

Austin College

MAGAZINE | 2019 ISSUE



The Making
of a Legend

Powering
the Future

The Stories
of the Stones



The Day of the Dead

Artists and actors Román Iván Gómez and Erik De Luna brought *Día de Muertos* alive at Austin College with brilliant colors and vibrant dance. The event was hosted by the Center for Southwestern & Mexican Studies.

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PHOTO BY PRIYA CHARY '19



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

In a 2018 JanTerm course taught by **Mark Monroe '81** of the Art faculty, students and staff member **Heidi Rushing '04** transformed two cars into street-legal—and award-winning—works of art. *I Keyed My Car* is featured on the back cover. Discover more: acmagazine.austincollege.edu/art-car

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PHOTO BY MICHAELS



"I see great optimism, innovation, and energy on our campus and throughout 'RooNation."

Dear Friends,

2018, my first full year at Austin College, was one to remember—a year of listening and learning, a year of asking "What's Next?" and a year of taking action. In August, we welcomed the largest first year class in our College's history. In November, our most ambitious campaign ever was launched: *POWER Austin College. Treasure Our Legacy. Transform Our Future.* We are well on our way to meeting the goal of \$125 million to grow our endowment, refresh our spaces, and continue to keep Austin College accessible and affordable. 2018 was also a year of new and enhanced academic programs: the Morris Foundation Product Lab, a refreshed Hoxie Thompson Auditorium, new water polo teams, an esports club, new tennis courts under construction, exciting research, deepened writing skills, new knowledge, and heightened citizenship in a global community.

As we look to the future, I see great optimism, innovation, and energy on our campus and throughout 'RooNation. As a matter of fact, the latest example of AC innovation is quite literally in your hands. You are holding the new-look *Austin College Magazine*.

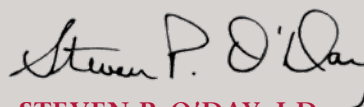
Today, we know that people gather their information in new ways. The internet and social media outlets are where the world, including 'RooNation, goes for instant news. The *[at]AC e-Newsletter*, social media postings, and *'Roos in the News* keep us up to date, and we no longer depend on a bi-annual printed magazine from the

College the way we used to. Indeed, in a world of technology that puts the news in the palm of our hand, we are seizing this opportunity to do something new. Introducing, the new *Austin College Magazine*! It will be an annual publication that is meant as a collectible piece of AC history—somewhere between a *National Geographic* and a Year in Review—to be displayed in your home or workplace throughout the year rather than something you read and discard when you're finished. This new publication is colorful, vibrant, and, we believe, something you'll want to go back to from time to time and share with friends as a conversation piece. We're proud of the new design and believe it captures a contemporary spirit with an enduring nod to tradition—a lot like our Texas roots. It's what's new, what's happening, and, of course, what's next. We hope you like it.

2019 is off and running. Our momentum continues to build, and Austin College's future has never looked brighter. Thank you to all of 'RooNation for your support as we *Treasure Our Legacy. Transform Our Future.*

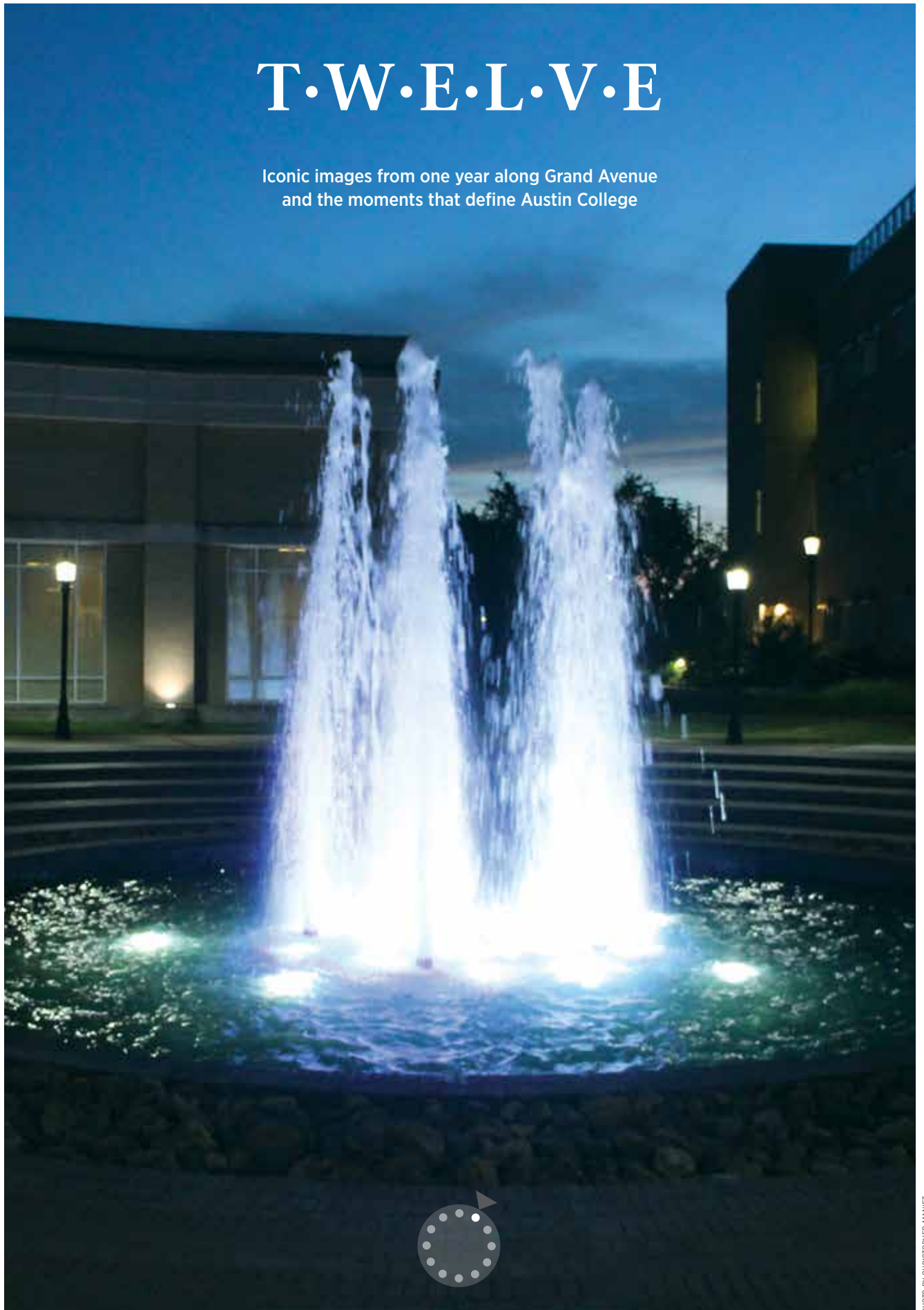
I look forward to an exciting year ahead and hope to see you soon.

All the Best,


STEVEN P. O'DAY, J.D.

T·W·E·L·V·E

Iconic images from one year along Grand Avenue
and the moments that define Austin College



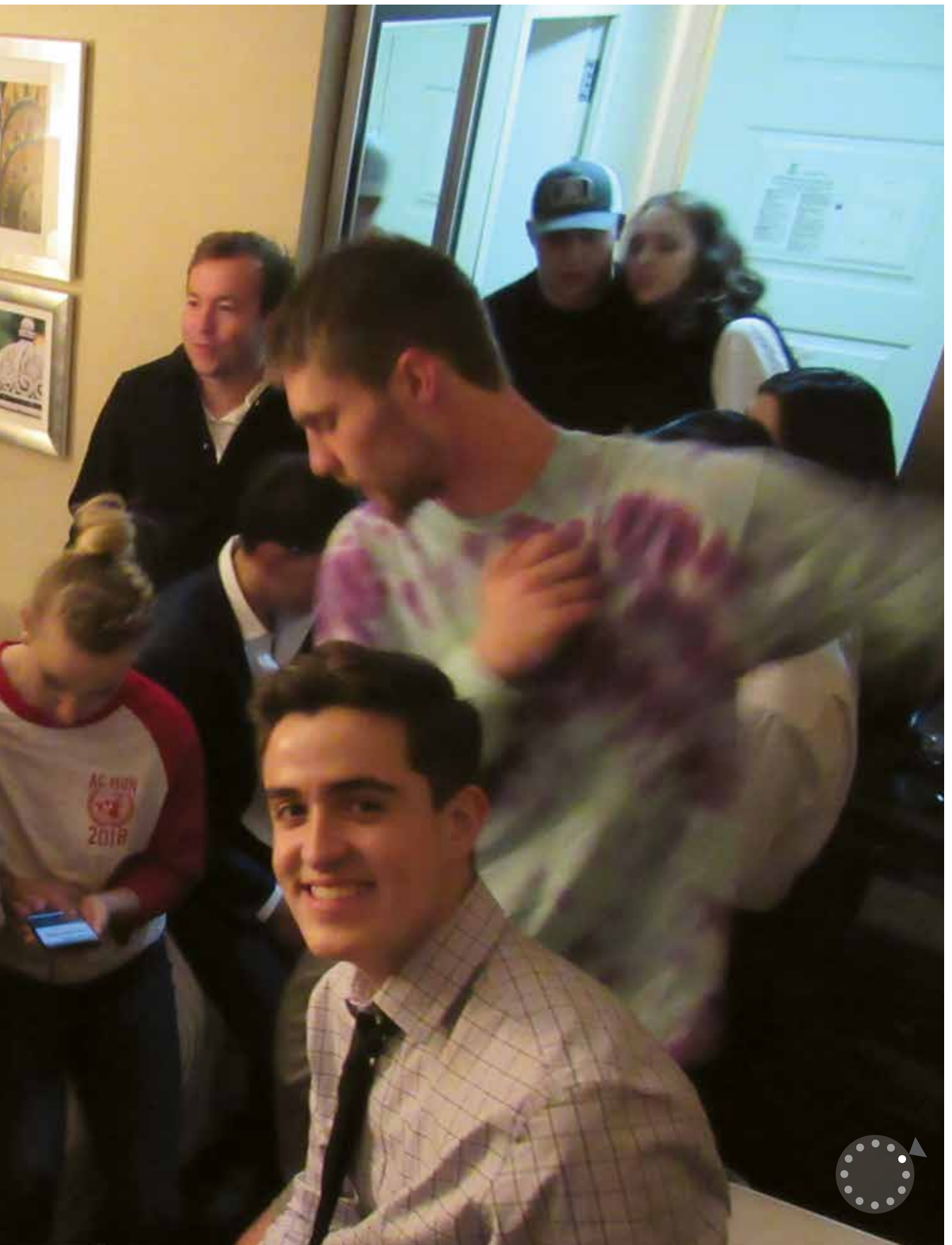
► On the Road:
Austin College life
is a whirlwind of
opportunity, including
the annual Model UN
competition. Held
in New York City
in March 2018, the
five-day event
involved 28 students
in preparation and
presentations as the
delegation for Spain.

◀ *Opening photo*

A Landmark Renewed:
The renovated Jonsson
Fountain anchors the
west end of Windsor
Mall, offering a place
of quiet reflection
amidst the usual bustle
of campus.



COURTESY PHOTO





All Eyes Forward:
The Inauguration of Steven P. O'Day, J.D.,
16th President of Austin College



Spring Comes to Campus: Caruth Administration Building is framed in crimson blooms for the Commencement celebrations of the 169th year of Austin College.



PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER



Changing the World: Barbara Pierce Bush, 2018 Posey Leadership Award recipient, was the center of conversation for a day at Austin College honoring her work as co-founder of the nonprofit Global Health Corps.





New Faces: Spring's crowd of newly accepted 'Roos and family members at ACE Day [Austin College Experience] foreshadowed fall 2018's record-setting class of entering freshmen.





Facing Skyward: Summer 2018 physics research students **Tom Yuan '19**, **Emma Page '20**, and **Chloe Schnaible '21** enjoy the sunset drama from the IDEA Center's observatory rooftop deck. Under the guidance of **Dr. David Baker**, Physics Department Chair and Director of Adams Observatory, the students recorded video images of Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn through the observatory's 24-inch telescope. Multiple frames were then processed through the observatory's computers to digitally combine and sharpen the distinctive features of each planet, as seen in these color images.





A World Away: A dozen GO! Fellows traveled around the globe to serve in summer 2018. **Sarah Haque '19** found inspiration and new friends through her work at an orphanage in Thailand.

TEDxAustinCollege



PHOTO BY HANNA PAINE '21

Current Topics: Six speakers electrified the sold-out venue and the crowd attending 2018's Austin College TEDx event "Changing Currents." In its third year, the experience has become a much-anticipated forum for "ideas worth spreading" through talks and interactive displays.

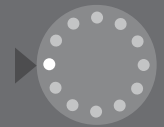


PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

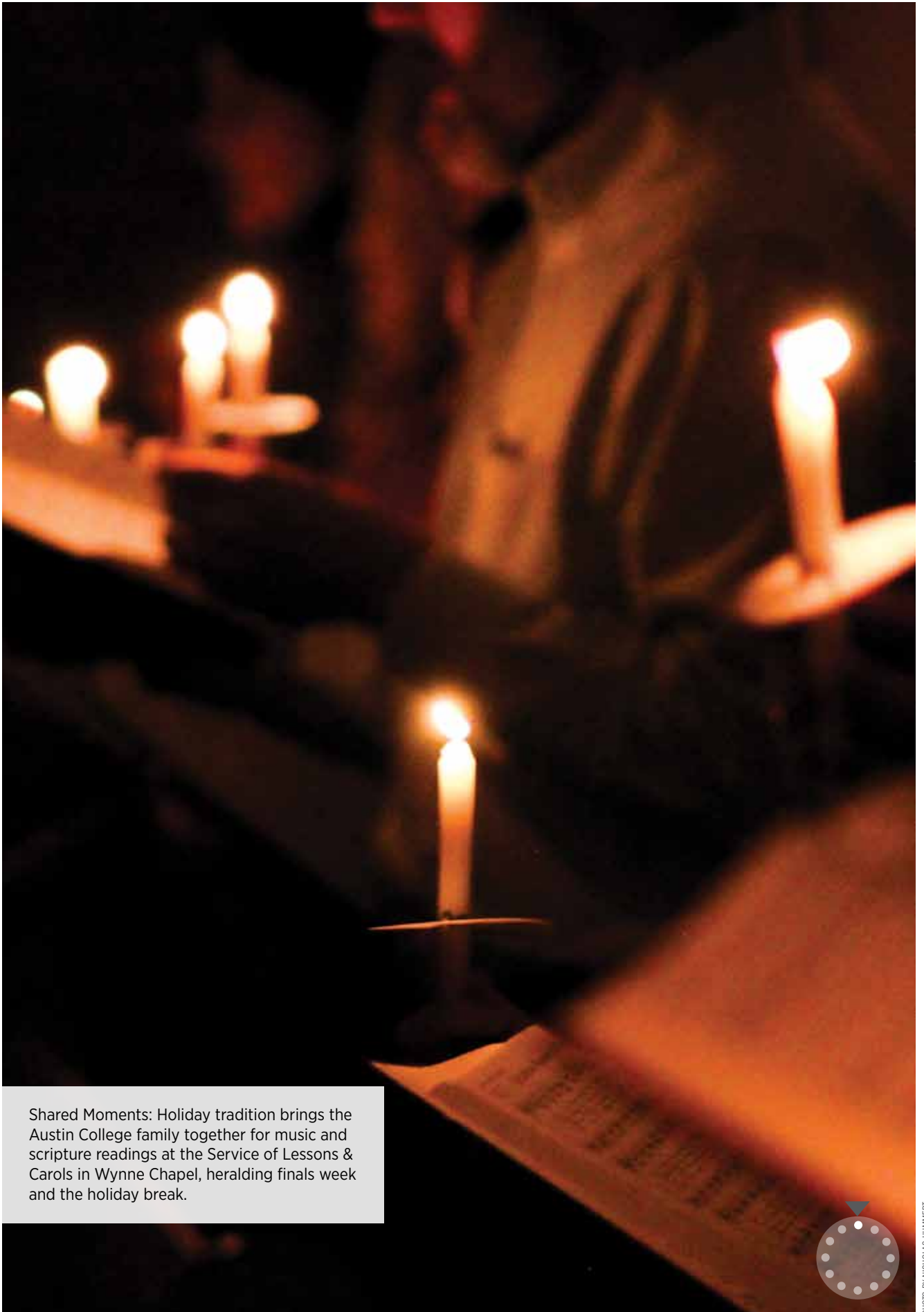


The Rain Bowl: 'Roo football's win over Hendrix College on Mel Tjeerdsma Day was one to remember, notching a home victory after battling in monsoon-like conditions.





All Drama: Austin College's fall 2018 theatre season opened with "The Haunting of Hill House," directed by **Harri Drake '19** and featuring a student cast and crew of nine, including **Kyle Andrele '20** and **Robbie Moore '19**.



Shared Moments: Holiday tradition brings the Austin College family together for music and scripture readings at the Service of Lessons & Carols in Wynne Chapel, heralding finals week and the holiday break.




PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

A black graduation cap with a gold tassel is centered on a maroon background. The cap's tassel hangs down to the left. The text "The Making of a Legend" is overlaid in white serif font, with "The" and "of a" in smaller sizes than "Making" and "Legend".

The Making of a Legend

By Leigh-Ellen Romm



Through the changing seasons of Austin College's history, a values-based mission and a foundation in the liberal arts have combined to deliver educational experiences that transform the lives of students. The constant throughout: Faculty members dedicated to providing exceptional learning opportunities.

Alumni through the decades tell of legendary professors, now gone, who pointed them to their future selves: Moorman, Bryant, Edwards, Cawthon, Gourley, Love, Phillips, Low, Day, McCarley, Freeman, Melugin, Neidhardt, Beardsley, Mason, Manley, Lunkley, Street, Pierce. The list goes on and on, and includes many emeriti faculty who, thankfully, remain in the Austin College community. That proud history looks toward a promising future with current faculty on their way to becoming the legends of tomorrow.

What makes them great? Extensive knowledge of their subjects, with the ability to communicate that clearly to students, is a given. One faculty member may have animated, infectious enthusiasm; another's gentle devotion to a specialty draws out students' fondness for the same.

Many current and "in-the-making" legends are teaching because of a past educator's influence and impact. In their work here, Austin College faculty continue the cycle of inspiration as they share their love of teaching and learning with students, the results to be passed along to another generation as those students graduate and have impact through teaching or other career roles.

Dr. Roger Platizky, Shoap Professor in English Literature, has taught at Austin College since 1988 and plans to retire at the close of the 2018-2019 academic year. He has eloquently expressed an educator's heart: "I hope the passion and knowledge we share in the courses we teach will stay with our students, like time-released particles that help them find purpose, meaning, resilience, and happiness in their lives long after they graduate."

Educators become legendary because, through their own commitment to excellence, they make a positive, lasting difference in students' lives.

The next pages include six current Austin College faculty representatives who offer comments on some of the qualities and actions that define legendary faculty.

Investing Personally

“To be an effective teacher, you have to care that students know the information, concepts, and skills that are important in the disciplines you teach. At a place like Austin College, it also helps a lot to care about the students personally and to show that in a variety of ways: know about their campus activities, what their plans and aspirations are, what they like to do outside class, et cetera. Sometimes I show them I care by cooking something for our field trips—they really like my ScotchaROOS!”

Dr. Steve Goldsmith

*Dean of Sciences
Professor of Biology*

Steve is humble when he talks about caring for his students, saying it seems like it would be common for a good teacher to respond as a good person would. He recalls driving almost an hour round-trip back to Hagerman Wildlife Refuge to retrieve a student's phone that had been left behind after a field study trip. She needed her phone—so he went to get it. He practices the kind of caring that comes from knowing students so well that years later, he can recall specifics about recommendations for students applying to graduate schools, medical schools, and other opportunities.





Motivating Students

“My own memorable teachers helped me find my voice and made me feel I had valuable ideas to offer. Because of those teachers, I’ve come to realize that teaching isn’t about me impressing students with my knowledge but about drawing out their experiences and ideas to discover the knowledge within themselves. Students learn best in my classes as they discuss literature with their peers—and that can be intimidating. I intentionally cultivate a positive, fun, and inclusive classroom setting in which my students feel safe taking risks, making mistakes, and being vulnerable with each other and with me.”

Dr. Randi Tanglen

Associate Professor of English

Randi also serves as Director of the Johnson Center for Faculty Development and sees how a culture of sharing is effective in faculty development. “The Johnson Center essentially provides a liberal arts education for our faculty,” she says. “We cultivate a holistic approach to honoring the student and delivering the best Austin College experience we can. Faculty may have different approaches based on personalities or academic disciplines, but we are on the same page when it comes to providing the best education for students.”

Inspiring Ideas

“If I could take my class on a field trip anywhere in the world, I would take them to the Inis Meáin Knitting Company. It’s a textile factory that makes beautiful sweaters on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland. I want students to be inspired to create products that reflect their own unique spirit, environment, and heritage.”

Dr. David Griffith

Dean of Social Sciences

Professor of Business Administration

Inspiration vs. expertise. Why not both? David sees himself as an “expertise guy” because his brand of caring is to be as prepared as possible for his students. He also says that all students must find their own inspiration. To guide them from an idea to inspiration, David can often simply ask, “Why?” Each inquiry helps focus students on their interests, which can lead to new ideas, new questions, and new answers.





Growing Professionally

“Three years ago, in order to throw myself outside my linguistic comfort zone, I began teaching myself Arabic. I spent a sabbatical at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington auditing Arabic 101 and 102. Being a student in a regular classroom there helped me gain new and invaluable perspectives on my own teaching and on the challenges students face in a foreign language classroom.”

Dr. Ruth Cape

Professor of German

Ruth says she thinks people sometimes discard what they don't understand, assuming it's unnecessary or even wrong. She pursued the study of Arabic partially to find a way to be useful in the current cultural climate. She says one of the best ways to validate others and truly be a global citizen is to learn language. In her language classes, Ruth hopes students also learn courage, self-reliance, and self-discovery.

Balancing Life

“I say the way to be best at your job is to not do *only* your job. Playing music with the band at my church is what I consider to be general self-care. It’s important to my well-being to have valuable, meaningful interests outside of campus. Having an extra sense of community is good for you. Plus, you can’t be divisive with people who are already your friends.”

Dr. Lisa Brown

Professor of Psychology

Lisa is a composer and performer. A runner. A traveler. A life-long learner, teacher, and a friend to many. When she works with students who are obsessively focused on studying with no other enrichment, she’s been known to give orders for them to relax. Calling it “homework,” she asks them to lighten up. Give the learning some room to sink in. Because of her own experiences and interests, she is genuinely able to relate to many different students.





Pursuing Excellence

“My first undergraduate research seminar, on the Reformation in Germany, was an unforgettable experience. I framed my own topic, asked my own questions, and did my best to answer them by finding and studying primary sources. I can’t replicate that experience in every class meeting, but I try to build serious encounters with the original sources into every course.”

Dr. Max Grober
Dean of Humanities
Professor of History

The students who are drawn to history tend to be the great memorizers, according to Max. Their early education was filled with names, dates, and timelines. Max encourages students to study and think about what motivated the happenings of the past. He says that by understanding and respecting the personhood of the past, students will learn why the dates became historic on the timeline. He teaches young scholars to have respect for the dead and to tell their stories truthfully.



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

One Legend's Story

By Vickie S. Kirby

Imagine President O'Day's amazed reaction, shortly upon arrival, to this conversation:

President O'Day, I'm glad to meet you. I am Dr. Clyde Hall. I have known your predecessor, President Marjorie Hass, who came here in 2009, as well as her predecessor, President Oscar C. Page, who came to Austin College in 1994.

I also knew his predecessor, President Harry E. Smith, who arrived in 1978, and I knew his predecessor, President John D. Moseley, who arrived in 1953. I knew Dr. Moseley's predecessor, President W.B. Guarrant, who joined the faculty in 1938 and assumed the presidency in 1944. I studied under him and also knew his sons, who were my age.

I knew President Guarrant's predecessor, President Everett B. Tucker, who served as president from 1931 to 1943. I did not study under him but knew him well and occupied a pew immediately behind where he and his wife sat each Sunday at First Presbyterian Church.

I was quite familiar with President Tucker's predecessor, President Thomas Clyde, who came to the College in 1900. After he retired in 1931 and held the title of president emeritus and professor emeritus, I took one course under him. At his death, it was determined that someone should stand watch at his casket at the church, and I was privileged to do that.

And, President O'Day, I'm sorry but my personal history cannot go back before 1900.



Dr. Clyde Hall's connection to eight of the 16 Austin College presidents is extraordinary. Add in the “rest of the story,” and it is quite remarkable.

Clyde grew up in Sherman and planned for his Austin College education most of his life. He was 2 years old when his father, a landscape architect, was selected to plan the campus beautification for the College's 1924 Diamond Jubilee celebration. Clyde's older brother, a freshman at the College that year, found a crimson sweater to fit the younger boy and added gold “AC” letters to it.



According to a *Sherman Democrat* photo story, the “little boy and his sweater were frequently on the campus during the Jubilee Season.”

Clyde and his father also attended the December 1925 “spade turning” to mark the start of construction of the new Administration Building. However, the ground was frozen solid and no dirt would turn (and it would be many years before the building was complete).

Clyde enrolled as a member of the Class of 1944 but World War II interrupted his education. What should have been the end of his college career was spent in North Africa and Italy in the U.S. Army. He returned to Sherman in late 1945 and

graduated in spring 1946. He left town to earn an MBA and Ph.D., returning to Sherman in late 1949, and was invited to join the Austin College business faculty. Beginning in January 1950, the Associate Professor of Economics arrived on campus each morning at 7:25 for his 8 a.m. class. He continued full-time teaching until 1988 when he retired from the classroom as professor emeritus. Thirty years later, he remains an active member of the College community.

That nearly his entire 97 years have had Austin College ties is exceptional in itself. Dr. Hall also has received nearly every award granted by Austin College, not to mention several from external sources. Alumni named a computer lab in Abell Library to honor him, and he was awarded an Austin College honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the 2015 Commencement exercises. His name remains connected to Commencement since the ceremony is held each May on The Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court. In 2007, alumni raised the funds to create and name the outdoor landscaped area in tribute to him. That his name lives on in Austin College history is surely a source of pride; that his students created that place in history is a priceless honor to him.

Dr. Clyde Hall himself is a gift to the Austin College community—a legend indeed. ■

He and his wife, Virginia, who passed away in 2015, had four children, two of whom—Chris and Margaret—are Austin College graduates so the family name continues on the rolls.



By Leigh-Ellen Romm

With the work of his hands, **Erich Thompson '78** crafts hope and faith into form. As he designs and creates chancel furniture for sanctuaries and worship centers, he aims to capture the mindset and mission of each congregation. "The pieces reflect a congregation's worship, whether or not people are in the building," he said.

Erich earned his Austin College degree in philosophy and communication arts and later completed a doctorate at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He spent several years in ministry, so he understands the utility of each piece he creates in his shop in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"At Austin College in a course called 'Heritage of Western Man,' we studied *The Ascent of Man* by Jacob Bronowski," Erich said. "It is undergirded by the idea that the history of Western civilization is more than a study of power and land swaps and speaks to the idea that art is the actual expression of important ideas. The way we lay groundwork, draw from and find new ideas, and discover ways of doing things is through the arts." All those ideas are called up as he designs, he said, because his Austin College education instilled that method

of processing in his mind. "My choices are not accidents; they are intentional and informed."

Woodworking had been an interest of Erich's since he was a young boy. In high school shop class, he learned the basics. "Woodworking grows on you, and you grow into it," he said. During a 1995 mission trip, his woodworking skills led to his assignment in the cabinet shop, immersed in the materials, design, and tools of the trade.

"In the cabinet shop, I was rediscovering a facility for woodworking," Eric said. "On returning home, I found myself dreaming of pushing lumber through a saw and cutting with remarkable precision." What had been a hobby then became a passion. Over time, he put together his woodshop where those dreams would become reality.

While designing a set of chancel furniture, he works closely with a congregation and its leadership to meet their goals. A suite of chancel furniture, including the baptismal font, table, and pulpit may take years to design, refine, and produce. "This is a ministry, not a manufacturing process," said Erich. "Piece by piece, suite by suite, these are an expression of space, mission, and a call to ministry." ■



At right, Erich's recent creation and installation at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas
See behind-the-scenes preparation photos and more about his ministry:
acmagazine.austincollege.edu/erich-thompson-extra

COURTESY PHOTOS







Powering the Future

Austin College charges up for success

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

Hannah Natatorium was steamy, crowded, and energized when the 2018 'Roo men's water polo team hosted the Brown University Bears last September. Though water polo and its rules were new to many of the fans that day, they understood this was a historic moment. Regardless of the final score, Austin College would triumph, as the 'Roos debuted the only varsity water polo team in the whole state of Texas.



The master plan for athletics renovations as part of the \$125 million comprehensive POWER Austin College campaign

In fact, in academic year 2018-2019, some 30 students enrolled at Austin College to play water polo. The women's team begins competition in March 2019.

"Students choose Austin College for a great education but also for 'something else.' For many, that something else is athletics," says **President Steven P. O'Day**. The something else could just as readily be theatre arts, student investment fund, mock trial, religious life, or any of the activities that educate and transform the whole student.

As Austin College looks to its future—and the

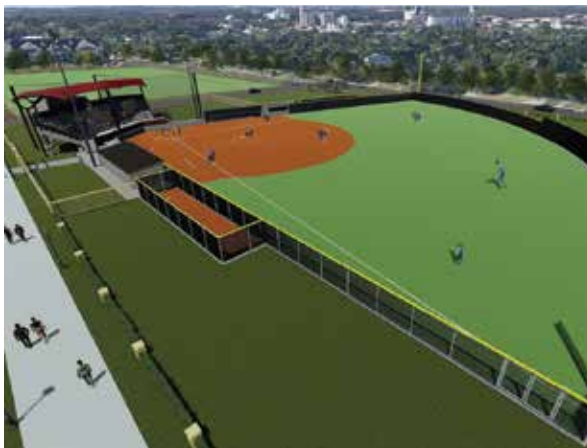
innovation required to deliver a 21st-century education to students—it has unveiled

POWER
—AUSTIN COLLEGE—
TREASURE OUR LEGACY. TRANSFORM OUR FUTURE.

the public phase of POWER Austin College, a \$125 million comprehensive campaign for capital

improvements, scholarships, and endowment growth. More than \$97 million already has been raised—78% of the goal as of January 2019—and some major capital projects now are underway in alignment with the campaign's priorities. Renovation of both Wynne Chapel and Russell Tennis Center will be completed in 2019. Major renovation to Ida Green Communication Center is scheduled to begin in spring 2019, and plans are moving forward to convert the former Moody Science Building to the state-of-the-art Jack B. Morris Center for Business. Exciting changes are happening every day.

Within the POWER campaign, \$29 million is dedicated to improved sports facilities on campus. The Athletics Master Plan includes a roster of strategic updates: a new softball complex, expanded training room, artificial turf and upgrades to Apple Stadium, renovation of Hannah Natatorium and Hughey Gymnasium, along with improvements to Williams Intramural Complex.



Ryan Dodd, head coach for men's and women's tennis, says, "When prospective student-athletes visit Austin College, we immediately show them our campus: residence halls, campus center, and academic buildings. The planned improvements to our athletic facilities could be 'the closer' for the highly competitive recruitment process," he notes.

“What Brings You Here ... ?”



Recent seasons of Austin College women's basketball represent a historic run, with the team winning a share of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference regular season title in two of the last three seasons. That success carried over into the 2018-2019 campaign, as the 'Roos broke into the D3Hoops.com Top 25 in November 2018 for the first time since the website's creation in 1999. Austin College has been led by reigning SCAC Player of the Year **Bryce Frank '19**, who was named an All-American last season by both the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and D3Hoops, and was a preseason second team All-America pick by D3Hoops this year.

"When I was deciding where to go to college, Austin College stood out not only because of its academic opportunities but also because I would be able to travel and to play the sport I love," says Bryce. "The women's basketball team was welcoming to me as a recruit and was a large part of my decision to come here. I am thankful for the team as it has given me the best friends I have ever had and countless great memories on and off the court."



The Mason Complex sported a festive touch for fall 2018's campus launch of POWER Austin College, highlighted by a celebratory outdoor dinner announcing major gifts in support of the comprehensive campaign.

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMMERT

In addition to the love of the sport, the camaraderie and accountability of athletics help many students succeed in competition and in the classroom. More and more Austin College student-athletes are recognizing the gains as participation in NCAA varsity sports has grown more than 60% on campus in the last 10 years, says Athletic Director **David Norman '83**. The Class of 2022, incidentally the largest class in the history of the College, includes 40% student-athletes.

In addition to investments in athletics, the College has introduced new majors like health care administration, engineering physics, and the interdisciplinary PPE (philosophy, political science, and economics), and an esports team, thus providing opportunity for thoughtful enrollment growth.

Scholarships, too, play a role in bringing talented young people to campus. Scholarships are one of the POWER campaign's highest priorities, providing students with support for financial need, JanTerm, study abroad, and experiential opportunities such as Social Entrepreneurship through Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) internships.

"In this campaign, we are working to raise the funds needed to continue the transformational experience today and into the future," President O'Day says. "We need to support and enhance the scholarships, programs, and facilities involved in educating the whole student—mind, body, and spirit. These experiences are, after all, the essence of an Austin College education."

How POWER Austin College Will Shape the Future

The venerable brick facades of the campus have, outwardly, quietly endured across decades of Austin College history. Step inside those walls and the atmosphere is charged with energy radiating from students, faculty, and staff as they spark the next wave of thought leaders, cultural influencers, and engaged world citizens ready to navigate a changing world.

The POWER Austin College campaign seeks to raise \$125 million to fund capital projects, endowment, and operating funds that provide resources for transformational education. The comprehensive campaign will ensure the College has the financial means to:

- Undertake strategic and essential renovation to update iconic buildings;

- Sustain faculty excellence as well as expand signature academic and co-curricular programs;
- Provide an increasingly diverse student body with the means to access an Austin College education.

Allison McBee Dawson '03, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, expects the next year to bring several exciting gift announcements. “Some will be big gifts; many will be \$25 or \$50 or \$100, and those gifts are just as meaningful and can be just as generous. When all those gifts are put together, they have big impact,” she noted. That impact will be felt across the decades to come, affirming the long-term vision for the future as well as honoring the legacy of Austin College. ■

Celebrating Generous Gifts

POWER Austin College was announced publicly in November 2018 as total gifts reached \$97 million—over 75% of the \$125 million campaign goal. The gifts that launched the campaign include the following:

\$1 million unrestricted and fully funded endowment gift from an anonymous donor.

\$4 million from **Nancy Bickel Bryant '67** and her husband, **Jerry Taylor** of Washington, D.C., in support of STEM education, including a faculty chair and scholarships for physics majors.

\$500,000 matching challenge for scholarships from **David '65 and Judy Easterly** of Atlanta, Georgia.

A lead gift from **Mary K. Grum** of Lufkin, Texas, to renovate Wynne Chapel in memory of her late husband, **Clifford Grum '56**.

\$1.5 million from **Robert '53 and Joyce Johnson** of McLean, Virginia, in support of Faith and Engagement and the Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching.

\$500,000 from the **Jordan Family Foundation**, fully funding reconstruction of the competition tennis courts.

\$100,000 from **Donald Lovering, M.D., '78** and **Milton Clark** of Austin for the LGBT Endowed Scholarship.

\$7 million from **The Morris Foundation** of Fort Worth—the lead gift toward the renovation of the former Moody Science Center, which will become the Jack B. Morris Center for Business.

\$2 million from trustee **Sally Nation '64** and her husband, **Jim**, of Dallas, to renovate Ida Green Communication Center's lobby and main theatre, to be named Sally and Jim Nation Theatre.

\$9 million from the estate of **Bill Richardson '64** of Sherman, to endow four faculty chairs each named, at his request, “Bill Richardson Chair in Skeptical Thought.”

Gifts of \$50,000 or more toward athletics from four alumni and their spouses:

Scott '83 and Denise Austin of Dallas

Bill '80 and Clyde Crook of Houston

Rodney '84 and Kim Moore of Dallas

Thomas '91 and Halley Ortiz of Austin





Fierce and Friendly: ALL SHE WANTS TO DO IS COOK

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

In summer 2017, **Deepa Shridhar '09** set the parking brake for her Puli-Ra food truck in Manchaca, Texas. Serving Indian food with a Southern spin and enjoying cool cider in the heart of Texas are the things of Deepa's dreams. Those dreams, however, weren't part of a degree plan.

Deepa majored in film studies and minored in French at Austin College, picturing a future of making films, but it is Chef Deepa who is well known and highly regarded on the culinary scene in and around Austin. She has delighted foodies through her Indian bakery, then a pop-up supper club, and next, a partnership with Texas Keeper Cidery.

"Puli-Ra has found such a great partner at Texas Keeper Cidery," Deepa said. "They believe in all the same things we do: source impeccably; take familiar ideas and rework them to something new. All types of people come out to Manchaca. We get hipsters, good ol' boys, people of color, and all kinds of Texans. Everybody loves boudin, and everybody loves a quality drink—so it works."

Deepa talks of how she found her way into the kitchen. "I was incredibly lucky," she said. "I think professors at Austin College understood I was never going to be a classroom wunderkind. But they took time and patience sussing out what made everyone tick.

"**Dan Setterberg**, Professor of Communication Studies, (who died in 2010) encouraged me to go to Coorg, a remote place in India for JanTerm. And, he encouraged me to explore it by myself. I had thought I would be a filmmaker ... but when I came back, all I really wanted to do was cook."

If what you want to do is cook, but you don't go to culinary school, then Deepa says it's good to have fire in the belly—or in slightly less Southern terms: grit.

"The number one thing to have in my industry is tenacity," Deepa said. "Many people will find many reasons for you *not* to pursue this highly volatile and creative field; but if you really believe that this is what you want to do, you go for it and commit to the difficulty." ■



PHOTOS BY ERIN LAINE '19

In the Tamil language, *puli* means fierce, like a tiger, and *ra* means friendly. Deepa is courageous and good-humored—serving the best of what she knows and keeping her dreams on the front burner.

Discover Deepa's latest venture: acmagazine.austincollege.edu/deepa-shridhar-extra





PHOTOS BY JIM HABERMAN

The Stories of the Stones

By Vickie S. Kirby

Days start at 4 a.m. with a 1-mile walk to the jobsite. The work itself is hot and dirty, sometimes in cramped and confining spaces that leave workers bruised and bleeding by day's end. **Dr. Martin Wells**, Austin College Assistant Professor of Classics, loves every minute. For more than 20 years, he has spent his summers on archeological excavations—and now, he shares that experience with his students.

Duos of students accompanied him to Greece's ancient city of Sikyon in summers 2014-2016, and for the past two summers, students have joined him in Huqoq, Israel. **John Huggins '19** traveled with Wells in 2017. Just to be part of the field school takes commitment as the \$6,500 expense is steep for a college student. Huggins' parents helped, and he worked lots of extra hours to afford the trip; he has no regrets. In fact, he returned in 2018 and has plans to make the trip in 2019.

Research at the ancient site in Israel began in 2011 under the direction of the Huqoq Excavation Project, led by archaeologist and site director Jodi Magness, and a consortium of colleges and universities that now includes Austin College, Baylor University, Brigham Young University,

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (where Magness is a professor), and the University of Toronto. Assistant director is Shua Kisilevitz of the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University. In late 2018, when the first round of publicity about the dig's recent findings were released, Wells was excited that consortium membership put Austin College's name before audiences around the world.

Huqoq is an ancient Jewish village near the Sea of Galilee. Wells said that in the 5th century CE, a rectangular, basilica-style synagogue with huge columns surrounding a nave sat in the center of the village. He believes it was abandoned after some time, perhaps a few hundred years, and later destroyed, possibly by an earthquake. When destroyed, those columns crashed onto the mosaic floor beneath.

How is that history known? Members of the excavation have been at work since 2011, digging up history and reading the story that the stones and artifacts tell. Wells is the architecture specialist for this dig. It is his responsibility to study and reconstruct the synagogue from the unearthed site, as well as the later structure built there.





PHOTOS BY JIM HABERMAN

In the 12th or 13th century, builders used the synagogue columns and remnants to create a foundation, cementing it all together, and constructed another building on the spot. Once the excavators dug below this foundation level, Wells could see the building blocks of the original synagogue. Getting to them was a challenge.

He and Huggins worked together to take apart a portion of foundation of that later building. “I remember thinking that this destruction was very much a summing-up of archaeology: breaking apart the cement, taking this piece of the wall apart to see how it was made, needing to get it out of the way to get to other things,” Wells said. “In taking that apart, we found fragments of the beautifully carved columns. Discovery can be wrapped up in breaking cement, cutting knuckles, heavy lifting, and the really careful work so that you don’t destroy evidence. That was one of those moments of recognizing ‘this is what we do,’ and everything else fades away. I have those maybe 10 times a season.”

Every discovery is important and provides historical information. The mosaic

floors have been significant finds for the team as some of the panels have no parallel elsewhere, according to Wells. Some depictions are clearly biblical—Noah’s ark, Jonah, the parting of the Red Sea. Other mosaics portray what could be a meeting between Alexander the Great and a Jewish high priest, the signs of the zodiac, and the Greco-Roman sun-god Helios. Other panels perhaps show scenes of the village—harvesting dates, people going about their daily lives.

While the unique panels are amazing, the finding of the ordinary is part of the magic to Wells. “I am so pleased to share this with students who can put their hands on the ancient world, have their own sense of discovery, and find something that speaks to how people lived,” he said. “I love watching students make connections and see that people did the same thing we do, but just with different stuff—they ate, got together, worshipped, and had a business.”

As is always the case with experiential learning, ideas are no longer abstract, as they might seem in the classroom setting. “Being there makes the ancient world





Left to right: Martin Wells; John T. Haynes '20, also a 2018 participant; and John Huggins '19



See more about this story:
acmagazine.austincollege.edu/excavation

not so strange; they see a common humanity, a common human experience,” Wells said. “It’s really fun and exciting to put together the story of how people lived. I enjoy bringing knowledge of the ancient world to the academic world and to the public.”

Huggins knew a bit about the ancient world when he arrived at Austin College, but he didn’t know what he wanted to do with it. He’d taken five years of Latin and enjoyed it. He considered teaching Latin or English as a career—until his first education class at Austin College when he realized, “I was not equipped for teaching.” In a classics course, he met Wells and heard about the opportunity to go on an excavation, and so his future changed.

Of course, Huggins had grown up watching Indiana Jones and had some stereotypical ideas in his head. The dig was *nothing* like that ... no booby traps, no mummies. Sometimes there was treasure, but Huggins quickly was caught up in what was real about the experience. “The dig wasn’t, for the most part, about the finds,” he said. “We were not digging to

find a ‘thing.’ We were finding things that help put together a picture about the place and its people.”

Immediately Huggins liked being in the field, researching and piecing together what was in the ground. He enjoyed the hard, sweaty work and the need to engage both mind and body in the effort. “When you’re brushing the dirt away from a delicate piece, you may not hear a word spoken for hours,” he said, “but your mind is totally on what you’re doing.”

The expanded cultural opportunities did not escape Huggins, who saw some preconceived notions about the Middle East fall away, in addition to connecting the past to the present. “The world is so small but so big,” he said. “We could be at this centuries-old site one day and the next in Tel Aviv, with its skyscrapers and every modern amenity. I think about Jericho being one of the oldest cities in the world—and today, it is totally modern.”

In the old, Huggins is finding the brand new.

He is currently applying to master’s and doctoral degree programs in classical archaeology; it’s likely his discoveries are just beginning. ■



Truth in Art

By Vickie S. Kirby

Frequently being the “new kid” due to the moves of his military family, young **Michael Johnston '02** found his own entertainment—and a lifelong passion—in art.

At Austin College, studying art was a no-brainer, Mike said, though he wasn't sure how he would use it to make a living. Teaching art seemed an option so he prepared through the Austin Teacher Program. He caught the “travel bug” during JanTerm courses that involved exploration in India and Australia; that planted the seed to one day live and teach overseas.

Mike began teaching art at a McKinney, Texas, middle school. After a few years, he and his wife, Erin, also a teacher, set out for what would be four years of teaching art in Shanghai and Kuwait. When they returned to make their home in Austin, Texas, Mike taught in Pflugerville while creating street art in Austin, putting up posters, painting murals, and doing commissioned work. After a few years, his growing art career led him to leave teaching, and he has continued the pursuit of his art full-time for the past four years.



Texans, particularly Austinites, may well have seen his work. He painted a mural featured on the cover of *Texas Monthly* magazine in March 2016.

He has also produced work for Google, Nike, the NFL, Paramount Pictures, Microsoft, and Toyota, among others. “I’ve had awesome opportunities,” Mike said. “God’s been good.”

At the same time, he was using vacant spaces along the streets of Austin as his canvas. That work can be very temporary—taken down or painted over at any time so he’s learned not to be too attached to it.

He hopes it has impact while it lasts, however. His street art, under the name or tag “Truth,” is always positive or encouraging. “I want to uplift and brighten the day of those who see my work,” Mike said. “It’s the end goal.”

Mike still works with kids when he can—in Austin, across the country, and around the world. He and his wife take at least one international trip a year, often for work, often to teach kids.

“Art has always been my passion. Now, I make a living with it, and even in my free time, it’s something I want to do.” ■



COURTESY PHOTOS

At right, several of the murals and street art creations by Truth
Discover more about Mike's work:
acmagazine.austincollege.edu/michael-johnston-extra





Friends and football teammates of **Bo Miller** and his wife, **Lasandra Fagg Miller**, both '61, held a special day in his honor in Fall 2017 to relive memories and enjoy longtime friends. Bo's passing in December 2018 leaves a legacy of academic, professional, and athletic excellence; his football career record of 6,068 yards for total offense still stands.



Class of 2004 graduates **Tresy Ross Capelle**, **Lenora Mathis Reese**, **Nancy Meyer Legg**, **Tracy Orwig**, and **Jonathan Capelle** participated in a race together in Waco, Texas, in August 2017. Jonathan and Nancy placed for their age group.



Kole Roybal '05, a Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy investigator at University of California, San Francisco, received the inaugural Sartorius & Science Prize for

Regenerative Medicine & Cell Therapy in March 2018 for groundbreaking research that combines synthetic biology and T-cell engineering to create more customizable patient treatments. Last fall, he received a National Institutes of Health New Innovator Award, which supports "exceptionally creative early career investigators who propose innovative, high-impact projects." An assistant professor at UC – San Francisco School of Medicine, Roybal spoke at the Austin College Women's Health and Cancer Forum in 2017.



Jennifer Mitchell '06 was ordained and installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Karnes City, Texas, in November 2017, with a contingent of 'Roo Reverends present. Pictured, left to right, are **Bill Clark '84**, pastor and head of staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas; **Sallie Sampsell Watson '78**, Mission Presbytery General Presbyter; Rev. Mitchell; **Charles Hendricks '61**, pastor emeritus of Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church; and **E. Sansom Williams '69**, pastor emeritus at University Presbyterian Church in Austin.

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Page 56 **'ROO-MATES**
Recent Weddings

Page 58 **JOEYS**
Additions to the 'Roo family

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 25-27, 2019

'ROONOTES

1962

John Hitt stepped down as University of Central Florida's president in June 2018, having served 26 years at its helm. He received an honorary doctorate from Austin College during Commencement 2018 in recognition of his leadership and legacy at UCF and his role in advancing higher education. **Martha Halsted Hitt '60**, John's wife of more than 50 years and partner at UCF, joined him for the return to Austin College.

1967

Jim Jarratt wrote of a visit with Beth and **Larry Francell** in summer 2017 in Fort Davis, Texas. "Beth said it best," Jim wrote, "when she commented, 'It is amazing to me, the two of you don't see one another or talk with one another for over 50 years, and yet you speak of



Cathy Crawford Garrett '69 and Elizabeth Sewell Teeters '69 enjoyed some travel time "down under" in February 2018, taking a three-week land trip in Australia and a two-week cruise around New Zealand. Of course, the former Austin College roommates were on the lookout for kangaroos and share this photo.

classmates, professors, and events—and the memories make you smile and laugh. Austin College must have been a special place." Jim wrote that 'Roos are a small community with a very large footprint and encouraged alumni to "reach out to a classmate you haven't seen." He feels both will benefit.

1969

Robert Criswell was highlighted in the *Wise County Messenger* in June 2018, recounting 50-plus years as a teacher, coach, athletic director, principal, and superintendent in Texas schools in Denison, Vega, Happy, Dalhart, Rankin, Westbrook, Jonesboro, and finally Paradise. He was superintendent of Paradise ISD from 1999 until his

retirement in 2009. Since then, however, he has trained three superintendents there and filled the role himself between hires. Criswell expects his retirement to "take" this time, but, of it all, he said, "It's been a joy."

1971

David Dean retired in 2018 after 25 years as managing director of Chappell Dean Consultants, a health care industry consulting firm serving over 100 hospitals across Australia and New Zealand. He continues to live in Australia.

1972

Edward "Ned" Preston moved to Burlington, Vermont, in June 2018 with his husband, Ben Smith,

upon Ben's retirement. Ned retired from his teaching role in the English Department at Howard University in 2012.

1973

Byron Boston worked his third Super Bowl in February 2018 as line judge for the officiating crew. He began working toward these career high points many years ago, beginning his officiating work in pee-wee football and slowly moving up until he advanced to the NFL in 1995. There, the game is fast, the stakes are high, and concentration is key, he says. He also has been director of football officials for the Southland Conference for over a decade. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Humble, Texas.

Phillip Diehl received the annual Al Kreuzer Memorial Award during the Industry Council for Tangible Assets meeting at the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money in Denver, Colorado, in August 2017. He and two colleagues were recognized for devoted work with the anti-counterfeiting task force. Diehl, president of U.S. Money Reserve, served as the 35th director of the U.S. Mint. He was named chair of the ICTA board in 2016.

1975



Susie Barnwell Fowler is an artist known as the Shade Tree Potter. From 2000 to 2011, she hosted concerts on her property to highlight art openings at her Spicewood, Texas, studio and property. In 2011, however, a wildfire interrupted a concert—and destroyed her home, her art collection, and the exhibit pieces for sale. She since has organized concerts, but now they are benefits—for flood victims, Hurricane Harvey survivors, and, in 2018, a school in the U.S. Virgin Islands devastated by Hurricane Irma. She is rebuilding emotionally and artistically and had her first new showings in 2018. See www.shadetreetpotter.com.

1978

John Griffin was reappointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas Diabetes Council in 2018 for a term that expires February 1, 2019. The council addresses issues affecting people with diabetes in Texas and advises the Texas Senate and House on legislation needed to develop and maintain a statewide system of quality education services for individuals with diabetes and the health care professionals who treat them. John is the managing partner of Marek, Griffin & Knaupp law firm. He previously served as chair of the Board of the American Diabetes Association and now serves as chair of the association's legislative and regulatory subcommittee. He also is a board member of the American Diabetes Association Research Foundation.

1980

Jeffrey Phillips became the first director of Hanover College's engineering program in 2018, possessing expertise in



global energy and mechanical engineering as well as a commitment to the liberal arts. For the past 10 years, he led research and development programs in advanced fossil and renewable power generation for the Electric Power Research Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to past corporate positions, Phillips also has served as an adjunct instructor of engineering at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and as a guest lecturer in energy-related engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Lehigh University, and Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a 2011 Austin College Distinguished Alumnus.

1981

Steven Ponders was honored with a 2017 Dallas Historical Society Award for Excellence in Community Service in the area of Health/Science. A Dallas native, Ponders has practiced medicine in the city for nearly 30 years. Medical director of the Resource Center of Dallas, he is a primary care physician credentialed with the HIV Academy of Medicine and

has specialized in HIV care since his medical school days. In 2016, the physician received the Kuchling Humanitarian Award at the Dallas Black Tie Dinner for his long-term and compassionate care for the LGBTQ community.

1982

Marilyn Veteto-Reese is a professor of German at Northern Arizona University and has



co-translated (English to German) the 2009 book *Navajo Live*, a coming-of-age story that includes issues of Native water rights, racism, and life in two disparate worlds. She said German tourists often visit the Hopi and Navajo Nations near Flagstaff so she and a colleague thought it would be enlightening to offer a well-received novel to counter some of the erroneous, preconceived notions tourists sometimes bring.

1983

Bill Courtney, president and CEO of ClarkDietrich Building Systems for more

HONORING A LEGACY



The name of longtime educator **Linus Wright '49** endures in the Dallas educational system. The Dallas ISD board of trustees unanimously approved a measure in June 2018 to rename its new headquarters at 9400 North Central Expressway as the Linus D. Wright Dallas ISD Administration Building. Several educators spoke on behalf of the measure, praising Wright's lifetime work centered on improving educational opportunities for students in Dallas, in Texas, and across the nation. He served Texas schools for 40 years as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent, with 10 years as Dallas ISD superintendent. He spent two years in Washington, D.C., as Under Secretary of Education, appointed to that Cabinet-level position in October 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. Wright has continued his work on behalf of education throughout his life. Named a Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College in 1988, he served several years on the Austin College Board of Trustees and currently is a senior member of the board.

than 30 years, was the 2018 recipient of the Order of the Wolf Award from AD Building Materials, North America's largest buying group for materials. The award recognizes an individual "defined as strong, persevering, passionate, independent, impactful, and beneficial to the industry at large." Courtney helped transform his company from a 20-person construction products company into the nation's largest producer of cold-formed steel framing materials with facilities spanning the U.S.

1984

Chris Elliott was inducted into the Commerce (Texas) ISD Hall of Honor in September 2018. Today he is a shareholder in the Austin law firm of Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, a firm of 68 lawyers handling cases of probate litigation, personal injury litigation, and commercial/business litigation. He also has served on the boards of Austin Habitat for Humanity and the Capital Area AIDS Legal Project. He is a former chair of the Travis County Democratic Party and a member of the advisory committee of the Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin.

1987

Squire Booker was appointed in 2018 to the Eberly Distinguished Chair in Science, one of the highest honors awarded to faculty members in the Penn State Eberly College of Science. He is a Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Penn State and investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has received many honors for his work.

1988



Michael Kingan has been named Southern Connecticut State University's Vice President for Institutional Advancement, overseeing development, alumni relations, communications and marketing, and the SCSU Foundation. He most recently served in a similar position at The University of Texas at Arlington and has more than 25 years of experience in the field, including at the Universities of Michigan, Washington, Iowa, and New Mexico. He was the first Chief Advancement Officer at the Singapore American School.

Thomas Andrew Smith is a senior account executive for TranzVia and started a new business in May 2018 in Frisco, Texas, called Hard Smoke BBQ (www.HardSmokeBBQ.com).

1989

Michelle Frymire has been named Executive Vice President and CFO of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, an international business travel management company. She has more than 25 years of



experience in finance, 14 of those within the airline industry.

PEP RALLY FOR COACH DICKEY



Norman Dickey '62 was honored by the Howe (Texas) ISD for 50 years of dedication to Howe athletics at its 2018 Community Pep Rally kicking off the fall athletics season. Community members and former coaches and players were on hand to recognize Dickey's service. He was athletic director and head football coach for the Howe Bulldogs from 1964 to 1975 and still leads all Howe coaches with 51 victories. During 12 seasons, his teams achieved district, bi-district, and regional championships—the highest a Class B school could advance at the time. He retired from coaching in 1975 and continued to work in Howe ISD as principal, interim athletic director, and interim superintendent, retiring in 1996 as assistant superintendent. After retiring, Dickey still could be found working in various aspects of Howe athletics, including maintaining a ranking for Howe teams in each major sport, something he has done for decades. Norman and his wife, **Joanne Berglund Dickey '64**, have lived in Howe the entire 53 years of their marriage and raised two children there.

A LIFE'S ACHIEVEMENT



Charles Schroeder '67 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) in March 2018. The award recognizes extraordinary service to the field of student affairs, as well as significant scholarship productivity and exemplary leadership. For more than 30 years, Charles served as chief student affairs officer in a career that took him to four universities. In 2001, he was appointed a professor of higher education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Upon retiring from that role, he took interim roles before becoming a part-time senior associate consultant for Ruffalo Noel Levitz, specializing in retention and student success. Throughout his career, he has been active in the ACPA, leading in various roles, including two terms as president, and has received numerous awards for his work. Charles wrote, "Without the 'mentoring' of Virginia Love (Professor of Education who died several years ago) and my first boss, Gerry Middents (Professor Emeritus of Psychology) in the Austin College Counseling Center, this recognition would have never occurred!" Congratulations to Charles, a 1988 Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College. His wife, Barbara '68, also an educator, was added to the Distinguished Alumni list in 1988 as well.

1989 (continued)

Charles David Mee returned to Collin County to practice law in April 2018 after spending a year as a Special Prosecutor for the State of Texas, working along the Mexican border to target drug cartels and human smugglers.



Dr. Kimberley Redmond-Carr was named the principal of Heroes Elementary School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in fall 2018. She has more than 25 years of experience in education, having worked for the Department of Defense Education Activity Americas since 2000. She has been involved in work in the organization's Europe South district. Kimberley and her husband, Brian, have four children.

1990

Eva-Maria Anger received a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Southern California in August 2018 and has joined the faculty of The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley as a clinical assistant professor in Occupational Therapy. She lives in Harlingen, Texas, with her husband, **Scott Clark '91**, who is co-managing partner of the law firm Adams & Graham, LLP.

1991

Thomas Newsom was appointed Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce



in May 2018. He had most recently been president of Mesalands Community College in New Mexico. He and his wife, Vicky, a fifth-grade teacher in McKinney, have three children, including Will '21.

Katherine Swarts is writing a Christian devotional, *Where Light Dawns: Sunday Afternoon Devotionals of Hope for Hurting Hearts*, to be released in 2019. Planned as the first in a series, each selection includes original poetry and seeks to offer "hope and strength for Christians with mental-health issues."

1992

Elaina Glaser Barron received her Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian leadership in May 2018 from B.H. Carroll Theological Institute in Arlington, Texas. A conference and college event speaker, she lives in Lexington, Kentucky, with her husband, Jon, and two children. She also is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Stacy Jacob and three colleagues from Slippery Rock University Student Affairs in Higher Education Program have published a book, *Complex Cases in Student Affairs: Preparing Early Career Professionals*



for Practice. The book provides insights on how problems in student affairs might be addressed through the application of relevant theory/research and practical considerations of professional practice. It features 22 original cases, representing a variety of institution types and a diverse set of populations.

Jenny King joined UT Southwestern Medical Center as Director of Public Affairs in October 2017, just in time to help the hospital celebrate 75 years of service in the community. She previously was the chief advancement officer for VolunteerNow (USA) in Dallas.

1993

Tina Hudson Dodson is in her second pre-retirement phase after officially retiring in January 2015, having worked more than 33 years in higher education. In 2012, she opened a real estate brokerage with her husband and recently she became interested in cryptocurrency trading. Tina is now an independent affiliate with a program that provides education, information, tools, webinars, and trading signals for crypto traders. Contact her at TinaDodson@TinaDodson.com.

Melissa Chapman Weber has been promoted to Professional Development Manager for Events and Promo Connect at Promotional Products Association International (PPAI). She previously was Regional Relations Manager for the 15,000 member trade association and has been with PPAI since 2007.



1995

Amy Allen Parker is director of Children's Ministries and Outreach at First Presbyterian Church of Colleyville, Texas.

1996

Jennifer O'Brien recently became a research specialist for Spring Branch ISD. She also wanted to advise her friends of the sad news that her boyfriend Johnny Soto, with whom she had lived for seven years, died in November 2017 from cancer.

1997

Melinda Massie closed her professional organizing business after eight years to begin a new business in early 2018 as a performing arts marketing coach. She uses her performing, entrepreneurial, advertising, and public relations skills to teach performers and performing arts organizations how to market themselves.

A COMMUNITY HERO



Bill Warren '74 received the Community Hero Award at the Tech Titans technology industry awards gala in August 2018. Now executive chair and CEO of Reflect, a Dallas-based digital media and advertising company that designs digital signage networks, Bill has had successful careers in a number of industries. For nearly 35 years, he has also been an advocate for children with special needs. When his son was born with special needs, the search for resources led Bill and his wife, Beverly, to what was then Richardson Development Center. Eventually, Bill led a capital campaign to build a new headquarters in Richardson, now aptly named The Warren Center, where 900 children are served each month. He and Beverly have also helped to raise millions of dollars for the center in the years since. "When we were blessed with John, we had so many friends and people we didn't know help us in the first three or four years of development," Bill explains. "So now it's my turn to help others. You really have no idea who you're reaching. I think it's good to provide quiet services where people don't know it's you. We want to be as humble as we can."

Bill and Beverly's son, John, graduated from Austin College in 2007, then earned a master's degree at St. Edward's University. He works in game design and production.

HONORING AN AMBASSADOR



Ron Kirk '76 received the H. Neil Mallon Award from the Dallas/Fort Worth World Affairs Council in October 2018. "The importance of Ron Kirk's contributions locally and nationally cannot be overstated," said Marjorie Adams, board chair of the council. "His dedication to ensuring that Dallas continues to flourish as a world-class city, while expanding its global presence, is just one example of why he embodies the spirit of the Mallon Award." Kirk was elected to two terms as mayor of Dallas (1995 to 2002) and served as U.S. Trade Representative (2009 to 2013). Outside public office, he has worked as an attorney, now as senior of counsel for Gibson Dunn. "Ron Kirk was an international ambassador for Dallas long before President Barack Obama named him U.S. Trade Representative," said Dallas mayor Mike Rawlings at the awards event. "He shows the world the very best of Dallas and our region."

1999

Keisha Rowe Nunn was appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to the Texas State Independent Living Council for a 2017-2019 term. This council develops the State Plan for Independent Living and serves as a resource to state and local organizations on independent living and related issues for persons with disabilities. Keisha is the director for the Office for Independence Services at Texas Health and Human Services Commission and lives in Pflugerville.

btaylorlorgarcia.com). Brian lives in San Diego with his wife and two sons.

Anna Wills earned a Doctor of Leadership degree with a higher education concentration at Hardin-Simmons University in May



2018. She earned a master's degree in education from SMU in 2012.

2000

Jodi Beneavidez is director of academic advising and college placement at Prestonwood Christian Academy in Plano, Texas.

Brian Taylor joined Genetech, a global leader in the biotechnology field, as Clinical Specialist for Southern California and Hawaii. In his position, Brian represents the company's newly FDA-approved, first-in-class hemophilia medication. Brian has worked in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in Southern California for 15 years. He continues to pursue his passion for writing and has published several short fiction stories, essays, and columns under the pen name Taylor Garcia (www.btylorgarcia.com).

Chandini Kumar Portteus was honored as a member of the *Dallas Business Journal* "40 Under 40" leaders in March 2018. According to the article, she "stood out to judges for her impressive career" working to battle cancer. She began her career as a clinical researcher at UT Southwestern Medical Center, then was named the chief mission officer at Susan G.

THE OFFICIAL PITMASTER OF THE OUTBACK



Billy Core '75 has made lots of new friends in the Larry Kramer Outback of Jerry E. Apple Stadium. He's cooked up lots and lots of meat at the games pretty much since the Outback was opened—even before it was named for Kramer. Things kicked up a notch this fall with the addition of a giant smoker built by **Kirk Lipsitz '18** at Billy's request and to his specifications. (Billy knew Kirk's mom from high school; it's a small world.) At the first game of the season, Billy received a surprise with the "dedication" of the smoker, naming him the Head Pitmaster of the Outback, complete with cooking tools engraved with his name, a proclamation signed by **College President Steven O'Day** and read by **Danny Buck '78**, and Billy's entire family on hand to celebrate. See the note on **Kirk Lipsitz** on page 53.

Komen. She was recruited to the Livestrong Foundation, where in nine months she was able to increase fundraising and expand cancer services. She then moved to serve as president and CEO of Wipe Out Kids' Cancer, where she continues to make substantial fundraising strides.

Theodore "TJ" Roberts recently began health insurance sales, specializing in helping individuals and families, the self-employed, and small businesses to find affordable health care. Since college he has worked in the college bookstore business and in sales for jewelry manufacturers. He likes the idea that his new line of work can be helpful to families.

2002

P. Lindley Bain is included in *Super Lawyers 2018 Texas Rising Stars*, *Up-and-Coming 100: Texas Rising Stars*, and *Up-and-Coming 50: 2018 Women Texas Rising Stars*. She is a board-certified family law attorney in the Austin office of GoransonBain Ausley, focusing on financially complex divorces and high-

conflict custody matters. She has been named a *Texas Rising Star* by Thomson Reuters for nine consecutive years.

Katherine Craft completed an M.F.A. at The University of Texas at Austin, and while there, co-wrote a narrative film titled *June*, which was named a finalist for the 2018 Student



Academy Award in the category of Narrative (Domestic Film Schools). The story is about a young Chinese woman's experiences as she attends her husband's college graduation in America in the 1960s. The short film is the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival winner, a finalist for the 2018 BAFTA Student Film Awards supported by Global Student Accommodation, and the AT&T InspirASIAN Award. Katherine is a writer at BBH Los Angeles, developing ideas for scripted and unscripted shows for television.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE



Alumnae **Han Pham Schmidly '98, M.D.**, and **Rija Siddiqui '12, M.D.**, returned to campus in September 2018 to participate in a Women in Medicine Symposium hosted by the Austin College Posey Leadership Institute. Dr. Schmidly is the CEO of Wound Integrity and medical director of Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine at Medical City in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Siddiqui is completing her residency and internship at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where she is a pediatric specialist. The women, along with their colleague Dr. Sally Goudreau, also spoke with students interested in health science careers. Jenny King '92, director of public affairs at UT Southwestern Medical Center, accompanied the physicians to campus.

A SCHOLAR GOES TO SCOTLAND



Cullen Chandler '96, Ph.D., has been appointed the 2019 Donald Bullough Fellow in Mediaeval History by the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and is spending the 2019 spring semester abroad working in the St. Andrews Institute for Mediaeval Studies on his research project, "Early Medieval Food and Culture." St. Andrews has the largest mediaeval history department in the world. The residential fellowship, awarded on the basis of an international application process, carries no teaching duties, though Chandler is expected to take part in weekly seminars with other mediaeval historians, to present a research paper, and to lead a workshop for faculty and postgraduate students. When he's not in Scotland, Cullen is an Associate Professor of History and department chair, as well as Director of the Scholars Program at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania. He teaches a popular "Medieval Food and Culture" course at Lycoming and plans to produce a book on European food history in the eighth and ninth centuries.

UP, UP, AND AWAY



John "Ross" Jackson '02 completed a 14-year career with the United States Navy on August 31, 2014, having flown the FA-18 Super Hornet, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and F-5 Tiger II, accumulating nearly 2,000 flight hours and 350 arrested landings as part of Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHT SIX. He ended his career with the rank of lieutenant commander. Ross transitioned to the Texas Air National Guard on September 1, 2016, as a pilot and an F-16 Fighting Falcon flight instructor for future U.S. Air Force fighter pilots. He is now a major in the Air National Guard at the 182nd Fighter Squadron in San Antonio, Texas.



2003



Chris Melody Fields Figueredo became the first LatinX executive director of the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC) and BISC Foundation in June 2018, "at a time," she said, "when ballot measures are at the intersection of many of our country's most pressing issues."

2004



Lindsey S. Lumsford Drake with Drake Law has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas

CHRONICLING THEIR JOURNEYS



These alumni returned to campus in April 2018 for an Office of Admission event to discuss their Austin College experiences and current careers. Volunteers pictured, left to right, are **Victor Piñeres '17** of Dallas, analyst at Goldman Sachs; **Kaitlin Elledge '11** of Dallas, account executive with MetLife Regional & Small Business Solutions, who earned an MBA at The University of Texas; **Roberto Varela '15**, portfolio manager associate, U.S. Trust, Bank of America; **Sarah Chilmeran '10**, dentist in Murphy, Texas, who earned her doctorate

in Dentistry at The University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio; **Brian Clinton '14**, resident psychiatrist at Baylor Scott & White, who earned an M.D. at UT Southwestern Medical School; and **Bethanie Livernois '13** of Dallas, attorney with Stanton LLP, who earned her law degree at Southern Methodist University.

Bar Foundation. Fellows are selected for outstanding professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to improvement of the justice system in Texas. Selection is restricted to members of the State Bar of Texas, and each year, one-third of one percent of members are invited to become fellows. Once selected, they must be elected by the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees.

2005

Holly Hull Miori graduated with her master's degree in public affairs in summer 2018 from The University of Texas at Dallas, where she serves as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and the School of Arts and Humanities. She also holds a master's degree in Theological Studies from TCU and is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE).

2007

James Clayton "Clay" King earned a Ph.D. in statistics from Baylor University in May

2018, with the dissertation "Applications of Bayesian Quantile Regression and Sample Size Determination." Clay received a master's degree in Education from Baylor in 2008 and a master's degree from Texas A&M Central Texas in 2013.

2009

Miles Vaughn was named the director of soccer operations at the University of Maryland in February 2018. He was previously the director of operations at the Bethesda Soccer Club, where he managed all club facilities, including schedules and venues for 80 teams. He also managed equipment, registration, sponsorships, and travel. Miles held a similar position at the Baton Rouge Soccer Club, where he had previously acted as Director of Development. He also coached youth teams at Baton Rouge and was an assistant coach at Catholic High School, which ranked top in Louisiana.

2010

Joseph Helsing earned a master's degree in Computer Science in 2013

and completed his doctorate in Computer Science and Engineering in spring 2018. Both degrees are from the University of North Texas, where he has accepted a lecturer position.

2011

Jeff Ridenour is a scenic designer based in New York City, primarily designing for theatre and opera. He and his work were featured in a number of media outlets in fall 2017 while he worked on a University of Missouri-Kansas City production of the opera *Hansel and Gretel*. The sets and costumes were created of paper. He has worked with the director of opera at UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance on at least a dozen productions.

2015

Whitney Russell is human resources administrator/payroll specialist at James Edward and Companies in Houston, Texas. She received her master's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Angelo State University in 2017.

2016



Lauren Wheeler earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing in spring 2018 and has been licensed as a registered nurse (RN). She moved to Fargo, North Dakota, in September 2018 to work as an RN at Sanford Medical Center on the medical/specialty unit.

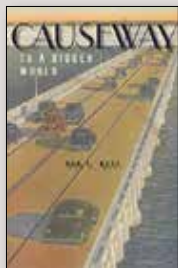
Charlotte Wright was accepted in fall 2016 for the Japanese Teaching and Exchange (JET) Program, the only teaching exchange program managed by the government of Japan. She said she is loving teaching English to high schoolers and soaking in the local culture and customs while



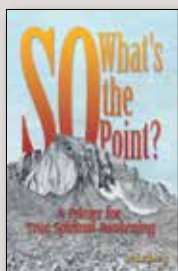
MAN OF STEEL

Kirk Lipsitz '18 knows his way around steel. Not only did he manufacture what some have called "the largest smoker in captivity" for the Kramer Outback, Kirk, who minored in art, has several steel sculptures on campus for the enjoyment of others. All were created in the Art Department and with the guidance of Mark Monroe of the art faculty. Kirk's red *Ebb and Flow* is located near the Jonsson Fountain outside Ida Green Communication Center's back doors; *Pick-Up-Stix* is in front of the Betsy Dennis Forster Art Studio Complex; and his 'Roo—a fine spot for photos—sits between the IDEA Center and the north doors to Hughey Gym. Kirk is working in Waco in his family scrap metal recycling business, continuing a tradition begun in 1895. He will do some art in his spare time, but he does not plan it to be a main source of income.

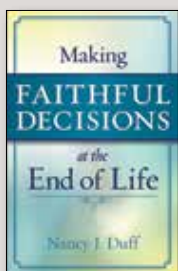
ALUMNI BOOKSHELF



Dan West
Causeway to a Bigger World
(Mountain Arbor Press, 2018)



Bob Lively
So What's the Point? ... A Primer in True Spiritual Awakening
(Treaty Oak Publishers, 2018)



Nancy J. Duff
Making Faithful Decisions at the End of Life
(Westminster John Knox Press, 2018)



J. Lee Whittington
Enhancing Employee Engagement: An Evidence-based Approach
(Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

Dan West '62 published his memoir, *Causeway to a Bigger World*, through Mountain Arbor Press in September 2018. Austin College, and especially President John D. Moseley, are mentioned prominently, he said. Crossing the causeway from Galveston, Texas, to the rest of his life set him on an adventure in living. The book is available through a number of outlets.

Bob Lively '68 has published his 11th book, titled *So What's the Point? ... A Primer in True Spiritual Awakening*. He also is an award-winning short story writer. Having served as an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church for more than 40 years, he now is honorably retired and lives in the Hill Country west of Austin, Texas.

Nancy J. Duff '73 has written a book, *Making Faithful Decisions at the End of Life*, that encourages Christians to consider and talk about death in the context of their faith. An ordained Presbyterian minister, Nancy is the Colwell Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary.

J. Lee Whittington '79 and a team of researchers have published a book he co-wrote, *Enhancing Employee Engagement: An Evidence-based Approach* through Palgrave Macmillan. Since 2000, he has been on the faculty of University of Dallas, where he has received numerous teaching awards and now is Professor of Management in the Gupta College of Business.

2016 (continued)

doing some traveling around the country. Currently her commitment is through July 2019 but could extend to 2021.

2017

Katie Barber is a graduate assistant at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, where she is completing a master's degree in industrial organizational psychology, finishing in May 2019, and an MBA, finishing in December 2019.

Cassi Tullier Donovan is completing a master's degree in social work at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Amy Glazier is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is in the Ph.D. program in physics and astronomy.

Ganesh Maniam completed an MBA in Health Organization Management in August 2018 from Texas Tech University Rawls College of Business. He then began his second year of

medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, with an expected graduation date of May 2021. His acceptance to this MD/MBA dual-degree program was through the Austin College Gateways Program.



Marina "Mimi" Sams is an executive assistant for Public Policy Holding Company in Washington, D.C. In October 2017, she was named the executive director of the Lone Star Outdoor News Foundation. She's keeping her day job; the Lone Star job is a volunteer role for an organization working to bring more people into the world of hunting and fishing. Mimi is an international sportswoman who has hunted and fished on three continents. She is a member of Dallas Safari Club and Safari Club International. 🦋



A Distinguished Legacy

Jenna Jaska '22 of Sherman, Texas, has an Austin College heritage that goes back to the late 1930s when her great-grandparents-to-be, **Joyce Wilson** and **Forrest Bryant**, enrolled. They graduated in 1941, married one another, and Forrest Bryant became a legendary Austin College professor of biology. An Austin College Distinguished Alumnus, he set a high standard for the 16 family members who would eventually follow him to

the College. Jenna's grandfather **Tim Bryant '70** is a graduate, as are her parents, **Joe '88** and **Amy Bryant Jaska '91**, all pictured with Jenna and **President Steven O'Day** at Opening of School. The older generations were basketball athletes, and Jenna hopes to continue the sports legacy in softball. Her grandparents established a scholarship in memory of Forrest and Joyce Bryant, so the reach extends beyond family to students who benefit from that scholarship. Jenna is thankful to carry on the family tradition. Also pictured here are other members of the Class of 2022 who have alumni parent(s) and came for photos during Opening of School. Some were unable to attend; several students have legacy connections through siblings and other family members. See www.austincollege.edu/legacy-students-2018.

PHOTOS BY ERIN LAINE '19



Chloe Bachofen, daughter of Matthew '90 and Claudia Gomez Bachofen '89



Ben Berggren, son of Laura Reed '91 and Andy Berggren '91



Lily Kate Clayton, daughter of Art Clayton '95



Marissa Graf, daughter of Adriana Gomez Graf '90



Christian Hallum, son of Christina and Brent Hallum '89



Jacob Kobos, son of Phil and Marcie Fisher Kobos, both '90



Scott Riehm, left, son of Laura Streater Riehm '87; brother of Thomas Riehm '19



Claudia Theriot, daughter of Ali '92 and John Theriot '95



Claire Welton, daughter of Patricia Capps Welton '90



Rebecca Wicker, daughter of Thomas Wicker Jr. '85

2006

Katie Deeds and Joseph William Holland III were married July 1, 2017, in a sunset ceremony on the beach in Maui, Hawaii. The couple lives in Denton, Texas, where Joseph owns and operates Denton Bicycle Center. Katie completed a Master of Library Science degree at Texas Woman's University in May 2018 and plans to become a children's librarian. She served as coordinator for the Austin College Department of Music from September 2011 to June 2014.

2007

Catherine G. Moran and Ohiolei Ayeni were married January 6, 2018, at the La Cima Club in Las Colinas, Texas. Ceren Ünal, Raney Bauer, Anne Laski '08, and Brittany Smith attended. Ohiolei is an engineer, and Catherine is a corporate attorney and managing partner with MDM Law. The couple lives in Houston, Texas, where Catherine is also a SoulCycle instructor.

2008

Stephanie Demarest and Jacob Phiel were married August 19, 2017, in Dallas, Texas, with Stephanie's sister, Reverend Sarah Demarest Allen '03, officiating. Bridesmaids included Austin College alumnae Laura Amlin '03 and Taylor Hebert '07. Many alumni attended.

Austin Trantham and Stephanie Farrar were married in Fresno, California, in May 2017. Kevin Birkel was a groomsman. Austin earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Kentucky in December 2017.

He began a tenure-track position this fall as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Jacksonville University in Florida.

2009

William Weeks and **Madeline Balconi-Lamica** were married July 1, 2017, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Bedford, Texas. They now live in Hickory Creek, Texas. William works as a technical analyst at CCS Horizon, and Madeline is a stay-at-home mom. They combined names Latin American-style and both now use Weeks-Balconi.

2012

Elizabeth Oltman and **Eric Brentzel '11**, who attended Austin College, were married in McKinney, Texas, on May 20, 2018. The wedding party included 2012 classmates **Hilary Gregory-Allen**, **Coral Kennelty-Cohen**, **Kallison Pope**, and **Kellan Pope**. Eric works in information technology for Sherman ISD, and Elizabeth is associate registrar at Austin College.

Melissa Ross and Peter McLemore were married August 2, 2018, in San Francisco, California.

2013

Natalie Nelms and Michael Bracamontez were married June 30, 2018, in Austin, Texas. They live in Dallas, Texas, where Natalie works in marketing and Michael works in IT consulting.

2014

Jack Kunde and **Christine Garner '15** were married June 1, 2018, at Piazza on the Green in McKinney, Texas. Jack's

brother, **Reid Kunde '07**, was best man, and many alumni were in the wedding party, as well as Reverend Patrick McCoy, Austin College 2015 honorary doctorate recipient, who baptized Christine as a baby (his first baptism). Jack works as an account manager for Securus Technologies in Carrollton, and Christine is a Neuro ICU nurse at Baylor University Medical Center in downtown Dallas. The couple lives in Plano.

Alena Oglesbee and U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Brian Howard were married January 13, 2018, in Houston, Texas, at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church, where they met. The wedding party included **Kelsey Crouch-Dodson '15**, **Jordan Meredith Castle '15**, and **Susie Fox Marshall '15**. In June, the newlyweds moved from Galveston, Texas, to Grand Haven, Michigan, where Brian

is Commanding Officer of Sector Field Office Grand Haven. At press time, Alena was interviewing with nonprofits and setting up their new home.

2015

Jenna Longo MAT '16 and **Noah Jesko** were married July 1, 2017, at Starlight Canyon in Amarillo, Texas, with many alumni attending and seven in the wedding party. The couple lives with pups, Riv and Finn, outside Canyon, Texas, on a ranch Noah manages for West Texas A&M as he finishes his master's degree in agricultural business and economics and awaits acceptance into veterinarian school. Jenna is a senior English teacher at Randall High School, where she received the Teacher Excellence Award for 2017-2018 and coaches JV girls basketball and all-level track.



Katie Deeds '06
and Joseph William Holland III



Catherine G. Moran '07
and Ohiolei Ayeni



Stephanie Demarest '08 and Jacob Phiel



Austin Trantham '08 and Stephanie Farrar



Melissa Ross '12 and Peter McLemore



Jack Kunde '14 and Christine Garner '15



Madeline Balconi-Lamica '09 and William Weeks '09



*Natalie Nelms '13
and Michael Bracamontez*



*Alena Oglesbee '14
and Lieutenant Brian Howard*



Elizabeth Oltman '12 and Eric Brentzel '11



Jenna Longo '15 and Noah Jesko '15

1994

Robert Tinajero and his wife, Chealsie Sanchez, announce the birth of their first child, Roberto Jose Tinajero III, on July 17, 2017. Robert was recently hired as a tenure-track assistant professor of English at the University of North Texas-Dallas.

2000

Molly Simpson and **Kent Van Steenberg** announce the birth of their son, Alexander Charles, born June 22, 2017, in Shanghai, China. The family lives in Shanghai, where Molly is a senior marketing manager for Max Factor Cosmetics and Kent is the CFO of Coty Consumer Beauty China. They say their door is always open if any 'Roos would like to say *ni hao* (hello).

2003

Christopher Gratton and his wife, Dawn, welcomed their son, Jameson Richard, on September 14, 2017. Christopher is a doctor of chiropractic and his wife is a licensed massage therapist. The family, including older brother, Jeran, 8, lives in Kilgore, where Christopher operates his own practice.

2004

Thomas and **Gillian Grissom Locke '07** welcomed their son, Bishop Parks, on August 14, 2018. Thomas is co-owner of Bois d'Arc Meat Co., a pastured-livestock operation that raises cows, pigs, chickens, and turkeys. Gillian is an associate vice president for Institutional Advancement at Austin College. Bishop was also happily welcomed by his grandmother Laurie Benold

Locke '73 and his aunt, Thomas' sister, Cate Locke Noellert '00.

2006

Matt Ellington and his wife, Meghan, announce the birth of their son, Jack David, on March 2, 2017. The family lives in Austin, Texas, where Matt is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Meghan is a physician assistant. Jack has an older sister, Brynn.

Dennis and **Emily Webb Kelly '10 MAT '11** announce the birth of their son, John Dennis, on January 2, 2018. Emily had been a high school teacher in Plano; now she is a stay-at-home mom and an instructor for Fit4Mom. Dennis is completing a master's degree in Coach Education and Athlete Development from Xavier and trains athletes, from youth to professional. The family lives in Melissa, Texas. Alumni family include his grandfather **Claude Webb '73**, aunts **Caroline Webb Martell '11** and **Jessica Webb '12**, and uncle **Patrick Martell '09**.

2008

Garrett Adcock and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their daughter, Avery Lynn, on June 11, 2017. The family lives in Pflugerville, Texas, where Rachel is an optometrist and Garrett is an assistant football and baseball coach, as well as social studies teacher, at Pflugerville High School.

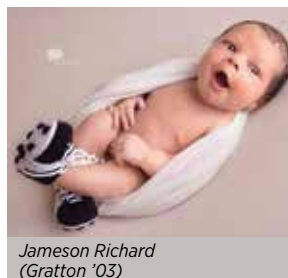
Ryan and **Rebecca Webb Buell** welcomed their second child, Beckham Ryan, on August 4, 2018. The family, including big sister Harper, lives in Frisco, Texas.



Roberto Jose
(Tinajero '94)



Alexander Charles
(Simpson & Van Steenberg '00)



Jameson Richard
(Gratton '03)



Bishop Parks
(Locke '04)



Jack David
(Ellington '06)



John Dennis
(Kelly '06)



Avery Lynn
(Adcock '08)



Beckham Ryan
(Buell '08)



Claira Elizabeth
(Solano '08)



Daphne (big sister) and Helen Noe
(Anders '09)



Winston Bishop
(Clark '09)



Haddie Lynn
(Gill '09)



Abigail Mae
(Hannan '09)



Aarav Parth
(Shah '09)



Alexandra Kate
(Ploch '10)



Audrey Kay
(Card '11)



Grayson Marcus
(Doughty '12)

Austin and **Cari Hubbard Solano** welcomed daughter Claira Elizabeth on July 13, 2017. The family lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where Cari and Austin work for family-owned companies, Route 66 Tire & Rubber and LCB Battery.

2009

Mason and Courtney Baker Anders '08 welcomed their second daughter, Helen Noe, on June 21, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia. Big sister Daphne happily welcomed Helen home. The family lives in Smyrna, and Mason works for West Physics as a medical physics resident, surveying imaging machines for hospitals and clinics.

Hillary Luckett Clark and her husband, Edwin, announce the birth of Winston Bishop, born January 25, 2018. Hillary is an attorney with LeCrone Law Firm in Sherman, and Edwin is Director of Development in Institutional Advancement at Austin College.

Michael and Sarah Kendall Gill announce the birth of their first child, daughter Haddie Lynn, on April 24, 2018. The family lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and dog, Lambeau, is happy to be a big brother.

Jamie MAT '10 and Katie Senor Hannan '12 welcomed their first child, daughter Abigail Mae, on December 8, 2017. The family lives in Porter, Texas. Katie is a child welfare social worker at DePelchin Children's Center, and Jamie is completing his master's degree in Public Policy at the University of Houston and serving as the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Atascocita Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Ankita Singh Shah and Dr. Parth Shah announce the birth of their son, Aarav Parth, on August 12, 2018. Ankita and Parth were married in June 2014 and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ankita is a pediatrician for Integrated Healthcare Associates, a multi-specialty medical group. Parth is a chief resident in urology at the University of Michigan. Aarav joins Tex, a 2-year-old shih-poo in the growing household. They say they are enjoying the "Pure Michigan" experience but their hearts remain in Texas.

2010

Curstin Reichelt Ploch and her husband, Ricky, announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Kate, on June 12, 2018. Curstin is an ESL specialist with Frisco ISD, and Ricky is a category manager for Anderson Merchandisers. Alexandra joins her big sister, Julia, and parents at home in Providence Village, Texas.

2011

Daniel and **Melaney Bilyeu Card** welcomed their first child, daughter Audrey Kay, on April 17, 2018. Melaney is an athletic trainer at Baylor Scott and White Surgical Hospital in Sherman, and Daniel is a paramedic.

2012

Blake and Katie Hendrickson Doughty announce the birth of Grayson Marcus on July 10, 2018. The parents wanted their son's name to hold special meaning and since they attended college, met one another, graduated, and were married at Austin College, in Grayson County, they felt they made a very fitting choice.

2018 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 Award and the Cindy Bean Service-to-Alumni Award honorees.

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Lydia Bean '02 graduated from Austin College with majors in Spanish and Music then earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Sociology at Harvard University. She joined the faculty at Baylor University Honors College, teaching courses in religion, inequality, race, and social theory from 2009 to 2013. That year, she founded Faith in Texas, a nonprofit faith movement for social justice and served as its executive director. She writes and consults on religion in public life, grassroots organizing, civic leadership development, and expanding the electorate. Lydia has written a book, as well as several articles. She and her husband, live in Arlington, Texas.



Helen Lowman '88 graduated from Austin College with majors in International Studies and Spanish. Her career includes 25 years of leadership in international diplomacy, development, and human rights advocacy. She has worked around the globe for the Peace Corps, from her first stint in Thailand upon graduation to country and regional directorships and agency leadership. She was an appointee of President Barack Obama from 2010 to 2017 in the senior Foreign Service for FEMA and the Peace Corps. In 2017, Helen became President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful, a national community improvement nonprofit. She lives in Westport, Connecticut.



Richard "Scooter" Merritt '66 completed his Austin College degree in Psychology then spent two years with the Peace Corps in India. His career in national health care reform and state health policy development focused on providing state health lawmakers with timely, nonpartisan research and analysis and technical assistance. Since retirement in 2016, he has advocated for improved health care access for low-income, uninsured residents in his Alexandria, Virginia, community, creating an annual free health clinic. In 2013, Scooter was honored as a "Living Legend of Alexandria" for his contributions.

First Decade Award



Chelsea Freeland '12 graduated from Austin College with a major in History and minors in Chemistry and French, then earned a master's degree in Maritime Archaeology from East Carolina University. She has worked as a maritime materials expert for the U.S. Navy, as an archaeologist for the United Arab Emirates government, and as a nautical archaeologist for the U.S. Department of Transportation. She is now a cultural heritage analyst at the U.S. Department of State, focusing on the illicit antiquities trade and international cultural heritage law. She also is a regular community volunteer. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award



John E. Herron enjoyed a successful 45-year career as a registered interior designer, retiring in 2016. He was Senior Vice President in charge of interior design at CCI Club Design in Dallas

and later, Baltimore-based H. Chambers Company, both specializing in private country, golf, city, and yacht clubs. A ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, he served on the committee for the recent renovation of its historic sanctuary. A longtime volunteer for Austin College, he recently devoted many hours alongside College trustees on renovations of the President's Home at Wood House.

Cindy Bean Service-to-Alumni Award



Marguerite Tanner has assisted more students and alumni—and in more numerous ways—than can be counted during her 15 years working at Austin College. An employee of Aramark

since 2003, Marguerite began work as line server then supervisor for the dining hall. She moved to catering services in 2005 as a supervisor and now is lead supervisor in catering. She has been named Aramark's Austin College Employee of the Month and twice been selected by the Austin College Student Assembly as Staff Member of the Month. She lives in Sherman.

HONORING OUR SPORTS LEGENDS



The 2018 Legends honorees, pictured left to right, are Barrett Jenkins, Robin Potera, Greg Cason, Veronica Stephens, Gilbert Villarreal, Keith Johnston, Kola Alade, Polly Thomason, and Claude Webb, with President Steven O'Day.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MANIET

2018 Athletic Hall of Honor inductees:

Kola Alade '10 (basketball) • Greg Cason '84 (football) • Barrett Jenkins '94 (football, track) • Keith Johnston '71 (football) • Veronica Stephens '07 (volleyball) • Robin Potera-Haskins (Honorary/former coach)

Kedric Couch Alumni Coaches of the Year:

Polly Thomason '99 (women's basketball) • Gilbert Villarreal '97 (boys soccer)

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

Claude Webb '77

SAVE THE DATE: Legends, August 2-4, 2019

HAPPY 85TH ANNIVERSARY, ALPHAS!



Alpha Delta Chi sorority observed its 85th anniversary at Homecoming with alumnae and current members enjoying events from tailgating in the Kramer Outback, to their traditional Root Beer and Pretzel party, to a reunion celebration. The weekend offered many memories and sparked many "remember when" conversations. Longtime sponsors **Dr. Hank Gorman**, Professor of Psychology, and **Dr. E. Don Williams**, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, were on hand for the fun. **Dr. Peter Schulze**, another Alpha sponsor and Professor of Environmental Studies, and other members of the Environmental Studies Department cooked breakfast for the Alphas and guests on Sunday morning at the

College's Sneed Environmental Research Area to mark a 20-year partnership between Sneed and the Alphas. The women have made Sneed their service project since **Brandy Lee Harmon Meierhofer '99**, recognized at the event, introduced the Sneed involvement as a student.

To mark this significant milestone of the sorority's founding, alumnae led by trustee **Sarah Gunderson '81** established the 85th Anniversary Alpha Delta Chi Endowed Scholarship. By Homecoming, they had raised more than \$75,000 of their \$100,000 goal. Scholarships will be awarded each spring to a rising sophomore, junior, and senior Alpha Delta Chi member.

ALUMNI

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1934 Robert "Bob" Landolt | January 5, 2018 | 1962 Betty Jean Hatfield Gjerde | March 30, 2018 |
| 1941 Dorothy Ann Fitch Tolbert | December 31, 2017 | 1962 Michael Frederick King | January 5, 2018 |
| 1945 Margaret Ruth Clark Carson | June 3, 2018 | 1962 Ima Jane Davis Taylor | February 10, 2018 |
| 1946 John G. Farmer | April 14, 2018 | 1964 Richard "Rick" McWhirter | April 20, 2018 |
| 1947 Faires J. McDaniel | January 31, 2018 | 1964 Jane Brazell Sisolak | December 12, 2017 |
| 1948 Reeda Colleen Jaco Able | March 24, 2018 | 1964 David Robert Yowell | May 9, 2018 |
| 1948 Bettye Jo Green Clayton | November 18, 2018 | 1965 Anthony "Ryan" Allen | December 11, 2018 |
| 1948 Doris Ann King | October 24, 2018 | 1965 William Peteet | December 8, 2018 |
| 1948 Charles Dabney Lawhorn | July 7, 2018 | 1965 Thomas Henderson Schmid | December 25, 2017 |
| 1949 George Marshall Gearheart | February 24, 2018 | 1967 Robert Earl Luther | August 7, 2018 |
| 1950 Tom Hestand | September 5, 2018 | 1967 Patsy Gail Harman Merrill | November 5, 2018 |
| 1951 John Hobart Crain | November 30, 2018 | 1967 John Michael "Mike" Pittman | September 5, 2018 |
| 1951 Carolyn Elizabeth Cordill Fulton | October 9, 2018 | 1967 Cindy Cox Spangler | June 18, 2018 |
| 1951 Mary Lois Dalton O'Neal | February 4, 2018 | 1968 Carolyn Overstreet Nesbitt | May 11, 2018 |
| 1952 William Riley "Bill" Wilson | December 24, 2018 | 1969 Henry Fay Baldwin | June 27, 2018 |
| 1952 Charlotte "Chocky" O'Hagan Wynn | April 21, 2018 | 1969 Richard Davis | March 19, 2018 |
| 1953 Benjamin Gutierrez | November 2, 2017 | 1969 Dr. Paul Thomas Jones | December 6, 2017 |
| 1954 Doyle Dunn | May 24, 2018 | 1971 George William Kline II | May 31, 2018 |
| 1955 Kedric Couch | February 15, 2018 | 1971 Robert Moseley | March 26, 2018 |
| 1955 Robert Kent | July 14, 2018 | 1973 Terry L. Smith | August 29, 2018 |
| 1956 Thomas L. Jarvis | May 31, 2018 | 1975 James Cooley | March 17, 2018 |
| 1956 Jean Grey Forbes Kyle | February 2, 2018 | 1975 Gary Penn | July 14, 2018 |
| 1956 James McGrady McLean Jr. | August 6, 2018 | 1978 Dr. Weldon Edward Glidden | October 1, 2018 |
| 1956 William Alexander "Poncho" Purdy Jr. | April 2, 2018 | 1980 Kathleen "Kathy" Willis | December 3, 2018 |
| 1956 Wayne Bartlett Smith | January 19, 2018 | 1981 John Scott Hudgins | June 9, 2018 |
| 1957 Gene "Duke" Babb | December 2, 2018 | 1983 Gregory Reuben Ashley | July 11, 2018 |
| 1957 Robert Carsner | December 22, 2017 | 1983 Michael "Mike" Wayne Kaker | November 4, 2018 |
| 1957 Watha Henderson Stroud | November 27, 2017 | 1983 Brian R. Reichelt | January 20, 2018 |
| 1958 Albert Edwin Jarrel Sr. | January 22, 2018 | 1985 Christopher Douglas Thomas | October 31, 2017 |
| 1959 Rowena Taylor Britt | December 5, 2017 | 1986 Eric B. Mims | April 29, 2018 |
| 1959 Nancy Hill Compton | March 19, 2018 | 1987 Patrick A. Huzinec | October 26, 2018 |
| 1959 Tom Lee Perryman | May 2, 2018 | 1989 Dennis Winn Elenburg | January 9, 2018 |
| 1960 Charlotte Ann Tucker Arnold | April 17, 2018 | 1994 Jonathan McDonnel Baker | February 10, 2018 |
| 1960 Ronald Dean Beck | January 14, 2018 | 1998 Casey Sullivan | January 24, 2018 |
| 1960 Marlin "Rod" Gilbert | May 14, 2018 | 2001 Dorian Leon Griffin | August 17, 2018 |
| 1960 Roy Lee Merrill | June 8, 2018 | 2001 Stephanie Odom | December 5, 2018 |
| 1961 Martha Suzanne "Susie" Chapman | August 2, 2018 | 2006 Margaret Whitney Rush | January 30, 2018 |
| 1961 Charles Bolanz "Bo" Miller | December 25, 2018 | 2007 Nathan "Nate" Doyle | February 15, 2018 |
| 1962 Susan Roberts Ague | April 4, 2018 | 2011 Jonathan Tyler Steed | September 12, 2018 |
| 1962 Raymond Pace "Coach" Bennett Jr. | April 17, 2018 | 2013 Katie Ann Lehman | January 29, 2018 |
| 1962 Bruce Dunn | January 16, 2018 | 2019 Michelle Ndwaru | August 6, 2018 |

Friends We Will Miss

Austin College Honorary Doctor of Humane Letter Recipients:

Barbara Pierce Bush—1998, died April 17, 2018; **George H.W. Bush**—1973, died November 30, 2018; and **Blair Monie**—1997, died October 30, 2018.

Nelda Campbell died September 30, 2018. She worked in the College's Business Office from 1966 to 1974 and in the Office of the President from 1978 until retiring in 1986.

Linda Franzeo, who worked in the Campus Bookstore for 29 years, died November 30, 2018. She retired as Manager of the Bookstore in fall 2017.

Willie Jacobs, Public Relations and Sports Information Director at the College from 1960 to 1976, died April 18, 2018. For many years, he was the voice of 'Roo football; the Willie Jacobs Press Box memorializes his service. He also was a longtime sponsor of Phi Sigma Alpha fraternity.

Jill Joiner Roberts, who worked in fundraising in Institutional Advancement from 2000 to 2015, died December 29, 2018, following a long illness.

Bill Wilson '52, who worked in various College fundraising roles—including Vice President for Development—from 1969 to 1984, died December 24, 2018.

The Austin College community celebrates the lives of several members who have died in the past year.

Remembering Professor Emeritus Charles Barr



Dr. Charles Barr, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, died June 28, 2018, at age 86. Having joined the Austin College chemistry faculty in 1962, he was honored in 1981 with installation into the Rupert B. Lowe Chair of Chemistry. College President Harry E. Smith said then that the professor had “consistently demonstrated his talent and scholarship through an outstanding teaching record, through research, and as a respected faculty leader.” Dr. Barr continued that outstanding record until his retirement in 1994 and received several honors for his research and teaching. His career included several terms as Chemistry Department Chair, as well as service as Dean of Sciences and on many College committees. He also was a patron of Gamma Gamma Gamma fraternity. A seminar room in the IDEA Center is named in his honor, funded by “Pre-Med Students of the ‘70s and ‘80s.” Before coming to Austin College, Dr. Barr was a Visiting Professor at State College of Iowa and an Associate Professor at the University of Dubuque in Illinois. He earned his doctorate and master’s degree from Michigan State University. In a 2006 Austin College Magazine update on life since retirement, Dr. Barr offered a bit of advice, “Enjoy life as it comes along.”

Duke Babb '57



Austin College football legend **Gene “Duke” Babb '57** died December 2, 2018. Following a stellar career for the College, he was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers and later played for the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Oilers. He spent several seasons in coaching, first at Austin College, then SMU and Oklahoma State University, before helping to develop the NFL Scouting Combine. He was a scout for the Atlanta Falcons, then worked for National Football Scouting, where he served as President and Director of the National Invitational Combine for 23 years. At Austin College, the Gene Babb Award is awarded each spring to the football team’s most valuable player. The College also recognized Babb as an Athletic Hall of Honor inductee and a Distinguished Alumnus. The Duke Babb football scoreboard was dedicated in 2009 and a Mason Athletic Complex classroom bears his name.

Michelle Ndwaru '19



Michelle Ndwaru died August 6, 2018. Born in Nairobi, Kenya, she came to the U.S. with her family as an infant and moved to Corpus Christi when she was 4 years old. Growing up, Michelle was active in Parkway Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi, serving as an elder and taking part in mission trips. She graduated with honors from Incarnate Word Academy in 2015. A proud 'Roo, Michelle was completing a major in Psychology and a minor in French and was involved in various service and social organizations. Family and friends describe her as “a true activist at heart with a passion for social justice.”

Senior Trustees

The guidance and generosity of these Board of Trustees senior members remain lasting legacies at Austin College.



Robert Carsner '57, a member of the board from 1993 to 2005, died December 22, 2017. He was a dedicated supporter of scholarships as well as other projects at the College, including Wright Campus Center. He had a successful internal medicine career in San Angelo, Texas, after moving there with his wife, Elsa Mickle Carsner '58, and family in 1966. He was very active in his community and at First Presbyterian Church. He and Elsa were married for 53 years before her death in 2012.



Linda Morris Elsey of Fort Worth, Texas and a member of the board from 2003 to 2013, died June 26, 2018. Early in Linda's board service, she and her husband, Jack Morris, established several Austin College endowed scholarships. When Jack died suddenly in 2004, Linda and The Morris Foundation endowed two Austin College business professorships in his name. The foundation has since made several significant contributions to the College, including \$7 million toward renovation of the former Moody Science building to create the Jack B. Morris Center for Business. Linda was a dedicated Fort Worth volunteer and member of First United Methodist Church. In 2007, Linda married David Elsey, who also became a good friend of the College.



Thomas C. Frost Jr., legendary San Antonio banker who served the board from 1983 to 1995—1990 to 1995 as vice chair, died August 10, 2018. In 1868, his great-grandfather, Thomas C. Frost, began the San Antonio bank that Tom would later lead. The elder also taught at Austin College from 1854 to 1856. The younger Frost's generosity to Austin College often was in tribute to his great-grandfather, including named rooms in Abell Library and Wright Campus Center. Prior to joining the board, Tom received an honorary doctorate from the College for his leadership in development of the Texas region. He began his banking career in 1950 as an assistant cashier and retired in 1962, having spent 35 years as bank president.



Charles “Bo” Miller '61, who served on the board from 1986 to 1998, died December 25, 2018. A star on the football field and in the classroom, Bo is remembered each spring as the top male and female athletes receive the Bo Miller Scholar-Athlete Awards. He worked for more than 50 years with Bolanz & Miller Realtors in Dallas and served his community in many key volunteer roles. An Austin College Athletic Hall of Honor inductee, his heart was often with the athletes of today and much of his support was toward athletics needs and scholarships.

Fearless Inquiry and Engagement in the World: The Grace of Great Things

By **Dr. Elizabeth Gill**

Austin College Vice President for Academic Affairs



PHOTO BY MICHAELS

I invite you to take a moment and think about educators who inspired and animated your life. Each of us has had a teacher, mentor, or coach who stands out in our hearts and memories as a significant influence in the trajectory of our lives. The lessons such outstanding educators teach go far beyond the subject matter of their fields and instill values and a love of learning that shape our educational and career choices, and guide us throughout our lives.

In my many years as an educator and administrator, I have come to realize that teaching is really about inspiration, not information. A learned colleague once told me that the older he got, the less he actually “taught”—this coming from a celebrated professor who had won many teaching awards and transformed countless lives. His wisdom echoes William Butler Yeats’ sentiments: “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

Although amazing educators at Austin College differ radically from each other in technique, they share the ability to transform students by creating an exciting community of inquiry that transcends the classroom, connecting their students to purpose, the experience of belonging to something infinitely greater than themselves. Their goal is to spark their students’ imagination, to find a hook in the heart and mind so that students feel a need to learn the material and become even more curious about themselves and the world. The memorable ones:

- inspire and challenge students with their passion for their subjects and their compassion for life and living;

- help students identify and overcome the fears that unnecessarily interfere with their likelihood of success in the classroom and life;
- cultivate compassionate seeing, enabling students to create space for stories and experiences that are different from their own so they can engage in curiosity and wonder toward other people and experiences;
- create space for not knowing, and courage and curiosity for finding out that failure is always an option along with the rich educational opportunities afforded by imperfection; and finally,
- encourage the development of responsible, open-minded, empathetic, and engaged leaders who recognize and act on the responsibility to contribute to a larger community.

What I have found at Austin College is education at its best, where the profound human transactions of teaching and learning are not just about acquiring information or getting jobs. They are about wholeness, empowerment, liberation, transformation, and transcendence. They are about connecting a student to what Rilke called the grace of great things. ■

Dr. Gill joined the Austin College senior leadership team in August 2018 after two years as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. The sociologist had previously spent 20 years at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia. She has Texas roots, receiving a bachelor's degree at Trinity University before earning a master's degree at Yale University and a Ph.D. at The University of Texas at Austin.

Palmer, Parker J. *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1998.

“You know firsthand the power of an Austin College education to transform students, so they can transform the world.

We are working to raise the funds needed to continue those transformations today and into the future.”

— Steven P. O'Day, J.D., at the public launch of the POWER Austin College campaign, November 11, 2018

POWER Austin College is a \$125 million comprehensive campaign to sustain our transformative model of liberal arts education into the future.

Through gifts to **capital projects**, **endowment**, and **operating funds**, donors empower Austin College to continue the vital work of shaping thoughtful graduates who meet the challenges of the 21st century.

See our stories and learn how you can participate at
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