up being not only something that I am passionate about already but also the natural progression of my path of study."



## Class of 2018 Commencement Weekend Events

**May 12-13, 2018**

May 12: Baccalaureate, 7 p.m.  
Sid Richardson Center, Mason Complex

May 13: Commencement, 8:30 a.m.  
Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court

See additional events and details as available:

**[www.austincollege.edu/commencement](http://www.austincollege.edu/commencement)**



## New Leaders Hope to Increase Student Involvement

Austin College celebrates its 100th year of co-education as two women lead the Austin College student body. **Clarissa Caballero Pinedo '19**, voted student body president last fall, and vice president **Laurel Hagge '19** began their Student Assembly roles in January. Both officers have expressed a goal to increase student involvement. "The sense of community here is why I am a part of 'RooNation," Clarissa said, explaining that the small campus has allowed her to make many meaningful connections, and now she wants to inspire others to pursue goals as a community.

Clarissa is completing a major in psychology with minors in education and Spanish. A three-year member of Student Assembly, she also is involved in the Catholic Student Association; works as a resident assistant; is a Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow ambassador; serves as an Admission tour guide; and interns in the Office of Public Affairs. She plans to become a bilingual educator and advocate for minorities to further their education.

Completing majors in chemistry and public health, Laurel has served as a member of Student Assembly for three years and is a member of the KangaRAAS Indian dance team, THINK



Clarissa Caballero Pinedo



Laurel Hagge

environmental group, and Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity. "I encourage all students to voice their opinions about our campus and see the difference they can make," Laurel said. She has discovered a passion for research at Austin College and hopes to attend graduate school to further that interest.



For more on the 100th anniversary of co-education at Austin College, see page 20.

## Riding the Co-Ed Wave

Austin College's celebration of a century of co-education—marking the anniversary of the official admittance of women in 1918 at the height of the women's suffrage movement—will include a series of events throughout 2018 that feature women and their influence on the world.

*With more to come, the calendar at press time includes:*

### JANUARY 2018

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day community breakfast at Austin College, with keynote speaker Kim Andrews, founder of the Global Red Circle

### SPRING 2018

Annual Public Administration Symposium, featuring "Women in Public Service"

### APRIL 2018

Austin College Posey Leadership Award presentation to Barbara Pierce Bush, co-founder and CEO of Global Health Corps

ATHENA Awards Luncheon, honoring outstanding women in the College's home region

### NOVEMBER 2018

Homecoming commemoration and unveiling of "Equally as Proud" (working title), a series of stories and works honoring the legacy of change as women took their place in Austin College—and national—history

## In Memoriam: Kenneth Willow Street



**T**he Austin College community lost a legendary professor and good friend December 6, 2017, with the death of Dr. **Kenneth W. Street**, professor emeritus of political science. He was 90 years old. For more than half a century, his name was synonymous with preparation for careers in law and government at the College, guiding hundreds of students and

maintaining contact with many alumni far into their careers. He spent nearly 40 years in the classroom during an Austin College career that included teaching on many topics, with special emphasis on Constitutional law, the presidency, the legislative process, political parties, and political theory. The tall, dignified gentleman, known to many students as “Dr. God,” inspired a good bit of awe in his students and great respect and gratitude in alumni.

**A memorial service is scheduled during the 2018 Dr. Kenneth Street Law Symposium at Austin College on February 12. The service will be held at 4 p.m. in Wynne Chapel, followed by a reception in Collins Alumni Center.**

A Texas native, Street earned a bachelor’s degree in geology at Texas Tech University. He and his wife, Louise, who died in October 2013, married in 1950 and began their life together as he served as a teacher, coach, and principal in public schools. A few years later, he returned to Tech to earn his master’s degree in government. He spent a year teaching political science at Wichita State University before earning his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Street joined the Austin College political science faculty in 1959. He held the John D. Moseley Chair of Government and Public Policy from its establishment in 1981 until his retirement in 1998.

In addition to classroom teaching at Austin College, Dr. Street was a long-time pre-law advisor; regularly arranged student internship opportunities in Austin, Dallas, and Washington, D.C.; and coordinated the College’s Sumners Foundation Scholarship Program. His campus tenure included service as chair of the Political Science Department; chair, associate dean, and dean of Social Sciences; as well as service on various College steering committees and as a member of the College Council. He was chair of the President’s Committee on Institutional Integrity, director of the Community Services Program, and director of the Social Science Laboratory.

During his teaching career, he kept a hand in government projects and was one of four political scientists from Texas selected to attend a 1961 seminar of the American Political Science Association. He served as an administrative assistant to Congressman Ray Roberts in work on the Great Society initiative in summer 1965 and served as a legal assistant to Congressman Roberts in summer 1973. For several years, he conducted research on Texas elections for the Institute of Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C., for the publication *America Votes*.



During a government class trip arranged by Dr. Street in 1965, students met President Harry S. Truman at the Truman Library in Missouri.

Dr. Street and his late wife raised their two children in Sherman, where he was active for many years as a consultant to



the Goals for Sherman program, serving as a member of the writing team that wrote the city goals. He also served as a delegate to county and state Democratic conventions several times. Dr. Street’s career also included writing for numerous professional publications and speaking at many colleges and universities. He was active in several professional organizations and honorary societies.

Dr. Street spent three sabbaticals—1978, 1986, and 1992—serving as visiting professor at Stanford University and as a research associate at UC Berkeley. He also served a summer as a visiting professor at the University of Houston.

Named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor for teaching excellence, he also received many honors from Austin College, including the 1993 Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service and the 1996 Excellence in Teaching Award. He was a 2008 honorary inductee into the Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor and received an Outstanding Organization Sponsor Award for work with the Pre-Law Society and a T. Ellis Lockhart Spirit Award for support of Austin College athletics.

In recent years, he has been honored with the naming of the College’s Kenneth Street Law Symposium and the College’s mock trial facilities, the Kenneth Street Advocacy Courtroom in Abell Library. The College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during Commencement 2015 in recognition of his many contributions. Alumni and friends funded the Kenneth W. Street Endowed Presidential Scholarship at Austin College in recognition of his remarkable career.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Kenneth W. Street Endowed Presidential Scholarship at [www.austincollege.edu/giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/giving) or by calling **Gillian Grissom Locke** ’07, associate vice president for Institutional Advancement, at 903.813.2336.





Clockwise from left, Pitlochry, Scotland, "the Queen's View, named for Queen Victoria;" Sunset on Warrender Park Road, where Emily lived in Edinburgh; The Buddhist monastery in Pokhara, Nepal; With the young monks to whom she taught English.



## Finding Me Beyond My Comfort Zone

By Emily Everts '18

When studying abroad, you start from scratch and learn how to make a city and new acquaintances your home and your family. You truly become a citizen of the world. At least that is what happened with me during some remarkable opportunities I had from January to July 2017. First, I spent the spring semester of my junior year in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. Then, I was lucky enough to be chosen for an Austin College Global Outreach (GO!) Fellowship, and for six weeks in the summer, I taught English to young boys in a Buddhist monastery in Pokhara, Nepal.

I can definitely say my life was changed. Study abroad and its international living immersion are so impactful that every college student should experience them. You are essentially alone and so must develop your own opinions and figure out how to navigate life in a completely new and different environment. I am now much more informed and am keen to learn about what's going on in the world because I have seen and appreciated firsthand people and places that once were foreign to me.

At Austin College, I'm now completing majors in religious



studies and anthropology and applying to seminary, where I hope to begin work for my master's degree in divinity this fall. I serve as the youth director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sherman and feel that these experiences have benefited me in preparation for my career. First, being a Presbyterian in

Scotland (where it began) was pretty cool. Also, my interactions with people of other religions can help me open the eyes and hearts of those I minister to about people different from ourselves. More importantly, through everyday life in Scotland and in Nepal, I now recognize lessons learned in critical thinking, in conflict resolution, in loving when it's difficult—and those skills I will need for a lifetime no matter where my career may take me.

Most of all, my study abroad and GO! Fellowship gave me an unforgettable time where I discovered so much about myself and how to learn to live and grow beyond my own comfort zone. I have been so blessed to be able to have these amazing opportunities at Austin College.

I am a product not only of Austin College; I'm a product of the world. ■

# The President's Home at Wood House

By Vickie S. Kirby



## After 60 years, everything needs a little work.

Photos of the President's Home when built in 1957 and photos in early 2017—inside and out—look very much the same, reflecting its timeless and classic design. Some similarities, however, revealed the need for updates and refreshing. Since the house likely would be vacant for a few months between the departure of the 15th president and the arrival of the 16th, members of the Board of Trustees took advantage of the opportunity for renovation.

Board of Trustees member **Becky Russell Sykes '67** tapped senior trustee **Ann Holm Ross '66** and **John Herron**, longtime College friend and interior designer, to take on the project. Along with **David Turk**, the College's executive director of facilities, they began examining the house for necessary structural and aesthetic updates.

The team brought in expertise as needed. Tom Newbury and Tom Sanden of Art and Commerce offered significant assistance throughout. When the team decided the master bath should be gutted and started anew, architect **Bryce Weigand, FAIA**, a member of the President's Visiting Council, drew the plans.

While bathroom and closet updates are surely appreciated by the residents, the project team felt the renovation project was about more than new flooring, lighting, and paint colors, though new floors and lights were installed, and all the walls were freshly painted. More importantly, the team was committed to continue within the home's interior the mix of modern and traditional elements that



characterize the College, to bring the spirit of Austin College inside. Along the way, they uncovered bits of history that brought the house's heritage to life—portraits of **Robert** and **Mae Files Wood**, both '38, who funded construction of the home—Wood House—and beautiful furniture purchased for the home in 1957 but moved to other parts of campus over the years.

The team had a good historian on hand: senior trustee **Rebecca Moseley Gafford '72**, who moved into the house at 6 years old and grew up there. What she couldn't remember, she could find in the meticulous scrapbooks of former first lady **Sara Bernice Moseley**. Former first lady **Anna Laura Page** also helped with details about furniture locations around campus.

The project team next decided to include Austin College art in the home—art created by alumni and faculty, as well as that depicting the College. Paintings or sculptures by alumni and faculty now highlight every room. Photographs of iconic College scenes grace the stairway. Much was donated by the team; artists donated other pieces.

A major difference in the house from 1957 to present was an addition in 2007 of a large reception room at the back. That room added greatly to the ease of hosting large groups and even moderate-sized dinners. Unexpected noise issues were addressed in the recent update with new flooring; otherwise, only some paint was needed. Beautiful doors now separate the room from the rest of the house as needed.

Another important element of the project was the installation of double-paned windows and attic insulation for added energy efficiency, in keeping with the College's sustainability efforts. As landscaping progresses, native plants will be incorporated to continue those goals.

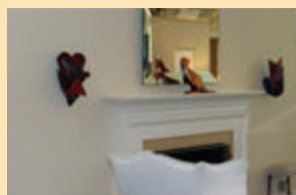
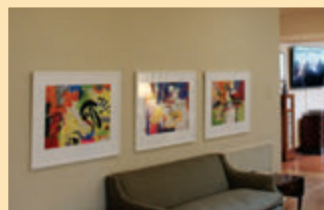


With the renovation came a restoration. The portraits of the Woods now sit prominently in the reception room, a focus of the many guests who pass through. Over the years, the Wood House name had been lost from the regular language of the College community. That, too, has been dusted off and shined: 921 North Grand Avenue hereafter will be known as the President's Home at Wood House. ■



## ART THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE

- Painting by former faculty member Vernon Fisher, *donated by Jay D. Evans '64*
- Italian wooden kangaroo, *donated by Jay D. Evans '64*
- Painting by former faculty member Gail Norfleet, *donated by John R. Evans '64*
- Painting by professor emeritus of art Richard Neidhardt, *donated by Jay D. Evans '64*
- Three paintings and one sculpture by professor emeritus of art Richard Neidhardt, *donated by his wife, Frances, and his daughter, Eve '80*
- Two paintings by Mark Smith, art faculty, *donated by the artist*
- Ten abstract works of art by James Lawrence '66, *donated by the artist*
- One sculpture by Mark Monroe '81, art faculty, to be installed, *donated by the artist*
- One photograph of Sara Bernice Moseley, *donated by Sara Caroline Moseley '66, Rebecca Moseley Gafford '72, and John D. Moseley Jr. '69*
- Three aluminum masks by Melanie Keeling '84, *donated by Jay D. Evans '64, John E. Herron, and John R. Evans '64*
- Austin College photographs courtesy of College Communications and Archives



President O'Day stops in the dining room to get some inside details about the house from early residents Rebecca Moseley Gafford and Sara Caroline Moseley.



David Turk, Ann Ross, John Herron, and Becky Sykes pose with Resolutions of Appreciation presented to them by the Board of Trustees for their work on the house renovation. The photos of Mae and Robert Wood are behind them on the mantel.



Left: Ann Ross and John Herron straighten one more painting, this one by Vernon Fisher. Right: The late Richard Neidhardt's sculpture *Zipper* is flanked by his daughter, Eve, and his wife, Frances.



# If These Walls Could Talk ... 1957-2017 ...

By Vickie S. Kirby

Sara Bernice Moseley stands ready to welcome visitors and friends on behalf of President John D. Moseley in 1957.

For the past 60 years, the lovely brick house at 921 North Grand Avenue has been the home of Austin College presidents and their families. The College acquired the lot in 1957, the same year that 1933 graduates **Robert L.** and **Mae Files Wood** donated the funds to construct a new home for the College president. (Robert

was a member of the College's Board of Trustees, and a new President's Home was a longtime goal of the Board.) The lot directly across from campus seemed the perfect location, and the two-story home, built at a cost of approximately \$78,000 and designed for entertaining, began its grand life.

Since then, the home has played prominently in the life of Austin College. In 2017, the house reached its 60th year and received some updates in preparation of the arrival of its fifth president and family. (See page 14 for details.)

Countless students, faculty, staff, and alumni have attended dinners and receptions at the home over the past 60 years. Community members have been graciously welcomed to holiday gatherings and special events throughout the tenures of its residents. One week after moving in, President **John D. Moseley** and family opened their doors to the first of what would be 700 guests within three weeks. Entertaining was a family affair in those days since his wife, **Sara Bernice**, with only a little help, prepared refreshments for the guests herself; the children soon

became able assistants. Mrs. Moseley also made the entire house open to the College community for receptions so the children were "on duty" as hosts in the upstairs rooms.

The guest list has changed and grown over the 60 years but still they come—new students, new faculty and staff, new friends and neighbors.

Speaking of neighbors, some famous ones have stopped by through the years. Fred Rogers, everyone's favorite neighbor; Civil Rights leader Nikki Giovanni; and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel were among the guests who stayed in the house during campus visits in President **Harry Smith's** tenure. President Smith also welcomed students to the home most Sunday evenings for discussions on timely issues. One Sunday, students arrived carrying forks bearing salmon croquets to protest the quality of their campus dinner.

Seniors were welcomed following Opening Convocation during President **Oscar C. Page's** years—until the classes became too large to fit in the house. Henry Winkler, convocation speaker, joined students one year. **Anna Laura** could sometimes be enticed to play the grand piano; actor and producer Peter Bogdanovich sang a few show tunes with her during a campus visit. President **Marjorie Hass**, too, was a gracious host to many alumni and friends, plus some "magical" guests when her husband, **Larry**, hosted special events on campus.





## THE RESIDENTS OF 60 YEARS

❖ **President John D. Moseley** and Sara Bernice moved into the home in September 1957 and had the only young children to live in the house: Rebecca, 6; John, 10; and Sara Caroline, 13. They grew up on Grand Avenue and left the President's Home for the residence halls—all eventually graduating from Austin College. Pets: Archbishop the Cat and Parakeets Tiffin and Crispin.



❖ In September 1978, **President Harry Smith** and his family moved in. Older children Malcom and Leslie were already in college elsewhere; daughter, Laurie, was in high school and lived at 921 North Grand until enrolling at Austin College. She transferred to Rice and returned to Austin College for her master's degree. Harry and his wife, Etta, enjoyed long family visits with all their children and spouses and friends. Pets: Clyde, a Dachshund, and Simone, a Basset Hound.

❖ **President Oscar C. Page** and Anna Laura came to Austin College in July 1994; their children, Matt and Kristin, were already in college and graduate school so were not full-time residents in the house. The Pages were the only residents to have grandchildren as visitors. Pets: Sebastian, a Golden Retriever, and Belle, a Sussex Spaniel.

❖ When **President Marjorie Hass** and Larry arrived in July 2009, their son, Cameron, was in college in Pennsylvania.



Their daughter, Jessica, attended high school in Sherman, then graduated from St. Edward's University. Pet: Biscuit, a Poodle and Shih Tzu mix and social media star.

## INTO THE FUTURE



❖ **President Steven P. O'Day** and Cece arrived in late October. Their son, Ryan, lives in Boston. The O'Days have no pets, but a puppy is planned for 2018—that news brings smiles every time.

The future marches on. Once the O'Days arrived, the visitors came quickly—student dinners, Board of Trustees receptions, a community open house, small gatherings, and large functions.

Indeed, this house has witnessed the chronicle of true leadership at Austin College—in successes and setbacks, in tragedy and triumph, in admiration and in the face of bad salmon croquets. This house holds it all. The stories they could tell .... If these walls could talk. ■



President John D. Moseley speaks to students at the first Honors Convocation awards luncheon in the new dining room at the President's Home.



The annual backyard Garden Party was a staple during President Harry Smith's years. The Student Development Board leadership, pictured with President Smith and Etta, could be counted on for lots of assistance.



Distinguished visitors to the President's Home are a common occurrence. President Oscar C. Page and Anna Laura pose with Madeleine Albright, the College's Chair of Excellence in International Leadership in 2002.



The reception room at the rear of the President's Home was a lovely spot for a photo to introduce the family of President Marjorie Hass to the community.



## FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Jeff Kelly, Athletics Communication



PHOTO BY HANNA PAINE

### Football

The Austin College football team completed its first year as an affiliate member of the Southern Athletic Association (SAA) in 2017 with a 3-7 overall record, and six members of the program earned All-Conference recognition for their play over the course of the season.

Highlights from the season led by head coach **Loren Dawson '91** included wins over Bacone College and Wayland Baptist to open the year, and a 33-19 victory over Millsaps at home in Apple Stadium on Homecoming and Family Weekend. Linebacker **Jackson Townsend '19** and quarterback **Colt Collins '20** received SAA Player-of-the-Week honors for defense and offense, respectively, during the season.

### Volleyball

The Kangaroo volleyball team finished the 2017 season with an overall record of 25-13, with a pair of milestones along the way. Head coach **Ed Garza** earned the 600th coaching victory of his career, and the 'Roos hit the 20-win mark for the 20th straight season.

**Rebekah Bowden '18** and **Katie Ingle '18**, both pictured at the net, each earned All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Second Team recognition. Other highlights of the season included an upset victory over then-No. 14 University of LaVerne on October 6 in California.



PHOTO BY ERIN LAINE

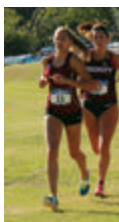


PHOTO BY ERIN LAINE

### Cross Country

The Kangaroo men's and women's cross country teams, led by coach **Bryan Garcia**, each performed well in 2017, with the women making the trip to the NCAA Division III South/Southeast Region Championship Meet. The team placed 24th at the event after taking fourth place at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

**Hannah Richards '19**, at left, just missed All-SCAC honors, finishing 15th at the conference meet; the All-SCAC Team is comprised of the top 14 finishers. She also set a new personal best and broke the Austin College record in the 6K at the South/Southeast Regionals, where she finished 43rd overall, just a few spots out of All-Region honors.



COURTESY PHOTO



Austin College football is an affiliate in the Southern Athletic Association.



All other sports compete in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.



## Men's Soccer

Kangaroo soccer players **Thomas Quick** '18 and **Phillip Le** '19 were honored as United Soccer Coaches All-West Region performers for the season, two of only 11 Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) players to earn this recognition. Both were Second-Team selections.

Quick, a forward, was named First Team All-SCAC and was the runner-up in voting for the SCAC's Offensive Player of the Year Award. His 11 goals were the second most in the conference, and he finished the year third in total points. Le, a midfielder, also earned All-Region honors in 2016, named Third Team All-West. In 2017, he also was a First-Team All-SCAC selection, among the conference leaders in both shots and shots-on-goal. He was the 2016 runner-up for the SCAC Offensive Player of the Year.

Other 2017 All-SCAC honorees were **Joseph Khalaf** '19, First Team, goalkeeper pictured at right, and **Levin Dyson** '19, Honorable Mention. The team reached the SCAC Semifinals, where they nearly pulled off an upset victory over No. 2-ranked and top-seeded Trinity before falling on a pair of late penalty kicks. The 'Roos were 8-7-5 overall in 2017, led by coach **Mark Hudson** in his 11th season at Austin College.



*Thomas Quick*



*Phillip Le*



## Women's Soccer

Year two under head coach **David Sheridan** saw the Austin College women's soccer team finish with an overall 4-14-1 record and **Erin Eckart** '18, at left, and **Maya Erwin** '21 named Second Team All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The 'Roos earned a trip to the SCAC Tournament again in 2017, and Eckart closed her career as a four-time All-SCAC performer. Erwin led the SCAC and was among the nation's leaders in saves in her first collegiate season. She was named the SCAC Defensive Player of the Week once during the year.



## Water Polo

Austin College adds men's and women's water polo as varsity sports in 2018-2019, and coach **Mark Lawrence** continued to recruit for the teams even as club team practices and training carried on last fall. He began the head coach position in May 2017.



## Women's Basketball Plays 50th Season

Women's basketball began at Austin College in 1919 when women officially enrolled but continued with spurts and starts until the 1970s. "Young women from all over the country play on our team, and they can look back and know they are a part of something much bigger than themselves," said coach **Michelle Filander**. "Many women's programs can't boast such a chronology; it's truly staggering to think how far the program has come."

CO-EDUCATION AT AUSTIN COLLEGE  
*100*  
YEARS  
SINCE 1918



Girls Council, 1918-1919





“... Austin College has given to the world many worthwhile men; men truly great, who demand the respect and admiration of all. Their alma mater is proud, and justly so, of such sons. And in the future years may there be daughters of whom she can be equally as proud, is our earnest wish.”

— The Coeds As They See Themselves, *The Chromascope*, 1919

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

One hundred years ago in the fall of 1918, many young men were on the frontlines in Europe rather than the classrooms of college. For the first time at Austin College, young women attended class as regularly admitted students. Women were not strangers to campus, as many had been welcomed as “special students” as early as 1890 through a cooperative arrangement with the all-female Kidd-Key College across town.

Their regular admission was part of President **Thomas Clyce’s** plan to boost enrollment numbers, increase tuition revenue, and expand opportunities for women. In March 1918, he appointed a committee of three men to investigate the possibility of co-education and report to the Board of Trustees by the following June. The committee wrote in its report, “Women are asserting their right to an equality with men in all things, and are resenting and will continue to more aggressively resent any law or custom which limits their activity or excludes their labor.”

Women had been campaigning across the nation for decades for the right to vote. Texas became the ninth state in the country and the first state in the South to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 28, 1919. A year later, on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, completing the two-thirds necessary for the 19th Amendment’s

ratification to the U.S. Constitution. Austin College, along with other institutions of higher learning, was riding the wave of women’s rights, so the move to co-education was a natural progression for the school.

The Austin College committee enthusiastically recommended the change, and it was met with only a little resistance from alumni and faculty in the name of tradition, and from some Shermanites in defense of Kidd-Key Women’s College nearby, which was having financial troubles. At one time, there were three all-female colleges in Sherman: Carr-Burdette College, Mary Nash College, and Kidd-Key College. Due to waning enrollment and economic trouble, all closed by the mid-1930s.

That President Clyce and the influential English professor Dr. **Davis Eagleton** had daughters in need of college education when the committee was convened was probably no coincidence. So, once admission was open to women, their daughters enrolled.

In that first year of official co-education, 22 women enrolled and brought with them a change in the campus culture. Traditionally, students had been referred to as “the boys,” and overnight, they became “the student body.” Of course, social life improved since picking up a date no longer required a trip across town, but rather just a stroll across campus.



The men—and women—of the Austin College student body gathered in April 1919 to commemorate the visit of President William Howard Taft. Pictured at the center of the group and with a huge mustache, Taft was on campus to talk about the League of Nations, according to historical documents. Many distinguished guests spoke to students throughout the year. In light of the women enrolled, lecturers on campus in 1918-1919 for the first time included prominent women, such as Marie Van Gaster, who spoke about the effects of war on her Belgian homeland, and Harriet Bird Warren of the American Red Cross, who had served as a nurse on the battlefield. *Photo from Austin College Archives*



## 1919

The federal woman suffrage amendment, originally written by Susan B. Anthony and introduced in Congress in 1878, is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate.



## 1920

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, is signed into law.

The women were housed with families in suitable homes around the perimeter of campus before the school converted the top floor of the YMCA to a ladies dormitory. In some cases, ladies preferred to live about a mile to the west on the campus of Kidd-Key College while enrolled at Austin College.

“Although the women gained immediate acceptance in their classes, it took time for them to achieve full social approval on campus since a subtle prejudice against them existed in certain quarters,” Dr. **Light Cummins**, Guy M. Bryan Jr. Professor of American History, wrote in *Austin College: A Sesquicentennial History*. Some students, he wrote, resented having to watch their language or manner of deportment. Of the 11 student organizations existing in fall 1918, only two permitted female members: the Athenaeum Literary Society and the Celina Club (students from that nearby town). The women felt they would have better opportunities with their own organization and founded Kappa Gamma Chi Literary Society to “promote literary study, personal improvement, and social progress.” The organization also became an important social outlet for the women, as did athletics.

The women quickly organized a basketball team (1-3 record in the first year) and had a presence on the tennis team. They formed the Girls Council and nearly won the annual spelling bee. Rumors reported in *Search for the Summit*, a historical account of Austin College written by Dr. **George Landolt** '27,

suggested the female contestant “threw” the match out of fear of offending the male speller.

While the social footing of the women students may have been uneasy, their academic standing was not. The announcement of the top academic ranking was a highlight of each spring term. In 1919, the top two positions were held by women. A third woman won highest honors in history, which normally came with a teaching role for the next term. Initially she was denied that offer as it wasn’t appropriate for a woman, but she prevailed, and according to Cummins’ book, became the first woman instructor at the College.

The first women in the student body paved the way for future generations, and enrollment grew steadily, with women even becoming the majority during World War II when many men left for military service. Today, women slightly outnumber men in the student body.

As of January, a female president and female vice president lead the student government. Women students excel in research projects and entrepreneurial ventures. They participate in all academic offerings and compete in Division III athletics in eight varsity sports. If there were a spelling bee today, they would compete fearlessly to the finish. ■

*Thanks to Dr. **Clyde Hall** '47, professor emeritus of economics and business administration, for historical information and perspective.*



## THEN



THEN: The 1918-1919 "Girls" basketball team included Jessie May Blaine, captain and forward; Ruth Simpson, guard; Grace Eagleton, center; Madge Murray, guard; Lola Belle Perkins, center; Iva Lee Blaine, forward; Sibyl Rudasil and Vallie Calhoun, substitutes; and Ewell Doak Walker Sr., coach.

## NOW



NOW: The 2017-2018 'Roo women's team includes Andrea Selkow, center; Precious Ogbuta, forward; Addy Walling, guard; Sierra Force, center; Melecia Young, guard; Jordan Kemp, guard; Reagan Chiaverini, guard; and Kendra Spangler, guard. Unlike the 1918-1919 players above, who were the entire squad, these are only the youngest members of the 19-member team led by head coach Michelle Filander.



# President Steven P. O'Day: Committed to Educating the Whole Student





By Vickie S. Kirby

Most readers of *Austin College Magazine* know that **Steven P. O'Day** became the 16th president of Austin College in fall 2017. Most have read of his career, which began in law and transitioned into higher education, beginning at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, where he shared his talents as women's soccer coach and soon found himself drawn into other roles in student affairs and academics.

As his interests grew, he moved into areas of greater involvement and responsibility until he took on full-time senior leadership roles at the college, spending a total of 15 years there before being tapped for senior leadership roles at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania. He was vice president of strategic initiatives and secretary of the college when he was selected as Austin College's next president.

Because President O'Day began his duties mid-semester in fall 2017, readers may not know much more about him. The campus community knows he hit the ground running and has not stopped yet. From his first days on campus, he has shown up most everywhere—music performances, art exhibits, swim meets, soccer games, basketball practice, the dining hall, a Star Party in Adams Observatory—and all that activity was outside the “regular” work day. From 8 to 5 each day, he had a steady flow of meetings with staff and faculty to soak in all he needed to learn and to share his own plans and vision for Austin College. He hosted visitors and trustees and met students and prospective students. Meanwhile, he began to learn about his new hometown, even attending a local high school football game as the guest of the Sherman ISD superintendent. He celebrated victories and dealt with the sad news of the death of a current student in a local auto accident. The best of times and the worst of times. The life of a college president.

Here, in the following questions and responses, we offer a bit of insight into his vision and his goals. The rest you will see play out over time; he's not slowing down.



"From the day I learned of the search for a president, it has been obvious to me that Austin College's mission is my mission. Austin College's way is my way." — Steven O'Day's introductory comments to the Austin College community in August 2017.



Above: President O'Day leads a discussion with John Mendel '76, on campus as the Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecturer. At left, Steven and Cece O'Day urge newly admitted members of the Class of 2022 to post their plans to join 'RooNation to social media. The timing seemed perfect for the new president and first lady, who were just arriving on campus themselves.

## LEADING AUSTIN COLLEGE

### What about Austin College most interested you and drew you here?

What drew me to Austin College is the fact that the College's mission, its educational philosophy, and its ethos to educate the whole student in and beyond the classroom match my calling to prepare students to make the world better.

In short, I like what Austin College does, and I like how it does it. The College offers comprehensive programs while also offering comprehensive support of students in a personalized fashion. I believe this student-centered approach to educating our students will be a key for success in this time of unprecedented competition in the higher education marketplace.

Austin College's commitment to stay true to its mission while recognizing the needs of the 21st-century learner resonates with me.

### What do you see as the greatest strengths of Austin College?

I see a college that transforms students so that they can transform the world. I see a college that educates through personal relationships and experiences in and beyond the classroom. Of course, the strength of Austin College's academic programs is renowned but I see the College's dedication to the development of close personal relationships between students and all of their mentors—professors, coaches, staff—as a strength that makes Austin College truly special and fills me with optimism for the future.

### What do you think are the biggest challenges before higher education today?

I see the path forward as one rich with opportunities but not without its challenges.

Both the opportunities and challenges stem from a national debate over the value of higher education—particularly one rooted in the liberal arts—its affordability, and its accessibility. I see a liberal arts education as an unmatched preparation for a life of learning, leadership, significance, service, and integrity in the 21st-century global community.

I believe that at no time in history has the value of a liberal arts education, an Austin College education, ever been greater. Studies show that the vast majority of new jobs created since the Great Recession (2009) require college-level education. We further know that those with a college education stand to earn, on average, \$2.8 million more over a lifetime than those with a high school degree or less. While these numbers, alone, present the argument for higher education, further statistics make the case for the kind of education that Austin College provides. We know that in survey after survey, employers prefer those people who are critical thinkers, collaborators, clear communicators, and are able to adapt and problem solve creatively.

We know that countless jobs that will exist 10, 15, 20 years from now do not exist now. That, coupled with a U.S. Dept. of Labor statistic that projects that our young people will experience, on average, 10-14 jobs by age 38, tells us that the value of an Austin College education exists not only in preparing our students for their first job but, perhaps even more importantly, for their fifth job, their seventh job, their 14th job.





President O'Day and Cece were right in the midst of things for the College's Great Day of Service on November 4. More than 300 students took part in the annual volunteer event that assists more than 40 local nonprofits. The O'Days joined 25 to 30 of their newest friends from Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity in a project at Pottsboro Community Garden that had them digging rows and planting seeds, among other assignments. The president already had the 'Roo sign well in hand, even while wearing work gloves!

There are those who argue that the era of a liberal arts education is over. I argue the opposite. This is a golden age for a liberal arts education. This is a moment to champion what Austin College does and how we do it. This is a moment to be confident and bold!

### **What are the challenges before Austin College—and how should the College respond?**

There are, certainly, some very real challenges before us. Messaging, enrollment stability and growth, philanthropy, accessibility, affordability, retention, and speed to degree come to mind immediately. Enrollment management and stability will be vital. We must effectively convey to our students and potential students the true value of an Austin College education. Philanthropy also will be crucial to our success. The people of Austin College have drawn me here—their deep love of this place. Now will be the time for all those who hold the College dear, appreciate its mission, and embrace how that mission is accomplished, to step forward. I know they will step forward in the moment when it counts the most. For 168 years, they always have.

### **Looking down the decades toward the College's 200th year in 2049, what would be your dream for the College? Since you've only just arrived, maybe we should start with just a few years?**

In five years or 50 years, I see a vibrant Austin College that continues to embrace its mission while also being responsive to the needs of learners in the moment. I envision a campus with facilities that allow faculty, staff, and students to teach and

learn in and beyond the threshold of the classroom in ways that prepare them best for a successful future in an interconnected global community.

### **What is your highest priority for the coming year?**

This year, my priorities will be to listen and learn the culture of Austin College; to identify and prioritize initiatives that will advance the mission of the College; to begin to implement those initiatives and strategic investment opportunities that rise to the top when we think about how to enrich and enhance the student experience.

### **How do you describe your leadership style?**

I am a team builder. I like to work collaboratively, listening, inspiring, and empowering people to develop ideas and solutions. Leadership is making those around you even better and providing the environment for them to do what they do best—their work. As president, I create an environment that does not fear failure but confidently moves forward, united in the knowledge that we are in this together, each with our role, sharing in our successes and resolving to do better should we fall short.

### **What one or two messages would you want to communicate to our alumni and friends?**

Exciting things are happening here. Come see us. Be a part of it. We are still transforming students so they can transform the world.



Athletes were on campus for the announcement of Steven O'Day as the 16th president of Austin College; some stopped by the reception to welcome him to campus.



President O'Day was a reader (and joined in the singing) at the annual Service of Lessons and Carols in December.

## YOUR OWN EDUCATION/HISTORY

**At 5 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

A soccer player in Germany

**What did you most enjoy about your own college experience?**

I discovered some areas that interested me that I had never been exposed to before. For example, I had a music appreciation class I really enjoyed. It opened my eyes to an artistic world that I had, until then, largely overlooked and underappreciated. The same was true for a Studio Art class. I signed up for the same English professor three semesters in a row because she helped uncover an interest in me that I didn't even know I had. The same was true for a professor in a Hermann Hesse seminar. All these courses felt very "collegiate" to me at the time. They inspired a love of learning in me that I carry with me today.

**We know you were a college athlete; articulate your commitment to Division III athletic competition.**

I went to college to learn and, yes, prepare for a career. In my case, I thought that career would be as an attorney. However, I also went to college for "something else." For me, the "something else" was soccer. That "something else," however, is different for everyone. We have to be committed to the "something else" too if we're going to be relevant to students today. Athletics is part of that commitment. In fact, all co-curricular activities provide tremendous opportunities for student learning and growth. Education does not end at the threshold of the classroom.

**What precipitated your move from law to education?**

My path in higher education has been a non-traditional one. Early in my career, I assumed my work would always be in the legal profession. That mindset began to change when I was hired as the part-time head coach of women's soccer at Franklin & Marshall College just after my own playing career had come to an end. Very soon into my tenure as coach, I began to realize how much I enjoyed working with student-athletes, not only on the soccer field but also as they navigated their entire college experience. When the opportunity arose to work full time on campus as the pre-law advisor, I seized it and have never looked back. Starting as a coach and pre-law advisor, then, eventually, as a dean, business law instructor, and a vice president, I have had the rare and valuable opportunity to work in virtually every area of an institution of higher education.

## A LITTLE PERSONAL INSIGHT

**How do you spend your time away from work?**

I've found that there actually isn't much time away from work. I enjoy being engaged in the life of the campus. When I am in between meetings or calls or trips on behalf of the College, I like to stay fit. Several years ago, I began training for triathlons and enjoy that quite a bit. Cece and I also enjoy outdoor activities like kayaking and hiking, and I love to surf.

**How do you relax?**

Working out, running, swimming, being outside. Also, unwinding in front of the TV is nice, too. Netflix was a wonderful invention! ■



## QUICK RESPONSES

**What's the category you could ace in *Jeopardy*?**

Sports

**What talent would you love to have?**

To play the violin

**You're packing for a trip. What can't you leave home without?**

Charge cord for my phone and sunglasses

**What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done?**

Move to Texas to become the president of Austin College

**First job?**

Delivering newspapers

**Best trophy/award you ever won?**

- Eastern College Athletic Conference Mid-Atlantic Division III Soccer Championship (2002 Franklin & Marshall Soccer Team)
- Escape the Cape Triathlon
- Spartan Half Marathon
- Philadelphia Club Soccer Championship

**Destination you dream of but haven't gotten to yet?**

Rome

**Favorite destination you have visited?**

We have loved our trips to London and the UK, but we go back to Ocean City, New Jersey, every summer.

**Must-have app on your phone?**

Google Maps

**First website you access in the morning?**

Email, News, ESPN

**Favorite books?**

- Classics—*The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (I have many copies)
- Recently—*The Boys in the Boat*

**Pets at 921 North Grand?**

None yet, but we are planning on a puppy in 2018.

## MEET THE FIRST LADY



When President O'Day was introduced to the campus community last August, standing at his side was his wife, **Cecelia**, who goes by **Cece**, which seems quite fitting for the warm and friendly "First Lady" of Austin College.

In the first few weeks that the O'Days were on campus, Cece said that already she felt a part of the College community and looked forward to getting to know everyone. By year end, she had been a gracious host for campus and community events at the President's Home and taken part in many college events, so she clearly is well on her way to "knowing everyone" and becoming acquainted with the ways of 'RooNation.

Before coming to Sherman, Cece spent 18 years in the classroom as a high school English teacher, mostly of ninth graders—which means she has taught *Romeo and Juliet* many times. Those years and more, she spent as the high school swim coach; she also had opportunities to coach swimmers aged 4 to 87.

Coaching was a natural extension of her own lifelong love of swimming. She has competed on a club team, in college, in Master's meets, and in a few open water swims. The English teaching may, too, be a natural extension of her own love of reading. She also describes herself as a "foodie" and loves to cook and bake.

A college is a great environment for Cece. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, she said, "I believe deeply in the power of a liberal arts education and lifelong learning, which makes me feel right at home at Austin College."

The outdoors and physical activity also are important to her. She enjoys walking, hiking, and kayaking with her husband. They also enjoy travel, as President O'Day mentioned in the preceding Q & A, and family time.

The O'Days have an adult son, Ryan, who lives and works in the greater-Boston area. Cece's parents, sister, and 12-year-old niece live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Steven also has a brother and sister in that area and nieces and nephews within Pennsylvania and the Washington, D.C., area.

Cece says she plans to give her attention to home, Steven, and the Austin College community and will not teach in Sherman. That's her official plan; the College community may well learn much from the talented First Lady and her experiences in the days to come.



# Giving to Prepare Future Servant Leaders



“Austin College truly is a ‘college that changes lives.’ I think it’s important for us, as alumni, to acknowledge what Austin College has done for us. Doing so inspires me to give back and participate in improving the lives of today’s ‘Roos.”  
– Jeanne Thoes ’84

**Jeanne Thoes** ’84 first discovered the magic of Austin College as a student. As an alumna, she saw the magic continue in the many relationships that make up the Austin College community. Through her role as Alumni Board president, she now can confirm that magic exists in ALL things Austin College.

While Jeanne always has valued the connections she has made with students, alumni, trustees, faculty, and staff, her service on the Alumni Board has given her a new understanding of the inner workings of the campus. “I appreciate everyone who works so hard to make good things happen!” she said. “Austin College truly is a ‘college that changes lives.’ I think it’s important for us, as alumni, to acknowledge what Austin College has done for us. Doing so inspires me to give back and participate in improving the lives of today’s ‘Roos.”

In addition to helping today’s ‘Roos, Jeanne and her husband, Tony, will be changing the lives of future ‘Roos through an estate gift. “We included Austin College in our estate plans because the future will need people who share our values. My husband and I support caring for animals, the homeless, veterans, and supporting educational opportunities. We also value those who work hard in

business, medicine, law, theology, and service to others. We admire people who contribute to the good of society through service and productivity. The charitable causes dear to us and these vocations vital to a healthy society will always require caring servant leaders to move them forward. By giving to Austin College, we’re making an investment in the people who will be prepared and willing to serve and contribute in the future.”


Today, Jeanne sees in the eyes of current students the willingness to help others that she first saw in her fellow students 33 years ago. “I think that caring about others and being willing to be part of solutions is in Austin College’s DNA. I believe its graduates—today and in the future—are going to choose to do good, serving where there are needs and contributing to the common good of society. That’s why I give—and encourage my fellow alumni to do the same.”

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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](mailto:scrouch@austincollege.edu).

**Your Legacy Matters Here!**



A female basketball player in a white and maroon Austin College jersey with the number 11 is dribbling a red basketball on a wooden court. In the background, spectators are seated in bleachers.

**Diving in.  
Digging deep.  
Jumping high.  
Swinging hard.**

Austin College student-athletes are excelling in the classroom ... and in competition in collegiate sports. Providing a great experience for every student-athlete is at the heart of our athletic programs. Coaches and mentors guide the 'Roos to success in their courses as well as their sport.

Your gifts to Athletics Enrichment help us succeed in this commitment to provide the resources needed for coaches, uniforms, equipment, and travel for the 18 men's and women's sports fielded by the College.

Give online today at [www.austincollege.edu/athletics-enrichment](http://www.austincollege.edu/athletics-enrichment)

**ROOS**  **ROOS**

For more information on supporting 'Roo athletics, contact:

David Norman, director of athletics  
[dnorman@austincollege.edu](mailto:dnorman@austincollege.edu)

JR Ohr, director of athletics development and engagement  
[jrohr@austincollege.edu](mailto:jrohr@austincollege.edu)

A stylized white outline of a kangaroo or wallaby is positioned behind the contact information on the right side of the page.

# 'ROO NOTES

## 1966

**William McLeRoy** was honored in fall 2016 by the Fort Worth Metro Chapter of the National Association of Fundraising Professionals, receiving the Ben Franklin Award as outstanding fundraising executive of the year for his effort to support organizations ranging from the arts, human services, and healthcare, to offender re-entry. Bill has been a fundraising professional for more than 30 years and has helped clients achieve their philanthropic goals as a senior principal of The Whitestone Group since 1996. He also has served 51 other southwestern and national organizations, and serving on various boards of directors since 2000, he has advocated the value of philanthropic commitment to individual communities. He and his family have engaged in their own philanthropy through a donor-advised fund at the North Texas Community Foundation.

## 1971

**Keith Johnston** recently published a new book *The End Comes Quick – Lessons Live On* about the first All-Canadian inter-university football team. After graduating from Austin College, the former Kangaroo football co-captain enrolled in the MBA program at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He played football for

## 'Roo News



## RELIVING MEMORABLE MUSICAL DAYS ON THE RHINE FROM COLLEGE YEARS

**Mike and Mary Thulemeyer Murray**, both '58, and **Joyce and David Fox** '57 spent a day on the Rhine River in August 2017 as part of a Rhine River cruise from Basel, Switzerland, to Amsterdam, Netherlands, with lovely stops in France and Germany along the way. The fact that Mike, Mary, and David had spent a day on the Rhine, from Bonn to Mainz, as part of the Austin College European Choir Tour 60 years previously added much to the charm of the moment. Pictured, left to right, are Mary, Joyce, and David; Mike was the photographer. This is just one of many trips the two couples have enjoyed, including vacations to Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, and Vail.

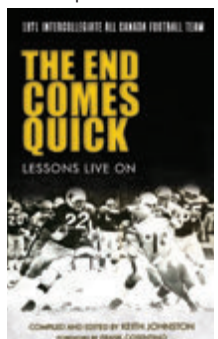
**ALUMNI: Were you on the 1957 European Choir Tour? Do you have photos you can share? Please send to [editor@austincollege.edu](mailto:editor@austincollege.edu) with Choir Tour in the subject. Include any memories and description you can.**

## GOLDEN 'ROO WEEKEND SAVE THE DATE: MAY 11-13, 2018

The Class of 1968 will be formally inducted into the Austin College Golden 'Roo Society. Event details will be posted as available: [www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos](http://www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos)



that school's team and was selected to that first All-Canadian team. His new book offers personal stories from the 24 team



members, including his own reflections—which cover his days as a 'Roo. He also has written *A Garage Full of Ferraris: How to unleash the potential in your high-performance teams to drive extraordinary results*. Keith lives in Vernon, British Columbia, and works

with a Rotary program to recognize high school athletes, as well as the Rotary Youth Leadership program for the 60 Rotary clubs in the district. He also has been coaching football and continues to conduct leadership training sessions. Keith is pictured, at center, with two members of the All-Canadian football team.



## 1981

**Andrew Gillies** became the planning director for Chesterfield County, Virginia, in October 2017, and oversees the county's zoning issues and land development as well as its guiding document for growth. He spent the past 10 years as community services director for Farmers Branch, Texas, and was the executive director of the Warren County, Kentucky, planning commission from 2000 to 2006. He also has worked for several private sector engineering and planning firms and earned a master's degree in urban planning from Texas A&M University. He is a certified planner through the American Planning Association.

**Carlton Schwab** was honored with the 2017 Jeffrey A. Finkle Organizational Leadership Award from the International Economic Development Council at its annual conference in Toronto, Ontario, last fall. The award recognizes an individual who has led the same economic development organization with integrity, tenacity, and a philanthropic spirit for at least 15 years. Carlton has served

## [ACCOLADES]



### FARRELL EXAMINES WAR-RELATED FICTION

**Susan Farrell** '85, a member of the English faculty at the College of Charleston, says that even seasoned writers have grappled with the difficult task of putting devastating events into words, and her latest book, *Imagining Home: American War Fiction from Hemingway to 9/11*, provides a critique of popular war fiction. Events of September 11, she says, are often referred to as “unspeakable,” and she has found in her teaching that American writers have been similarly concerned with “the inadequacy of ordinary words to describe war and wartime trauma.”



She uses her new book as a platform to forge a connection between 20th- and 21st-century American war fiction by looking through two different lenses. Her own interest in 9/11-based literature was the impetus behind this re-evaluation of war fiction that she deems not only as beyond description but also gendered with stiff male and female stereotypes, highly detectable in both eras of literary fiction.

“The American war writers I examine in my book show male characters who struggle with conventional expectations of masculine courage and camaraderie, and who, above all, long for home in the midst of war. But traditional ideas about home and domesticity turn out to be illusions as well—homes are not safe havens in the world of war, completely separate from the frontlines, and women are neither innocents to be protected nor nurturers whose job is to replenish men spiritually.”

Susan joined the College of Charleston faculty in 1993 after completing her master's degree and Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. She teaches courses in American literature, contemporary fiction, women's studies, and composition. She has recently published books on Kurt Vonnegut and Tim O'Brien.



as president and CEO of the Texas Economic Development Council for nearly two decades. His career in economic development spans 30 years, including leadership at Deloitte, the University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and the Lubbock Board of City Development.

## 1988

**Jack Wylie** retired last spring from Van Alstyne High School after 30 years of teaching economics and coaching football

in Texas, with many years in the head coaching position. Now he is an insurance agent for long-time friend **Roger Luttrell** '76 at Benton-Luttrell-Brown Insurance Agency in Van Alstyne, Texas, where Jack lives with his daughters, Tatum and Keara.

## 1990

**Richard Hunter** earned an MBA from the University of Dallas in May 2017. He lives in Dallas, Texas, and is the gallery director for the Great American West Gallery in Grapevine, Texas.

## 1990 (continued)

**Kenneth “Kip” Matthews Jr.** was elected a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in September



2017 in recognition of distinguished contributions in research, education, or leadership in the medical physics community. He earned a Ph.D. in 1997 from the University of Chicago

and is certified by the American Board of Radiology in nuclear medical physics. Since 2001, he has been an associate professor at Louisiana State University in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and is the director of the Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Undergraduates program. He also is the deputy director of the university's graduate program in medical physics and health physics. He served as the 2016 president of the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

**Amy Richardson Razzino** has accepted a lead teacher position at Menta Academy North, a therapeutic day school in



Waukegan, Illinois, that works with students removed from public schools due to behavior problems or other needs. She had been on a hiatus from education and worked in accounting for the past six years. She and her three children live in Oak Park, Illinois.

## 1991

**Lisa Fain**, known to many as the Homesick Texan, has a new cookbook out from Ten Speed Press that is a celebration of



chile con queso, called appropriately enough, *QUESO! Regional Recipes for the World's Favorite Chile-Cheese Dip*. From her New York home, she continues to write about

Texas food at [HomesickTexan.com](http://HomesickTexan.com) and also recently has done articles for *Bon Appetit* and *Taste*.

Dr. **Thomas Newsom**, president of Mesalands Community College, is shown in a meeting with U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

## THE STUDENTS ARE NOW THE FACULTY

**Tara Larson Brown '01**, **Steven Nivin '89**, and **Adam Jones '02** posed for a photo with **Daniel Nuckols**, Austin College's John T. Jones Chair of Economics—and their former teacher. The alumni were attending the March 2017 Economics Scholars Program for Undergraduate Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, which brings economists, faculty, and students from around the country each spring. Austin College and the Federal Reserve Bank began the conference in 2007 to foster the involvement of undergraduate economics students in all facets of research. Nuckols helped the alumni enter doctoral programs, and now all three are economics faculty themselves: Tara at the University of Texas at Arlington, Steven at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and Adam at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Several Austin College students and faculty participate in the conference each year.



in Washington, D.C. in July 2017. His institution in Tucumcari, New Mexico, has been recognized as the best community college in the state and among the top in the nation.



**Jay P. Walters** was named to the 2018 Best Lawyers in America list and was named Lawyer of the Year for his work



in Litigation-Securities in the Oklahoma City area. A veteran attorney, Jay practices with the law firm GableGotwals. He works in Native American law and

litigation-mergers and acquisitions and was named 2016 Lawyer of the Year for Native American law. A volunteer attorney with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children, Jay also serves on the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Western District of Oklahoma and the board for the Federal Bar Association's Oklahoma City Chapter, which he serves as president-elect. He also

serves as a Moot Court coach volunteer for the Youth Leadership Exchange and is on the board for the Red Bud Foundation.

Dr. **George Zoys** was recognized last fall on the 2017 Best Doctors list for orthopedics and orthopedics surgery, a list



he has made every year since 2009. In 2017, he also was named to the Best Doctors in Collin County, Texas, list. He is highly regarded for using the most advanced medical technology

and innovative techniques. After completing his M.D. and residency at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, he completed a sports medicine fellowship in Sydney, Australia, which allowed him to help provide medical coverage for the Sydney Olympic Games.

## 1992

**Jarrod Foerster** has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to a three-year term (through June 2020) as a public member of the board of the State Bar of Texas. He is a founder and managing principal of Flagship Capital Partners in



Houston, Texas. The firm provides debt capital through a variety of structures, in senior and mezzanine loans to entrepreneurial and qualified sponsors. Jarrod and his wife, Mimi, have two children, Meg and Charles.



**Marc Parrish** spends his free time writing historical Austin College sports stories he calls 'Roo Tales. The stories are posted in the "GoRoo" Facebook group, which Marc encourages interested alumni to join. He works as an IT manager for the University of Texas System and lives in Austin, Texas, where he and his wife, Dianne, are raising their two children, Alex and Malia. Marc is also a proud member of the Austin College Alumni "A" Athletics Board.



## 1995

**Kathryn Pourmand Nordick** has rejoined Pepper Hamilton, a multi-practice law firm. She received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2005 and began work at Pepper Hamilton. After leaving and joining Reed Smith, she is back at the firm as a partner in the Financial Services Practice Group. Kathryn has represented a variety of parties, including agents, lenders, private equity sponsors, corporate borrowers, and non-bank lenders.



## 1997

**Traci Leach** was one of two deputy city managers hired for the City of Coppell in August 2017. She had served as assistant city manager for the city of La Porte, Texas, since 2011 and began her career in Farmers Branch as a management analyst in 1999. Traci had volunteered her time as a member of the La Porte Education Foundation, was president-elect of the La Porte Rotary Club, and was Rotarian of the Year in 2015. She earned a master's degree in public administration at University of North Texas. She and her husband have one daughter.



## 'ROO DOING GOOD IN KENYA



**Emily Coufal Vann '00** serves on the advisory board for Coins for Change, a nonprofit organization that works with the Maasai tribe in Amboseli, Kenya, and sends 39 girls and boys to secondary school. In August 2017, Emily traveled to Amboseli with a group to work with Chief Mary Kahingo, the first female chief of Kenya, who runs a safe house for girls escaping early marriage and is also a member of the Coins for Change board. On the trip, the group was able to buy a new water tank, secure eye surgery for a young girl, and gather school and toiletry supplies for the school children. Emily suggests the area could be an amazing JanTerm or Global Outreach opportunity for Austin College students.



**David Noll** has been appointed to the Allen ISD Board of Trustees, replacing a trustee elected to the Allen City Council. The term runs through May when the seat will be open for election. David is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has worked in the public accounting industry for over 10 years. He currently is a senior tax manager at Goldin, Peiser & Peiser. He serves on the District Improvement Committee for Allen ISD, the Leadership Allen/Fairview Steering Committee, and is a local high school football official. He previously served on the Allen ISD Project Kids committee, the District of Innovation committee, and was a 2017 Allen/Fairview Leadership Academy graduate. He is married to **Mandy (Cook) '98**, mathematics coordinator for Allen ISD.



## 1999

**Audrey D. Ebel** was promoted to regional director of human resources for Bed Bath and Beyond in May 2017. She continues to cover all the company's Canadian operations (including Buy Buy Baby, Cost

Plus World Market, and other subsidiaries) and now adds Bed Bath and Beyond stores in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Utah. Audrey is the daughter of **Bonnie Scranton '90**, who worked in Institutional Advancement at Austin College before retiring.

**Dennis Nance** is curator of the Galveston Arts Center, and he and staff at the coastal museum were ready when hurricane season approached this year, being prepared for a worst-case scenario based on hard lessons learned during Hurricane Ike in 2008. Significant loss was suffered because the staff could not reach the museum during the storm and could not have moved the large pieces alone even if they had. It took years to raise the funds to restore the building, and Nance, the new curator, was not taking any chances. During hurricane season, Dennis planned only small exhibitions that could be easily moved to safety. So, with early warning for Harvey, staff members were able to secure the art out of harm's way. Many people were not so lucky, and since the storm, Nance and other members of the local arts community have worked to compile resources for artists whose work was damaged by flooding.

**1999** (continued)

**Clayton Scarborough** ('01 MAT) became the principal at North Lamar High School in Paris, Texas, in June 2017. He previously had taught 10 years in Waxahachie, Texas,



and spent five years at John Tyler High School in Tyler, Texas, as the assistant principal. Clayton and his wife, **Tiffanie (Jones)** '98, have two sons, Noah, 4, and Benjamin, 1.

**2001**

**Charles Gurley Jr.** is vice president and loan team manager for Wells Fargo in St. Louis, Missouri. He works with a team to



manage the credit process within the Regional Credit Banking Office for emerging middle market account relationships with revenues between \$20 and \$100 million in eastern Missouri

and southern Illinois. He manages and develops the credit team, and liaises with the customer service manager regarding compliance risks and procedures. He joined Wells Fargo in January 2010 and has 15 years of experience in the banking industry. He earned a law degree from the University of North Texas College of Law in 2017. He earned a master's degree in accounting at the University of Dallas and an MBA at Amberton University.

**2002**

**P. Lindley Bain** has been named to the Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for the eighth consecutive year. She also has been included in Up-and-Coming



100 and Up-and-Coming 50: 2017 Women lists. She is a board-certified family law attorney and manages GoransonBain's office in Austin, Texas.

See news of  
recent weddings  
in 'ROO-MATES  
on Page 39

**[ ACCOLADES ]****HARDY TAKES ON HARVEY USING HER BRAIN**

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas last August, people pulled together to render aid and send financial support. **Annie Hardy** '02 lives in Cedar Park, Texas, more than 200 miles from the flooding, but raised in Dickinson, Texas, she had many friends in the flood zone. So, that first Sunday morning as waters were rising, she awoke to a social media feed filled with alarming messages and photos from friends. "On the rooftop with my three sons waiting for rescue. Lord, please be with me and my sons," one friend posted.



"When I matriculated at Austin College, they used a phrase on our T-shirts: 'God gave us brains, and He expects us to use them,'" Annie said. "And, faced with those photos, those stories, of people I knew and grew up with, who were scared and in danger, I did what I knew to do. I hustled. The internet has equipped hustle like never before. We have access to friends and connections across the world."

Annie jumped to action, using her phone, computer, and connections across Texas. She contacted friends with boats to help in rescue efforts; confirmed clear paths to leave the area; connected evacuees with those offering shelter; facilitated direct donations to people needing food, gas, shelter, or information; and managed a supply chain of cleaning supplies and construction materials to the hardest-hit areas. As the most immediate needs were met, she turned her efforts to researching and promoting nonprofit organizations that would put the majority of funds given toward helping the community, connecting people with places to donate goods and services, and sending supplies to homes via cars that were headed in that direction.

Annie has returned to her work as principal and managing director of Zeet Consulting, specializing in research and data strategies for businesses, but she has not forgotten the victims of Harvey. She reminds friends and family to continue to make donations and meet the needs that arise, as well as travel to the coast to help rebuild homes in the devastated communities. "There is much work to be done, and we as Fighting Kangaroos can continue to pour our love and resources into these cities and these families over the coming year. I've learned there is much help we can give, even from the comforts of home."

God gave her a brain. Annie plans to use it to help wherever she can.



**Brianna Burnett** is a fine art photographer and is a visiting assistant professor of art at Austin College. Her photo exhibit, "Borrowed Whimsy" was a part of the

2017 Homecoming and Family Weekend celebration on campus. She integrates landscape, history, and the culture of her surroundings into photographs that are studies of historical and personal narrative. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree at Texas Tech University. She and her husband, Shaun Foreman, live in Dallas, Texas, with their son, Graeme.



**Kurt Esslinger** is a mission co-worker with Presbyterian World Mission, stationed in Korea. "My time as a Sallie Majors Religious



Life Intern at Austin College encouraged me to adapt responses to the context instead of forcing my preconceived assumptions about what

was 'good' and 'valued' onto others. It has been an invaluable lesson as I have sought to learn as much as I can about the Korean conflict and our role in it through U.S. military policy and the influence of the Presbyterian Church through mission work. It is now part of my mission to teach a better understanding of Korean history and context so that we can adapt our response to more successfully move toward reconciliation." Kurt, pictured with his wife and son, presented the sermon for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2017.

## 2003

**Hayley Gillespie** accepted a full lecturer position at Texas State University in fall 2017, teaching biology. She also is the founder and director of the Art.Science. Gallery. in Austin, Texas, which celebrated its fifth year last summer. The gallery's bird-themed art show in fall 2017 was dedicated to the late **Sandy Beach** '68, former Austin College biology staff member and bird biologist.

## 2004

**Karin Burk Busby** graduated in May 2017 from the University of Texas at Dallas with a M.A.T. in Science Education. Her degree includes a thesis publication titled "Texas Science Teacher Characteristics and Conceptual Understanding of Newton's Laws of Motion."



**Megan Varvir Coe** earned her Ph.D. in musicology from the University of North Texas in August 2016, completing her dissertation "Composing Symbolism's Musicality of Language in fin-de-siècle France." Her article "Musicality of Language and 'Corporeal Writing' in La Tragédie de Salomé (1907)," appeared in the spring 2017 issue of *Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts*.

Megan is currently an adjunct lecturer in music history at the University of Texas at Arlington.

## REDDY PUBLISHES FIRST BOOK IN ANTHOLOGY: EQUINOX MYSTERIES



With two books published in the last year, **Vishal Reddy** '02 has paused his career in finance to pursue his lifelong passion as a writer. Vishal lives in New York City and is working on the next installation of his fictional anthology series Equinox Mysteries. The first book, *Higher Ground*, is about the mysterious death of a long-unemployed Detroit autoworker. Subsequent books

will feature different settings and characters, but each book contains the common hook of the first 48 hours of the murder investigation and last 48 hours of the victim's life. The next book in the series, *Take Five*, takes place in Silicon Valley and will be released this spring. His books are available through **Amazon.com**.

"My goal in writing is to put this unique concept to paper while addressing social issues through my work," Vishal said. "*Higher Ground* tackles issues such as working-class struggle, unemployment, and family strife, all told through the lens of a suspenseful murder mystery. Future books in the series will tackle other relevant societal issues in the same way, all while delivering well-crafted entertainment."

He also self-published *One Hour Investor: The Beginner's Guide to Investing in the Stock Market*, under the pseudonym Russell Elroy. This non-fiction work teaches financial literacy, drawing on Vishal's background and education. He completed his MBA with a concentration in finance at the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College in New York in 2016.

"I am interested in becoming a financial analyst on Wall Street, though any major success I have with my books may sideline those plans," Vishal said. "Until then, I will keep striving to go as far as I can in both the fields of literature and finance."

**Sara Anne Giddings**, an attorney in San Angelo, Texas, received the Joseph M. Prichard Outstanding Director Award



presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association in June 2017 at the annual meeting of the State Bar of Texas in Dallas. She served as the president of the Tom Green County Young Lawyers

Association from 2015 to 2017. Before launching Giddings Law Firm in San Angelo, she worked at the law offices of Smith Rose Finley, handling transactional services like wills, probate, tax law, and trusts, and she has worked extensively with oil and gas service companies. She sits on the board of directors for the Texas Young Lawyers Association, representing Region 15, which encompasses San Angelo and Abilene.

## 2005

**Ben Thomas** was appointed to the Montana State Cabinet as director of the Department of Agriculture in January



2017. He previously served as the Deputy Under Secretary for the Marketing and Regulatory Programs Mission Area at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and helped oversee the Agricultural Marketing Service;

the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration. He also was the chief of staff for the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Mission Area. In that role, he oversaw the department's international activities and worked to implement provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill.

## [ACCOLADES]



## LEADING THE WAY IN HEALTHCARE



**Katherine Yarbrough Kuzmeskas '07** was named by *Forbes* magazine as one of “34 Leaders Who Are Changing Healthcare.” As the founder and CEO of SimplyVital, Kat works to harness blockchain to improve inefficiencies in medical record-keeping and payment methods. Blockchain is a way to track information history that can never be deleted. It is essentially a database that maintains a continuously growing list of records or transactions. The information then can be shared among health professionals using value-based care where reimbursements are based on outcomes and cooperative use of medical records benefits the patient and provider.

While working as a strategic planner at Yale New Haven Health, she recognized a weakness in the information and billing practices. Her own need to create and her desire to find a startup opportunity in the healthcare field led her to research, revise, and pitch the idea behind SimplyVital.

Since its beginning in the spring of 2016, SimplyVital has been recognized as a game changer in healthcare management. They have hired employees and sales staff, and gained valuable investors.

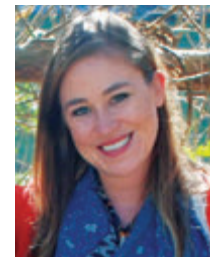
**Laura J. Lawson** and her art exhibit, “Laura J. Lawson: Elements of Place,” were a featured highlight of Homecoming and Family Weekend 2017.



Her satellite-view paintings explore how land and water shape the landscape and form significant regions, and the colors and patterns tie directly to light, water, soul, building materials, wildlife, and other elements.

Laura was able to study abroad while at Austin College, with studies taking her to Scotland, China, France, Peru, and Ecuador. She since has earned a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Memphis and spent two months in residence at the Centre d'Art Marnay Art Center in France. She now lives in Dallas.

**Kate Murphy** is a senior child welfare policy associate at Texans Care for Children in Austin, Texas. She works to



keep children safe at home through an effective Child Protective Services workforce, prevention services, and other efforts, and works to ensure child safety and success in foster care and beyond.

Before joining Texans Care for Children, Kate was a Mental Health Policy Fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation in Austin, Texas. In that role, she developed and advanced policy solutions at the state level to address a variety of mental health, public health, and criminal justice issues. Kate earned her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law, where she was inducted into the National Order of Barristers for her achievements in oral advocacy, and was nominated for Who's Who of American Law Schools.

## 2007



**JR Ohr** joined the Austin College staff in August 2017 as director of athletics development and engagement. He is pleased to have a positive impact on the lives of student-athletes as he leads

Athletics Enrichment fundraising. After graduation, he earned a master's degree in sports management at the University of Texas and spent the past seven years at Sam Houston State University in a similar athletics fundraising position.

opportunity at a position as MOOYAH's first financial analyst, focused on studying the brand by using the analytics she learned in **Kevin Simmons'** econometrics class at Austin College. She advanced quickly to vice president of development and finance, managing MOOYAH's finance, analytics, sales, real estate, and construction teams. She said she still uses her textbook and notes from Austin College to mentor young analysts on her team. Jessica lives in Carrollton, Texas, with her husband, **Geoff Wescott '08**.

## 2010

**Kate Johnson** (MAT '11) has been the coordinator of Supplemental Instruction at Tarrant County College's Northeast Campus since August 2011. She made a presentation in May 2017 at the Regional Supplemental Instruction Conference at Texas A&M University.

## 2009

**Jessica Lewis Wescott** came into her current role for MOOYAH Burgers Fries and Shakes through a non-traditional route, after spending six years in the wealth management industry. At her first job after graduation from Austin College, she sat two seats from MOOYAH's



former CFO. After many years of keeping in touch, she says he gave her the

Additions to the  
'Roo family:  
see Joeys on Page 41

## 2013

**Jill Murphy Elbertson** received her master's degree in creative writing/poetry from Texas Tech University in spring 2017.



She was awarded a scholarship with a stipend when she entered graduate school, which she completed with a 4.0 GPA. Jill has taught freshman English Composition at Texas Tech since 2016 and served as a substitute teacher for creative writing classes. She continues teaching composition through spring 2018.



# 'ROO-MATES

## 1985

**Margaret Winfield** (MA '86) and **Dyke McMahan** '86 were married July 11, 2017. The couple eloped, and Dyke's football teammate **Clayton Oliphint** '83, pastor of First United Methodist Church in



Richardson, Texas, performed the ceremony (pictured at left of the couple). Margaret is in her 33rd year in education, taking on a new role this year as school counselor for grades K-8 in Quanah ISD, and Dyke is a Texas game warden. The couple lives in Vernon, Texas, and Margaret continues to serve on the Alumni "A" Athletics Board.

## 2002



**Lindsay McFadden** and **Adam Zehner** were married in Southlake, Texas, on May 6, 2017. The wedding party included **Ed Garza**, Austin College head volleyball coach, **Jill Ellis** '02, **Kate Marshall** '03, **Krissy Czekaj** '02, **Jennifer Jackson Bordelon** '02, and **Christen Currie** '04.

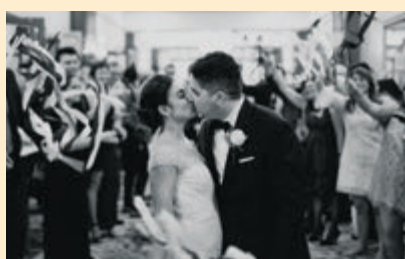
## 2011



**Kristen Ruhnke** and **Robin Sunny** were married May 11, 2017. The high school sweethearts live in Dallas, Texas. The wedding party included **Arathi Ramamurthi Rana**, **Soundariya Satyavada**, **Kelly Lewis**, **Sherine Jose Valverde**, and **Sadaaf Tanvir**, all '11. In summer 2017, Kristen joined the Austin College Office of Admission as director of alumni and student recruiters.

## 2012

**Summer Abubaker** and **Marcelo Migoni** '10 were married March 11, 2017, at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The wedding party included **Komal Mehta** and **Shukan Patel**, both '12. Marcelo is



the science department chair at Quintanilla Middle School in Dallas. Summer earned her master's degree in physician assistant studies in 2015 from UT Southwestern and works as a physician assistant at an OB/GYN clinic in Irving, Texas.

## 2014



**Lauren Tepera** and **Tim Smith** '13 were married August 18, 2017, at Ashton Gardens in Corinth, Texas. The wedding party included **Philip Richardson** '13, **Elizabeth Kubacki** '14, and **Kelsey Jennings Roark** '14. Tim and Lauren live in Denton, Texas. Tim is a managing partner at Modern Woodmen of America and Lauren is an accountant for PrimeSource Building Products in Irving.

## 2015

**Taylor Crouch** and **Kelsey Dodson** were married at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on September 2, 2017. They met during their Communication/Inquiry class their



freshman year at Austin College and have been together for the past six years. The wedding party included **Alena Oglesbee** '14, **Jordan Meredith** '15, **Susie Fox Marshall** '15, **Jorge Garza** '17, **Nesh Maniam** '17, and **Newt Cunningham** '17. Taylor graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Master of Public Policy degree in 2017 and now works for the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights. Kelsey works for the ALS Association Chapter of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.



**Bliss Froehlich** and **Josh Frey** '14 were married in McKinney, Texas, on July 16, 2016. Josh was a member of Chi Tau Chi at Austin College and Bliss was a little sister for his fraternity, as well as a member of Omega Zeta. The wedding party included bridesmaids **Elizabeth Pargaman** '16 and **Hannah Briscoe** '15, groomsmen **Nick Inman** '14 and **Kevin Lipscomb** '14, and ushers **Jared Zimmerman** '13, **Steven Phillips** '13, and **Connor Patton** '14. Josh is a broker at an investment firm, and Bliss is teaching third grade in Coppell ISD. The couple lives in Grapevine, Texas.

## 2016



**Ashley Murphy** (MAT '17) and **Dakota Baugus** '15 were married May 27, 2017. **Abinav Leva** '15 was a member of the wedding party. Dakota is a third-year student at the Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, and Ashley teaches mathematics at Princeton High School.

## 2013 (continued)



**Shruti Hegde** earned her medical degree at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 2017 and has begun a five-year residency program in general surgery at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

**Sarah Villasenor** began work as a development associate in alumni relations at Houston Christian High School in



January 2017. She is helping to build and design the alumni association program there. She said she is thankful that Austin College helped her find her passion for working with nonprofits and found the classes in the Nonprofit Organizations and Public Service program some of the best she had.

**Sameen Wajid** spent the 2016-2017 year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Malaysia, where she said she gained a greater understanding of cultural and religious interactions that promote



inclusivity, specifically in educational environments. She worked in the state of Sarawak, where there are 40 sub-ethnic groups, including Malay, Indian, Chinese, and many indigenous tribes. "It was refreshing and eye-opening to be in a place where maintaining one's cultural identity was respected and encouraged," she said. "I learned that integration and full membership in a community do not require forgoing your original identity. It was tremendously meaningful to witness ethnic difference enriching a diverse community, not dividing it. Empowered

by what the people of Sarawak taught me, I am eager to use the tool of education to help refugees assimilate without abandoning their culture." In fall 2017, Sameen began the International Education Policy program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education—with a defined objective: to better understand how to address educational challenges



in refugee camps. She ultimately aspires to improve the quality of education in these camps. "I believe that education is the truest

equalizer," she said. "In an education policy role I can enact lasting change. I am committed to serving humanity on both a global and an individual scale, focused on those who have been cast aside by political and societal injustice. Post-graduation, I plan to pursue a career working with refugee populations in achieving equality of access."

## 2015

**Abinav Leva** is attending the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland, California. He plans to pursue surgery with a sub-specialty in diabetic wound care or sports medicine. He said his interview at CSPM reminded him of the close-knit family experience at Austin College so he knew he was in the right place. After completion of the program, Abinav plans to return to Texas.

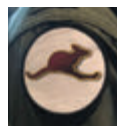


**Gabe McCarthy** was commissioned an ensign in December 2016 after graduating that fall from Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. He



earned his flight suit in a Naval aviation ritual in July 2017 at Naval Air Station Pensacola's training command. Paying homage to his alma mater, Gabe wears an Austin College 'Roo patch on

his uniform. He was assigned primary flight training at NAS Corpus Christi in October. Proud dad **Osler McCarthy '73** shared the news.



## [ ACCOLADES ]



## A WINNING ACCOUNT OF A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY



**Shardae White '16** studied abroad in Valparaiso, Chile, for the 2014-2015 academic year as a Gilman Scholar. When the Institute of International Education (IIE) put out a call to its study abroad alumni to share their experiences, Shardae answered, creating a video about her time in Chile for the IIE Voices Video Challenge. Her work was selected as one of two national winners, and she was awarded a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the IIE Summit on Generation Study Abroad in October 2017 as a "Generation Study Abroad Voices" ambassador.

"I wanted to show non-traditional and under-represented students that they can go abroad and have an experience that's unique to them, because oftentimes we're bombarded with the same kind of narrative about study abroad, and I really do believe representation matters," she said. "I think my experience abroad helped me professionally because I gained confidence in my skills, perspective, and unique insight I can contribute." Shardae works as a weekend supervisor in Abell Library on campus.

At [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org), search Voices Video Challenge and scroll down to see Shardae's winning video.



## 2016

**Ohumumwen Aguebor** is working in Washington, D.C., as the grants coordinator at Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry, a national anti-hunger nonprofit. Share Our Strength was launched in the mid-'80s in response to famine in Ethiopia. Today, the programs connect children to valuable nutrition in their areas across the United States.



**Brianna Harvey** (MAT '17) is realizing a dream this year, teaching English in Thailand in the Bamnet Narong district in the southwestern part of Chaiyaphum Province. Through Teach Thailand Corps, she works with students from kindergarten through sixth grade in two different schools. Before she began her Texas teaching career, she wanted to experience another culture and a bit of a challenge. Unable to study abroad during her Austin College years, Brianna finds her assignment in Thailand a wonderful blend of international exploration and exposure to the challenges of English Language Learners she will encounter in her classrooms back in Texas. Since her own Thai language skills are limited she is experiencing firsthand the struggle to communicate. Austin College Career Services staff assisted Brianna in discovering the 10-month international teaching opportunity.



## 2017

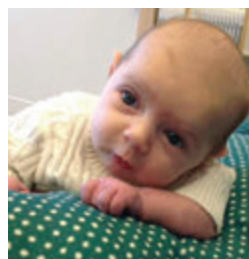
**Amy Glazier** '17, a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on full scholarship waiver, attended the 230th meeting of the American Astronomical Society in the summer of 2017. She presented the honors thesis and research she completed while at Austin College and was awarded the Chambliss Astronomy Achievement Student Award as the outstanding undergraduate presenter.



## 2004



**Andrew and Rebecca Stephens Carroll** '07 announce the birth of their second child, son Wesley, on April 21, 2017. He is the grandson of **Nancy Newman Stephens** '72 and great-grandson of **Boyd Newman** '42. His godparents are **Andrew** '03 and **Becky Conley Buckner** '04.



**Andy and Andrea Barnett Spivey** announce the birth of their first child, daughter Madlen, on August 31, 2017. The family lives in Edmond, Oklahoma.

## 2005

**Michael and Carrie Simpson Henry**, both '05, and their daughters, Lillian and Anna, welcomed baby brother Eli Benjamin into their family on June 26, 2017. Michael



recently became a partner at the Pediatric Clinic in Mount Pleasant, Texas, and is chief of staff at Titus Regional Medical Center.

Carrie spends her time taking care of the three littles and running a small pediatric occupational therapy clinic, Therapy Learning Center, which she founded.

## 2007

**Katie Burgoon Long** and her husband, Andrew, announce the birth of their son, Theodore Gage Burgoon Long, on June 29, 2017. The family lives in Enid, Oklahoma, where Katie is the assistant director at Loaves and Fishes, a nonprofit food and resource center, and Andrew is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church.



## 2008

**Hillary Powlen Croissant** (MAT '09) and her husband, Eric, welcomed Judson Ellis to their family August 23, 2017. Big brother, Weston, 3, is thrilled with the addition. The family lives in Melissa, Texas, where Hillary is an instructional coach at the elementary school and is an active member in their church community.



## 2014



**Rachel Ramos** and her husband, Ansel Gabbard, welcomed their daughter, Kylie Grace Gabbard, on September 2, 2016.



## 'ROO FRIENDS IN BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



Pictured, left to right, are **Bart Miller**; **Kurt Matt**; **John Clark**; **Kevin Spencer**; **Ben Danner** (who attended Austin College his freshman year then transferred to West Point, was a tank commander in the first Gulf War, and retired as a colonel a few years ago); **Don Tafelski**; **Mike Davis**; **Jimmy Curry**; **Jason Schiflett** (who attended only his freshman year but was part of the 1981 NAIA championship football team); **Sam Hockaday**; **Mike Watson** (a friend); and kneeling, at left, **Bill Leonard**; and at right, **Greg Garrison**.

For 39 years in a row, one group of Austin College friends has made the time for “Retreat” every year, sometimes for some adventurous travel. The most recent trip was to the British Virgin Islands in summer 2017. **Bill Leonard** '83 sent this photo of friends who developed and continued lifelong friendships that have taken them through births, deaths, marriages, and divorces ... just experiencing life together. “I heard it said once that ‘lots of things in life you don’t get to choose, but friends—they are one of the true great choices you can make.’ I’ve chosen my friends very wisely, indeed,” Bill said.

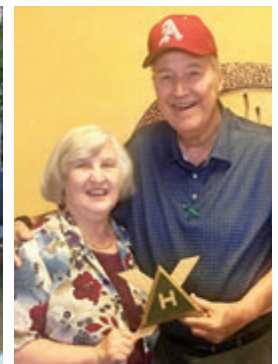
The group, Bill said, ranges from 10 to 18 each year and includes attorneys, coaches, teachers, CPAs, fence guys, an airline pilot (former USAF pilot), real estate professionals, wealth managers, dentists, business owners, a retired Colonel (U.S. Army), and folks who work for corporate America. While it may have started out as a fraternity

gathering, it’s turned into an invitation to anyone who wanted to join them—siblings, friends, or members of other fraternities. “Frankly,” Bill said, “as the years pass, we’re just glad to see each other.”

They stay near or in Texas one year and go farther afield the next. They’ve traveled to Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico, “Old” Mexico, the Bahamas, Montana, and St. John. Drake alumnus **Peter Mandt-Rauch** '81 assisted with the Bahamas trip. Smaller groupings have arisen: **Mike Davis** and **John Clark** hiked in the Himalayas; **Bart Miller** and **Clark** trekked around Machu Picchu.

**Ben Danner** has the distinction for the longest travel to get to their gatherings. In 1991, he traveled back from Iraq/Kuwait after the First Gulf War; in the mid-1990s, he came from Egypt and Sinai when he was stationed there with Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

## CHI DELTA ETA COMMEMORATES 60TH YEAR



The men, sweethearts, and little sisters of Chi Delta Eta celebrated the 60th year of the fraternity at Homecoming 2017. Founders **Richard Mallory** '59, at center above, and **Bert Bronaugh** '59, plus the first Chi Delt Sweetheart (and Bert’s wife) **Joyce (Schmalstieg)** '62, shown at right with Bert, attended as did members of seven decades. A portion of the fraternity’s reunion fundraising was a gift to the Dr. Jack Pierce Memorial Soccer Complex. Dr. Pierce was a long-time Chi Delt sponsor.



## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Austin College Homecoming and Family Weekend 2017 was amazing! So many alumni friends returned to campus to spend time together; several groups celebrated anniversaries, milestones, and events. Numerous families were just hanging out with their new 'Roos.



As I watched these many relationships, it was apparent to me that the key to the magic of Austin College is the people. You can see the perpetuities of the magic revisited again

and again in each smiling face, each strong hug, each proud parent, each loving 'Roo student's interaction.

For alumni, Austin College is a safe place to be happy, young, and connected with so many wonderful memories and friends from our time here. I observed that this is as true for new alumni coming back to campus for the first time as it is for the Golden 'Roos, who have celebrated 50 years since their graduation.

Reflect back on your years at Austin College for a moment. Think about your groups and associations and your ties to them today. They are still here for you to reconnect with and contribute to! The Greek groups are strong, and many are building robust alumni and alumnae networks. The athletics associations are stellar and sponsor so many awesome events. The letter associations bring alumni together to sing and to talk about the law, service, education, health and science, theatre, and diversity in so many ways. The opportunities for alumni to mentor students abound! There is no limit to the representation of our truly amazing network of productive, giving alumni.



One can never have too many friends in this world, and those we made at Austin College are some of the most special. Don't lose that connection. We can all be part of the alumni network and promote 'friend raising' in the community simply by renewing our associations and relationships.

The magic of Austin College really is global as it flows through the friendships, associations, and people who remain a part of this stellar organization and alumni community. Renew your 'Roo friendships through 'friend raising,' be engaged alumni; be part of the Austin College magic; be blessed.

**Jeanne (Holland) Thoes '84**  
Alumni Board President

## PHI SIGMA ALPHA CELEBRATES 85TH YEAR



More than 80 Phi Sigs and 12 Sig Sweethearts representing seven decades attended Homecoming and Family Weekend 2017 to celebrate their 85th year, the dedication of the Lemuel Scarbrough Center for Writing, and three Phi Sig alumni receiving recognition as Distinguished Alumni or Clemons Volunteer of the Year. The late **Lem Scarbrough '58**, who donated \$7 million to the College in his estate and established the Center for Writing also was a Phi Sig.

### UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

**JANUARY 18**  
Huddle Up in San Antonio

**FEBRUARY 15**  
Huddle Up in Fort Worth

**MARCH 8**  
Dallas AlumNight  
5-7 p.m.  
Hot Joy • 3130 Lemmon Ave • Dallas 75204

**MARCH 21**  
Houston AlumNight  
5-7 p.m.  
Cru • 2800 Kirby Drive Ste B-130  
Houston 77098

**APRIL 12**  
Austin AlumNight  
5-7 p.m.  
Contigo • 2027 Anchor Ln • Austin 78723

**MAY 17**  
Huddle Up in Dallas

For details, updates, and other events, see  
[www.austincollege.edu/alumni/alumni-events](http://www.austincollege.edu/alumni/alumni-events)

## 2017 ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Honoring talented alumni is a highlight of Homecoming, from the career and community success of the Distinguished Alumni and First Decade Awardee, to the continued commitment to Austin College of the Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Awardee and the Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award honoree.

### Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



**Jacqueline R. Cooper '73** was a senior programs and policy officer of the United States government for more than 39 years, retiring in 2015. Along with professional awards and certificates, she received the Career Commendation Medal. A longtime member of Austin College's Board of Trustees, she now is a senior trustee and represents Austin College on the Jno. E. Owens Memorial Lecture Committee. She lives in McKinney, Texas, where she volunteers with the Newcomers Club and is active at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church. She holds a master's degree and completed all but the dissertation of a Ph.D. at the University of Texas in Austin.



**Larry Fedora '85 ('86 MA)** has been the head football coach at the University of North Carolina for six seasons. He began his career as a graduate assistant for the 'Roos, then served as an assistant football coach at schools around the country before spending four seasons as head football coach at Southern Mississippi University. His many honors include 2006 Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor inductee, 2015 Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coach of the Year, and 2015 Paul Bear Bryant Coach of the Year finalist. Larry and his wife, **Christi (Wood) '87**, have four children. Christi accepted the award on his behalf.



**Clayton Oliphint '83** has been the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas, since 2001, previously serving Methodist churches in Kansas and Texas. He received the 2007 Richardson Network of Community Ministries Vision Award, the 2013 Richardson Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, and the 2016 C.C. Young Servant Leadership Award. He serves with several community groups and the Texas Methodist Foundation. He also is a 1996 Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor inductee. He and his wife, Lori, have three children. Clayton earned master's and doctoral degrees in divinity and ministry at Southern Methodist University.

### First Decade Award



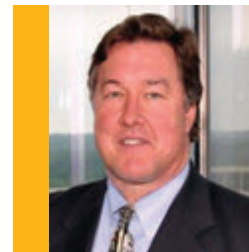
**Cara Barnes '09** is a global programs officer with VentureWell in Hadley, Massachusetts, supporting innovators developing healthcare technology for emerging markets. Prior to joining VentureWell, she was a research scientist at Diagnostics For All, developing point-of-care medical diagnostics for low-resource settings and leading field trials in rural Zambia. At Austin College, Cara was a GO! Fellow; her service in Ethiopia inspired her to live there for a year after graduation. She earned a master's degree in analytical chemistry at the University of Utah and a Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University. She now lives in Hampstead, New Hampshire.

### Cindy Bean Service to Alumni Award



**Vickie Kirby**, executive director of communication at Austin College, has been telling the stories of the students, alumni, friends, and faculty of the College since 1984. Through photography, research, and writing she has reported on thousands of students, alumni, events, and programs. Editor of *Austin College Magazine*, she seeks out alumni stories and enjoys meeting or reconnecting with alumni in the gathering of those articles. A graduate of Franklin College in Indiana, where she completed a major in journalism, Vickie received the Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service to Austin College in 2005.

### Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award



**Bo Brown '75 ('76 MA)** is principal of the Law Office of W.K. Bo Brown in Dallas, and is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in family law and as a qualified mediator. He has served on the Alumni Board, the Austin College "A" Athletic Alumni Association Board, and as an alumni advisor to Phi Sigma Alpha fraternity. Bo is a member of First Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas. He and his wife, **Trisse (Edwards) '78**, live in Dallas and have two sons. He graduated cum laude from Texas Tech School of Law.

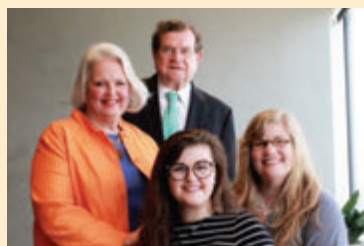


## FOLLOWING A FAMILY TRADITION

Among the freshman class each year are several legacy students carrying on a 'Roo family tradition by following siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandfathers, grandmothers, and moms and dads to Austin College. This year, several of those freshmen who showed up for the Legacy Photo were children of alumni, including the following:



**Aidan Bolton**, son of **Brad** and **Raji (Puthanpurayel) Bolton** both '88



**Maggie Davis**, daughter of **Johanna Schroeder '98**, plus great uncle and aunt **George '67** and **Mary Glover Rustay '68**



**Charlotte Dolan**, daughter of **Kerry Yancy Dolan '85**



**Emily Estes**, daughter of **Todd Estes '90**. Emily also has uncles and an aunt in the family.



**Zachary Magers**, son of **Bill '85** and **Angela (Bell) Magers '98 MAT**



**Rachel Meadows**, daughter of **Ann Rice '85**



**Patrick Morehead**, son of **Roderick Morehead '91**



**William Newsom**, son of **Thomas Newsom '91**. William also has uncles, great uncles, grandfather and grandmother **Don '65** and **Carol (Campbell) Newsom '62**, and more in his 'Roo tree.



**Elizabeth Parker**, daughter of **Tim '94** and **Amy (Allen) Parker '95**

Other new students may have alumni parents, but were not all at the photo session.

## Introducing Sarah Moore Director of Alumni Programming



Greetings from Sherman! I arrived on campus early last fall and jumped in with both feet to take on AlumNights, Homecoming events, Tailgating in the Outback, and the return of Women Get Connected events beyond the local region.

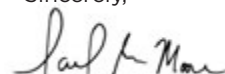
It's been exciting for me to land at Austin College as I grew up visiting the College and the Sherman area every summer when my family would spend time with my uncle Hugh Garnett, who taught economics here from 1981 to 2003. This is a vibrant, growing area, and this gem of a liberal arts college makes this an exciting place for me and my husband to call home.

I had been doing similar alumni engagement work for the past five years at the McCallie School in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and when the position opened at Austin College, I jumped at the opportunity. I have been employed in nonprofit institutions my whole working life, and I know the importance of engaging alumni to ensure that they stay connected to their school well after graduation.

I was excited to meet many of you last fall and look forward to meeting more of you throughout 2018. Unfortunately, I won't get to see all of you in person, so if you would like to reach out with greetings, ideas, or experiences, please feel free to contact me via email at [sarmore@austincollege.edu](mailto:sarmore@austincollege.edu). I look forward to working with all alumni to ensure that our alumni engagement strategies are as broad-reaching and as meaningful as possible.

I am so glad to have joined 'RooNation!

Sincerely,

  
Sarah Moore





**Andrew Young '00** came to Austin College planning a career in medicine but a major accident over the holiday break his junior year resulted in the loss of his leg and required a long hospitalization. That experience changed his course from medicine, and he found himself more drawn to environmental studies and art.

He spent a year with AmeriCorps after Austin College, working at the Nevada Conservation Corps before earning a master's degree in physiological plant ecology and climate change at the University of Nevada-Reno. He worked for several years as a staff research technologist at Desert Research Institute in Reno, then in environmental restoration and revegetation at Young Ranch in Washington County, Texas, before turning his sights farther south—to Mexico. There, he co-founded an NGO through which he took part in creating green spaces and gardens. Andrew was working in Naucalpan, Mexico, with architect Javier Senosiain on some amazing projects when injury again derailed his plans. He was helping a friend when a large piece of glass fell from

above him, cutting his arm. That injury became life-threatening as serious infection set in.

After two months in a hospital in Mexico, he was finally stable enough to move back home to Houston, Texas, where he could be with family to recuperate from 17 more surgeries that would become necessary.

As he recovers and now considers what direction to take next, he is working toward U.S. recertification in Geographic Information Systems. Meanwhile, he is volunteering through his church and involved with beekeeping and prairie restoration on a family farm, plus connecting clients directly to farmers and mentoring young organic farmers on mycology, permaculture, and consistent quality production. Though he might go elsewhere eventually, he hopes to work "creating solutions and opportunities that are beautiful as well as functional, within the urban environment of Houston to make a change toward a future where we are more aware socially, politically, and spiritually about the world we depend upon."



## IN MEMORIAM 🍂 ALUMNI

1942	William "Bill" Chrisman Washburn. . . . .	September 7, 2017
1945	James B. Moorman Jr. . . . .	October 7, 2016
1948	Bob J. Wagner . . . . .	September 28, 2017
1948	Jane Douglas Moorman . . . . .	July 8, 2017
1948	James Benton Manford. . . . .	July 10, 2017
1949	Mary Nell Moran Hall . . . . .	October 11, 2016
1949	Howard Anthony Hestand Jr.. . . . .	July 16, 2017
1949	Hugh Neill . . . . .	July 27, 2017
1950 (MA)	Charles R. Andrews. . . . .	October 2, 2017
1952	Haskell Moorman Monroe . . . . .	November 13, 2017
1952	Lawrence "Larry" Correu . . . . .	July 17, 2017
1954	Harold Chauncey Parker Jr. . . . .	October 13, 2017
1954	Jimmye Lee Phillips. . . . .	July 9, 2017
1956	Minnie A. Rogers Hosey . . . . .	January 26, 2017
1957	Watha J. Stroud. . . . .	November 27, 2017
1958	Ann Leslie Chaffin . . . . .	January 10, 2017
1959	Margaret "Peggy" Ann Hogg. . . . .	June 25, 2017
1960	Jerry Meitzen Anderson . . . . .	July 27, 2017
1960	Emmett Mitchell . . . . .	July 16, 2017
1963	Robert D. Belew . . . . .	June 18, 2017
1968	Antoinette "Toni" Ball Wyatt Weight. . .	September 28, 2017
1971	John William "Bill" Wylie. . . . .	October 24, 2017
1971	Christine Lee Richardson Funderburgh. . .	October 21, 2017
1972	Donald Franklin McCuan . . . . .	May 12, 2017
1980	Randolph Cornelius Flennoy . . . . .	September 10, 2017
1982	David Leon Allen . . . . .	August 3, 2017

### Friends We Will Miss

**Scottie McIntyre Johnson**, wife of Dr. Jim Johnson, professor emeritus of classics who retired from the College in 2013, died October 26, 2017.

**Marvin King**, the husband of Senior Board of Trustees member Sharon King, died August 20, 2017.

### Remembering Our Own

#### Current Student Patrick Johnson '19



**Patrick "PJ" Johnson '19** of Lufkin, Texas, died in a vehicle accident November 10, 2017, in Sherman. Athletic Director David Norman said Patrick, a leader on the Austin College men's basketball team, was a shining light on campus. "I extend the condolences of the entire Austin College community to the family of Patrick Johnson and offer our thoughts and prayers," said President Steven P. O'Day, adding that all at the College were deeply saddened by the tragic loss.

#### Senior Trustee Jane Moorman '48



Austin College senior trustee Dr. **Jane D. Moorman '48** died July 8, 2017, in Oakland, California, at the age of 88. She served as an active member of the College's Board of Trustees from 1971 to 1996, chairing the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board for 15 years.

A native of Sherman, Jane was part of a very influential family in the history of Austin College. The daughter of Elizabeth and James Bolling Moorman, a long-time dean of the College, Jane went on to become a noted educator and professional in her own right, always a woman ahead of her time. Upon graduating from Austin College, she earned a master's degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas-Lawrence. Prior to completing her Ph.D., she served as associate dean of students at Austin College. Later, she taught and worked in leadership roles at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and at Barnard College before concluding her career at the University of California-Berkeley. She was director of counseling and psychological services at that university for several years before retiring.

Dr. Moorman's professional career garnered many awards, including Austin College's Meritorious Service Award and Distinguished Alumni Award. She also was keynote speaker at the College's Founders Day celebration in November 1984.

#### Professor Emeritus Kenneth Street



Longtime faculty member Dr. **Kenneth Street** died December 6, 2017. See Page 12.

## “In Other Words”

By Sara Caroline Moseley '66

### Building a College ... and a Wall



John, Sara Caroline, and Rebecca, at right, with Sara Bernice and John D. Moseley several years ago



*At the annual John D. Moseley Alumni Scholars luncheon last fall, Sara Caroline Moseley '66 spoke to the scholarship recipients and alumni gathered about the man for whom the scholarship is named. On behalf of her sister, Rebecca Gafford '72, and brother, John Moseley Jr. '69, she told of the legacy of the revered and beloved former president and chancellor (1953–1981) of Austin College, whom she knew best as “Daddy.”*

My father was a builder. In the 1930s, when he was a boy, he built a boat with his father. In the '60s, he built a boat with his son, our brother—a project that occupied half of the garage at the President's Home for more than two years. In the 1980s, when he was in his sixties, he ordered several tons of stones and built a dry-stone retaining wall—*twice*. He wasn't pleased with the first version, so he took that apart, stone by stone, and rebuilt it. If you walk north on Grand Avenue to Richards Street, you can see it, in front of the Moseley House, now the Chaplain's home, where John Williams and his family live.

Sixty-four years ago, our family moved from Austin, Texas, where Daddy was the founder and executive director of the Texas Legislative Council, to Sherman, when he became the 12th president of Austin College. Unlike his predecessors, he was not a minister, nor did he have a Ph.D.—he was a lawyer, like Steven O'Day, 16th president.

Daddy came to the College with a mandate from the Board: fix it or shut it down. There was a lot to fix: at the time, enrollment totaled approximately 350—in fact, when Daddy first addressed the students, he thought he was speaking to the senior class, not the entire student body. The campus was small and unimposing—only 10 buildings on a tract of land

much less extensive than it is today. Several city streets cut through the campus. The curriculum was a hold-over from the post-war years; the faculty numbered fewer than thirty; and the financial picture was beyond bleak.

Confronted with significant challenges on virtually every side, Daddy immediately set to work. In his 28-year tenure, he laid the foundation of the Austin College of today. Many say that he was the *defining* president of the College. He built 19 buildings and facilities; he built the faculty in size and quality; he fashioned a new governance system and an innovative new approach to curriculum. Finances improved; the endowment increased; and the student body grew to more than 1,200.

Driving all this building was Daddy's laser-like focus on the future—anticipating and preparing for it. He firmly believed—and bet the College on it—that a future-leaning liberal arts education was the door to a meaningful and productive life. His mantra was a series of questions: what does the student need to *know* to live successfully in that future? What does he or she need to be able to do? And what kind of person does that individual need to be? It was all about the student—about *you*. And it still is—*your* knowledge, *your* skills, *your* character.

The Career-Readiness Check that is being highlighted this weekend responds to those questions and is exactly the sort of program that Daddy would have embraced wholeheartedly. It is innovative; it is directly applicable to your future; and it brings generations of students together to share their questions, experience, and knowledge. He would be proud!

When you need to get out of the library or residence hall or you're just tired of staring at your computer screen, take a walk up Grand Avenue and have a look at Daddy's retaining wall. Like Austin College herself, it will be there for a long time. ■



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