

Austin College

MAGAZINE | 2023 ISSUE



O'Days and the
First Five Years

Resistance
is not Futile

DEI Conversations
Spark Change



Several campus buildings are sporting dynamic new banners as part of an ongoing Campus Esthetics project. Banners installed at the Mason Athletic Complex display pride in the 'Roos Athletics tradition. For more on the Esthetics initiative, see page 28.

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PHOTOS BY CARY S. WACKER



◀ **ON THE BACK COVER:**

While studying abroad during Fall Term 2022, **Amna Haque '23** visited Wild Jordan Center with the magnificent view overlooking the old city of Amman. Wild Jordan Center is owned by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Read more about Austin College study abroad on pages 30 through 33.



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“What is the use of living, if it not be to strive for noble causes and make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we have gone?”
 — Winston Churchill

Dear 'RooNation,

What's next?

That was the question I pondered in my Inauguration address in my first year as the 16th president of Austin College. Since then, so much has happened. There have been new friends and faces, new programs and places, new buildings and spaces. Along the way, there have been storms, a pandemic, and the unpredictable challenges of operating a complex organization that have tested our mettle. What's next, indeed?!

Fast forward to 2023 and it is now five years since I first asked that question and proclaimed that we, at Austin College, transform students so they can transform the world. As I reflect on this five-year milestone (a quinquennium or lustrum if you're curious), I continue to be amazed and inspired by our students, our alumni, and all that everyone at this place does, day in and day out, to carry out those extraordinary transformations.

I am so proud that we continue to live up to my inaugural pledge, “We will continue our unwavering commitment to the personal education of the whole person and the value of the liberal arts and sciences in forming creative analytical thinkers and collaborators. Our students will be prepared for a future of wonder, challenge, and opportunity. They will lead and serve, create and solve, collaborate and communicate. This will not change.”

Evidence of all this is found in the pages of this year's magazine. You'll read about educating the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. You'll read about transformation. You'll read about what's next. I hope you enjoy it and are proud of what Austin College continues to do as it looks forward to celebrating its 175th year, very soon.

For us, now in our sixth year, Cece and I are still inspired and proud. We continue to be committed to our calling to educate the whole person. I occasionally even remind her of one of my favorite Winston Churchill quotes, “What is the use of living, if it not be to strive for noble causes and make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we have gone?” (Don't worry—Cece tolerates my frequent references to Churchill ... most of the time.)

And now, as you ready to turn the page, I reflect on these last five years at Austin College while also looking ahead. I can't help but ask, again ... What's next?

Let's find out.

Proudly,

STEVEN P. O'DAY, J.D., L.H.D.
President
Austin College

A Date with Destiny

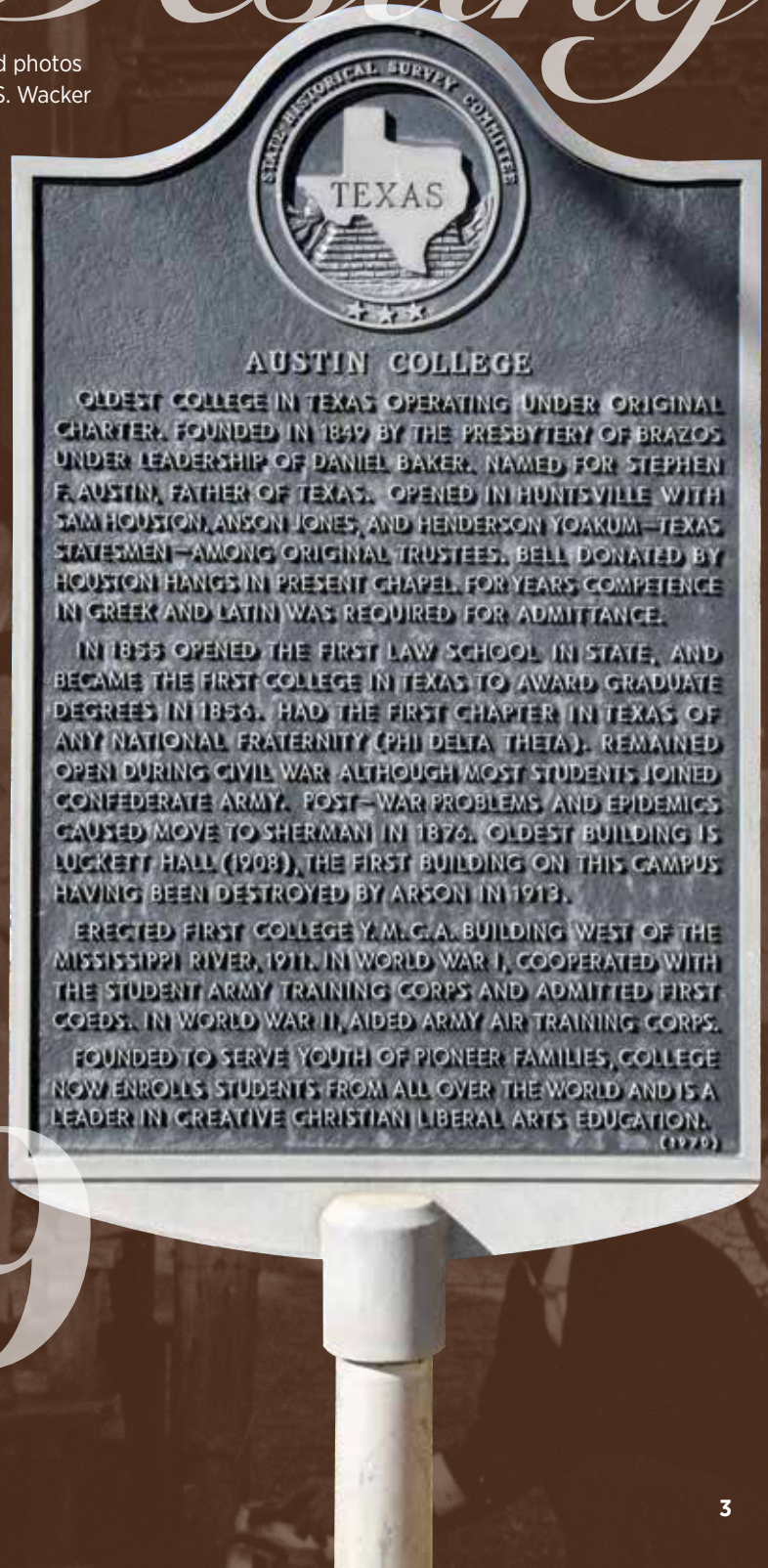
Story and photos
by Cary S. Wacker

❖ Opening Convocation in fall 2022 marked the start of the 174th academic year of Austin College and ushered in the return of a full event schedule after two years of COVID-19 accommodation. Behind the scenes of daily academic and extracurricular life, a new initiative was forming: planning for the milestone 175th year of Austin College as an institution of higher learning—the oldest in Texas under its original charter. Two identical Texas Historical Markers on the Sherman campus recognize the College's unique story. One is near the front of Ida Green Communication Center, and the other is adjacent to the campus entry on Grand Avenue between Hopkins Center and Clyce Hall.

Background photo: Old Main, Sherman, completed in 1878

AUSTIN COLLEGE ARCHIVE PHOTO

1849





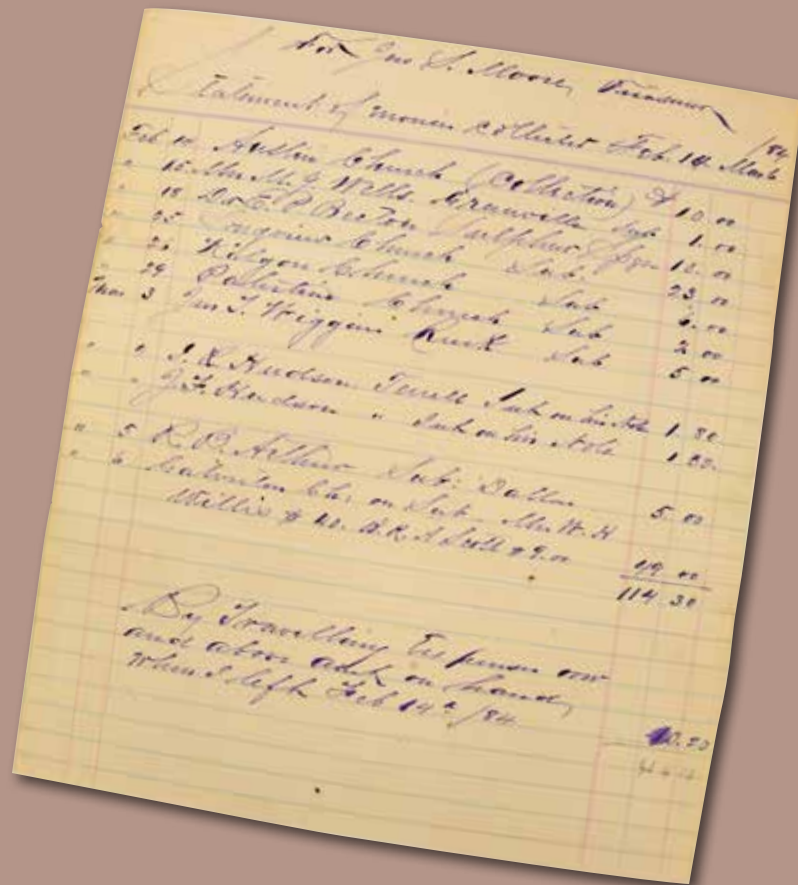
AUSTIN COLLEGE ARCHIVE PHOTO



PHOTO BY DAVID TURK

❖ The coming celebration in fall 2023 inspired a quest for more campus touchstones of our distinctive heritage. Few artifacts remain from the College's earliest years in Huntsville, Texas. Those that exist are housed in the Archives in Abell Library, with the notable exception of the Sam Houston Bell that rings from the Wynne Chapel steeple to open and close each academic year. Only 27 of our nearly 175 years of education to date took place in Huntsville, some 235 miles south of the present campus. The first building of the original campus in Huntsville still stands as part of Sam Houston State University. Once Austin College was relocated to Sherman in 1876, the majority of 'Roo history has unfolded there through decades of events that shaped both the nation and local life.

Hundreds of dedicated alumni, faculty, and friends have sustained Austin College over the years in almost every way imaginable. Some of those names are memorialized on buildings, markers, and donor recognition plaques, and fascinating stories lie behind each of them. Beyond these visible reminders, deeper history is preserved in the College Archives and in pages of essays and books documenting the legacy that is ours. We've devoted the opening pages of this issue of the Magazine to a dash through history before arriving at the next date with destiny in fall 2023. Enjoy the memories, the traditions, the heritage—even as we look to the future of Austin College.



❖ Sherman Hall (pictured left in 1970s) was completed in 1915 with financial gifts from Sherman citizens two years after a homesick student burned down Old Main. The new structure housed the Administration offices, library, and a large second floor auditorium that also served as the Chapel. The building was fully converted to classrooms and faculty offices for the Humanities Division in 1960, as other academic buildings had been constructed to serve the growing campus.

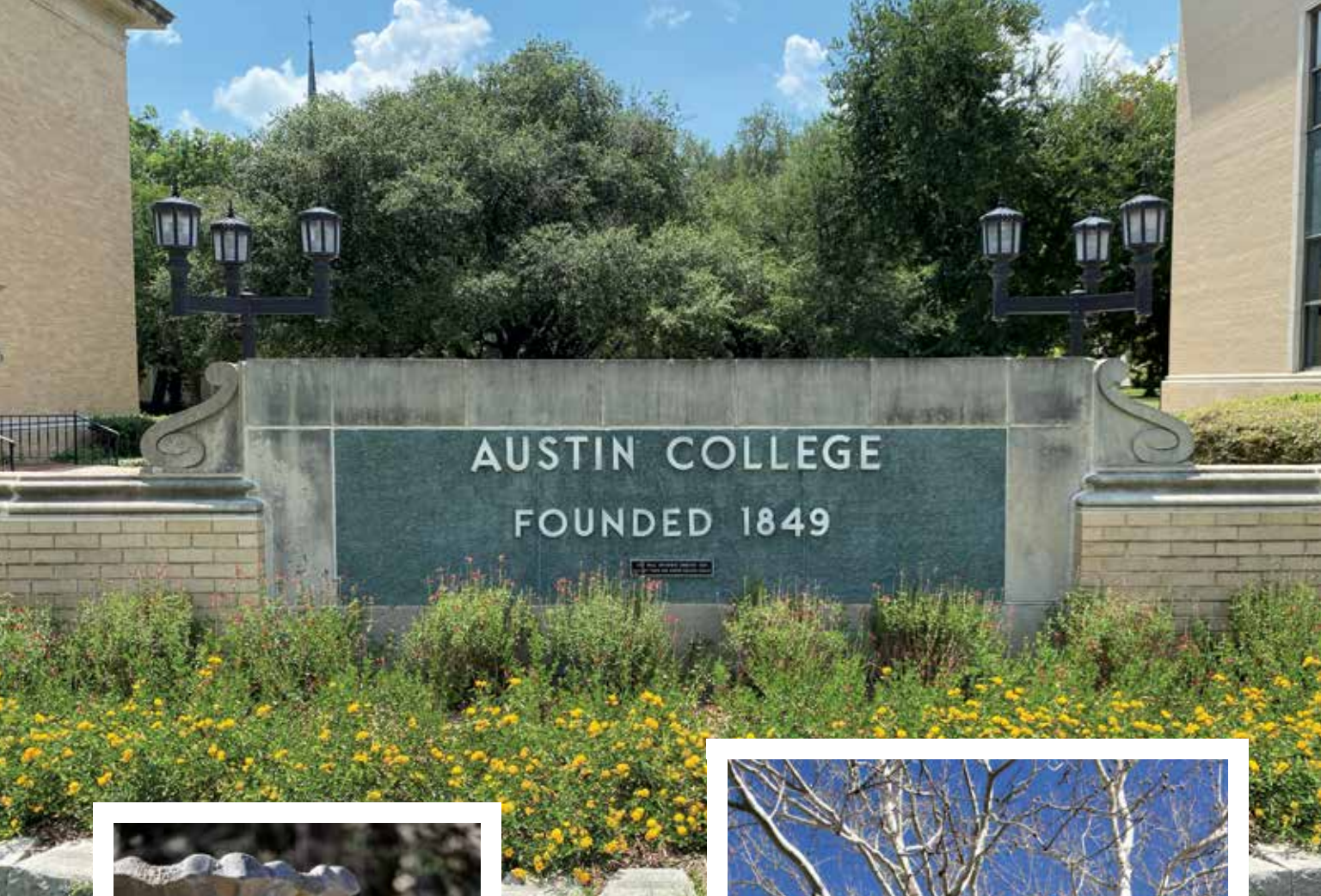
Of the 29 stained glass windows lining the second floor of Sherman Hall, 19 are dedicated to the memory of early trustees of the College. From founding in 1849 through the end of calendar year 2022, some 460 individuals have served on the Board of Trustees, stewarding the College through the decades. The name of one early trustee, John S. Moore, can be found both on a window in Sherman Hall and in a page from an 1884 ledger preserved in the Archives, where Mr. Moore, serving as the Board's treasurer, signed the hand-written document as he recorded expenses for February and March of that year.

One other window treasure is easily accessible on campus: the stained-glass portrait of Stephen F. Austin, namesake of the College, which is now installed in the lobby of Caruth Administration Building. The piece was given to the College around 1912 by an Austin family descendant and survived the disastrous fire of 1913.



❖ The Austin College Archives is the repository for thousands of preserved books, papers, ephemera, and objects related to institutional and regional history. A number of personal objects donated to the College can be found there, including these standouts that capture 'Roo spirit (clockwise from top): a quaint metal bus toy; stuffed 'Roo mascot; an athlete's letter sweater; and freshman beanie, a tradition for adornment once imposed on incoming first-year students.

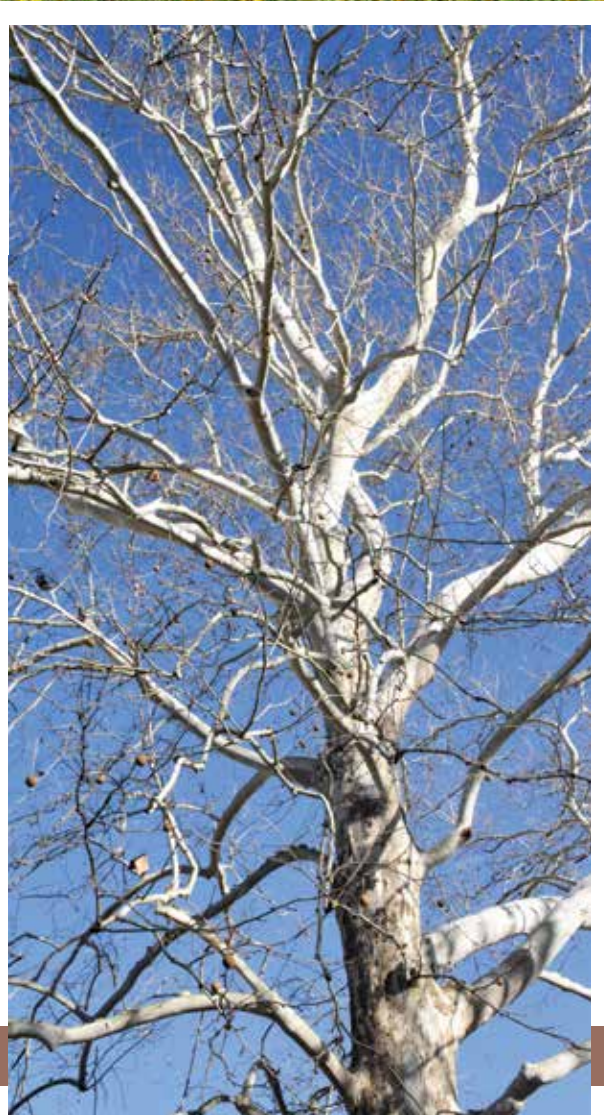




❖ The campus's first fountain was dedicated in 1924 in the year of Austin College's 75th anniversary celebration. It was moved to its present location in 1961 to accommodate construction of Hopkins Center. The "Kappa Fountain" was the gift of Kappa Gamma Chi Literary Society. The sorority

chartered in 1919, the year after Austin College admitted women and the same year that the 19th amendment was introduced to guarantee the right of women to vote.

Many of the large older trees on campus also were planted as gestures of remembrance. The stately sycamores and many of the live oak trees were dedicated in memory of service men and women, lost family, or significant occasions.

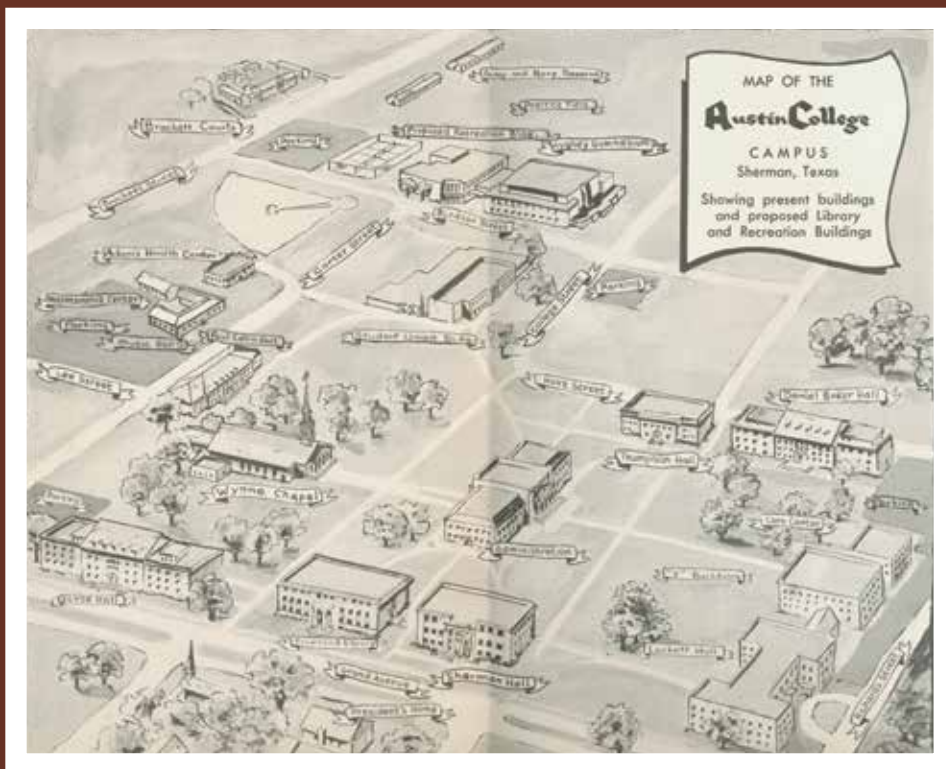


ALUMNI MEMORIAL STUDENT UNION
 ERECTED A.D. 1951
 THIS BUILDING IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
 OF
 THE AUSTIN COLLEGE STUDENTS
 WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE ARMED SERVICES
 OF OUR NATION
 THE BUILDING WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GIFTS
 OF
 AUSTIN COLLEGE ALUMNI
 THE CITIZENS OF SHERMAN
 MR. M.B. HUGHEY



❖ The Sherman campus's original building (Old Main, 1878) was lost to arson in 1913, but by 1960, the campus map displayed 16 structures, with more planned. In 2023, the campus consists of 18 academic and administrative buildings, nine athletic facilities, 10 green spaces (including five fountains), 10 residence halls, and six official residences for administration homes and guest houses.

Cornerstones or dedication plaques from five lost buildings are preserved in Williams Founders Plaza (2007), giving campus visitors a literal touchstone to the past and reminding us that 'Roos have helped shape history since the College's founding days. ■



AUSTIN COLLEGE ARCHIVE PHOTO



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

O'Days and the First 5 Years

On a Sunday afternoon, **Steven and Cece O'Day** cross Grand Avenue, walking shoulder to shoulder to Wynne Chapel, this time to hear the A Cappella Choir. They could just as likely be headed to a soccer game, a swim meet, a research presentation, or a play—or simply to enjoy the campus they call home. October 30, 2022, marked the fifth anniversary of President O'Day's leadership at Austin College—five fruitful years with a couple of fretful ones folded in as the College responded to COVID-19.

Back in 2017, Steven said in his introductory remarks, “The Austin College

mission to ‘educate students in the liberal arts and sciences in order to prepare them for rewarding careers and full, engaged, and meaningful lives’ matches my own deeply held belief that we are called upon to educate the whole student—mind, body, and spirit—both in and beyond the classroom.”

Now, years later, he reflects, “The opening remarks about my deeply held belief—I still believe that. I think we actually got it right then; and with all we’ve been through in five years, now into our sixth, it still rings true. I said then, ‘You’ll get the best I have,’ and I’ve tried to do that every day.”





PHOTO BY MICHAEL'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Steven and Cece uphold the importance of the “something else” that brings special meaning to a student’s college experience. They support the many co-curricular activities at Austin College, like athletics and pep band, with their attendance and enthusiasm.

Among those best efforts were the public launch and completion of the \$125 million POWER Campaign, which funded scholarships and capital improvements, and strengthened the endowment. Campus projects include the renovations of Wynne Chapel, Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary and Sallie Majors Chapel, Ida Green Communication Center, the Sally and Jim Nation Theatre and Learning Commons, and large-scale refreshes of athletic facilities, including Jordan Family Courts at the Russell Tennis Center, Hughey Gymnasium, Jim Rolfe Court, Hannah Natatorium, and Apple Stadium. Major from-the-ground-up projects include the North Flats apartment-style housing and the Oscar and Anna Laura Page Meditation Garden. Along with these projects that affect recruitment and retention of students, the President has led efforts to keep academic programming relevant, contemporary, and responsive to the needs of today’s student.

“I think we’ve been very intentional about how we look at academic program enhancement with new majors and minors,” President O’Day said. “I’m as proud of those things as I am of the North Flats or any of our capital projects,” he said. “The Kinesiology major, for example, did not exist five years ago and is already the third largest major in the College. Along with programs like PPE (Philosophy,



Politics, and Economics), Public Health, and Data Science Analytics, we continue to build with the new Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant Program to be launched in 2024.”

“I’m also proud of our continued inclusion and diversity work to build on a culture that already existed at Austin College,” he said. “I think we have a deepened recognition that we should be mindful of everything through an equity lens ... asking ourselves at every turn: does this meet a high standard of inclusion, equity, and diversity?”

Steven often says “we” when talking about Austin College; he’s referring to First Lady Cece, who has many roles at the College. She reflects positively on the early days in Sherman when she enjoyed meeting new friends and experiencing all things Texan. While occasionally missing a Philly soft pretzel, she has now been indoctrinated to a burger and tots at MGs, Mexican food at Rustico, and knows the roadside produce truck to look for to get the best cantaloupe.

“Particularly in the beginning, I got to know everybody because we went to everything. I met a lot of students through their extracurricular activities, choir concerts, research posters ... we were at everything,” she said. “But, COVID disrupted all of that.”

However, in that disruption, the COVID lockdown also gave an opportunity for Steven to achieve the



Feeling right at home, the O'Days have found their place not only at President's Home at Wood House but also at campus activities such as Great Day of Service.

lifelong goal to learn to play a musical instrument. With encouragement from Chaplain **John Williams '84**, Steven purchased and practiced the guitar, and mastered the basics. "John gave me good advice," Steven said. "He said just learn how to play a song ... if you know C, D, G, and E minor, you can play hundreds of songs." He continued, "When the lockdown hit, it seemed like every minute was spent completely focused on dealing with the crisis of the day. Spending at least a little time with my guitar every night offered some distraction. Over time, it became something that I counted on every day, and now—I can play the guitar! I'm playing in the band! We have gigs. I smile about it, and I still can't really believe it."

With events and activities eventually returning to an expected pace, Cece and Steven still go to everything that the calendar allows. Cece has helped with coaching the swim teams and says the best perk of being First Lady is having her own key to the pool (which she uses often).

Out of the pool, her role has grown to include a position within the Center for Student Success and Access Services, where she works particularly with student-athletes. As an athlete herself, she understands the demands they face. Add her years as a teacher and coach and the fact that she has a grown son of her own, and she is more than qualified for her

nickname—Campus Mom.

In addition to campus activities, the O'Days are involved in community groups, as Steven serves on the board of directors for Texoma Medical Center, and Cece is on the board of directors for the Boys and Girls Club, has served as treasurer for the area chapter of National Giving Alliance, and has worked with Texoma Family and Youth Services.

The Sherman area has changed in the last five years and is projected to double in population in the next 10. "My sense of it is that Sherman is the new northern doorstep to the DFW metroplex," Steven said. "I think it's a moment of unprecedented opportunity for the College. While we see that the demographic for graduating high school seniors is about to drop drastically in so many regions of the country, there are a few pockets in the country that will actually experience an increase in graduating seniors. We here in Texas are one of them," he said. "We don't have to figure out where our potential students are going to come from, but we will need to always be working on how to help them discover this amazing gem of a college."

To prepare for that future, the O'Days are energetically and wholeheartedly committed to leading the College forward in the same way it educates students—mind, body, and spirit. ■



A MEANINGFUL LIFE

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

What's the difference between a good life and a meaningful one? **Dr. Mark Hébert**, Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of the Philosophy, Political Science and Economics program, refers to Dan McAdams, the modern philosopher who suggests a person can discern their calling by figuring out their strengths and gifts, then organizing a life that draws on those things for work and family.

“Knowing what you care about and what you do well can lead to a good life,” says Hébert, “But, using your talents and gifts in the service of something greater leads to a meaningful life. The really interesting thing is,” he continued, “the most meaningful and engaged life is one that is not focused on yourself. A person allows the values they think are most important about themselves to be expressed in the service of someone else.”

Meet these Austin College alumni: a minister, an athlete, a sculptor, and a dentist, who sorted through the many possibilities for work and avocation, and after a time have found deeply meaningful work and service using the tenets of an Austin College education and their own gifts and skills.



HOPE

“We say, ‘You are a person who is worthy of support and intervention.’ That is what gives me hope.”
— Gary Ivory ’89

for a brighter future

Gary Ivory ’89 has the top job at Youth Advocate Program (YAP), Inc., but his inspiration comes from his childhood on a farm in East Texas and a never-give-up determination to help others.

As president and interim CEO, Ivory oversees the community-based programming dedicated to helping young people and their families avoid unnecessary out-of-home placements in foster care, group homes, youth prisons, or detention centers. He leads 2,100 staff members in the \$85 million operation in 34 states and Washington D.C., along with global offices in Africa, Europe, Ireland, Australia, and Guatemala.

“We want to strengthen families and keep young people safely at home,” Ivory says. “We believe that when young people are safely supported in their homes and in their communities, they are more likely to reach their full potential as healthy, well-rounded, and engaged members of our society.”

Since 1975, the YAP Wraparound Model envelops the participants in grace and works with them to plan for their own success, then provides paid,

trained Advocates and behavioral health staff who help work the plan.

“We talk at YAP that when you experience trauma, when you have seen and witnessed a lot, then those things have an impact on your future,” Ivory said. Gary’s own family experienced poverty and three of his brothers were incarcerated. He’s familiar with a childhood that included exposure to traumatic events.

“Looking back, I realize I did see a lot of things that a lot of people do not see,” he said. “I think having people at Austin College who listened to me, encouraged me and had an interest in not only my academics but also my career path—I think it’s why I wanted to continue to do this kind of work.” Among the faculty and staff who provided a nurturing environment for Gary as a student were Chaplain Henry Bucher and the late Robert Mason, basketball coach.

“I appreciate every day at Austin College,” he said. “The relationship with them was so important. They’re the ones who helped to guide me through a process, and they prepared me to go to seminary. All



that prepared me to answer my ‘why’ to do what I’m doing now.”

Ivory was ordained as a Christian minister at 17 years old, and after graduating from Austin College with majors in English and Business, he completed a Master of Divinity degree in Ethics at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He says, “Austin College was a great place to explore my faith. The calling God gave me was a sense of wanting to help others who had been hurting in some way. I always say we are serving the least, last, lonely, and unloved. That’s what this is all about.”

In his 30-year career, Gary has met and worked with thousands of youths and their families. He readily recalls Dante, who in early 1993 survived a gang shooting in Dallas, when others did not. “I preached three funerals in one week,” Ivory says. “Dante’s mom had addiction issues; he identified with a gang. He was so angry—the angriest kid I’d ever seen. We helped his mom deal with her drug problem in rehab while we worked with him on his anger. He was assigned a paid mentor who met with him several hours a week. You see, Dante was

a leader, but you couldn’t see that because of all the things at home that were masking that in him.”

YAP helps bring out the best in people and supports many through scholarships for education and vocational training. The Tom Jeffers Endowment Fund for Continuing Education, named after the YAP founder, has raised more than \$2 million and supplied financial support to more than 300 current or past program participants.

“We never give up,” Ivory says. “Dante did well—I still hear from him. He got off probation. He did AmeriCorps. He’s not incarcerated. To me that’s a success. We extend ‘untraditional charity’ that never gives up on people: even when they make mistakes, even when they have a relapse, even when they go back to a relationship that was bad for them, even when they have a law violation. We still don’t give up.”

“We say, ‘You are a person who is worthy of support and intervention,’” he says. “That is what gives me hope.”

For more information about the work done at YAP, go to <https://www.yapinc.org>.

COURAGE

to commit to the cause



When **Kaitlin Elledge '11** talks about Beads of Courage, her emotions well up. As a triathlete, she recalls the power of two beads pinned over her heart to move her focus from herself to others.

Beads of Courage is a nonprofit organization that serves 60,000 seriously ill children worldwide with beads that commemorate each step of their medical journey. In 2005, Jean Gribbon, R.N., Ph.D., founded the arts-in-medicine program in Tuscon, Arizona to support children, their families, and clinical caregivers by giving them a meaningful way to tell their stories and commemorate their courage. With 400 partner hospitals worldwide, Beads of Courage delivers more than 14 million beads each year.

Anyone can build a strand of beads by participating in the Carry a Bead program like Kaitlin did in her first Iron Man race. She chose Iron Man as a way to continue her athletic endeavors after playing years of college soccer. It would be challenging, and she could compete alongside her triathlete father who encouraged her. On the eve of the race, a friend told her about Carry a Bead and

invited her to take part. Saying yes was the starting gun for a long commitment to a worthy cause.

Carry a Bead invites anyone: athletes, birdwatchers, astronauts, Olympians, singers, Nascar drivers, anyone to carry a matching set of beads with them at any sort of event. The idea is that the beads go on an adventure, then the carrier sends one back with the story of the event and keeps one for their own strand. The returned bead and the handwritten note will ultimately go to a child in the program to give them courage.

“I pinned this matching set of beads over my heart on my tri-suit,” Kaitlin says. “It changed the way I thought about racing. There’s a dark time in each event within a triathlon when I think, ‘This is really tough, and I don’t know why I’m doing this. I have lost my mind.’ But suddenly the beads change my perspective.”

Kaitlin continued, “I was fortunate enough to train and race, and I felt like it was my responsibility to get those beads across the finish line, because what I was going through was not like anything the kids are going through in our program. I was not undergoing cancer treatment, or I had not recently



“When you talk to a child who has received beads and they can tell you what every bead on their strand means and what their favorite one means, when they got it, and why they got it — it’s heartbreaking, but it’s also impactful and inspiring.”
— **Kaitlin Elledge '11**



COURTESY PHOTOS

had a heart transplant. The program brings so much perspective to the athletes who are carrying those beads—and it just got me through. After that I carried beads in everything I did—every race, every vacation, all of it. So, I’ve built a strand of beads knowing all of those have a sister bead with a child somewhere.”

Since that race in 2012, Kaitlin met and worked with Jean Gribbon and completed a marketing program for Beads of Courage as a capstone project for her Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at Austin. She and her project team designed a Carry a Bead program specifically for heroes and first responders by creating the collateral, kits, and marketing for the program. Soon after, Jean invited her to be on the board of directors, where she brings her unique skill set as a business-minded athlete who loves the arts to help strategically grow the program around the world.

She says that her time at Austin College, where she majored in Spanish and Business Administration, played women’s soccer, and spent many hours working with technical aspects of

theatre, prepared her for her profession in business and her nonprofit service.

“I think the ability to do a lot of different things at one time at Austin College helped prepare me tactically to manage a lot of different things that I want to do. Beads of Courage lets me be involved in the business side by helping plan strategy for the growth of the organization. I can also immediately participate as an athlete, and then Beads of Courage is one of few arts-in-medicine treatment programs that is not raising money for a future disease—we’re working on making the patient better today.”

Kaitlin, who has met many Bead Families over the years, says, “When you talk to a child who has received beads and they can tell you what every bead on their strand means and what their favorite one means, when they got it, and why they got it — it’s heartbreaking, but it’s also impactful and inspiring. It changes the perspective for the child from ‘I got poked with a needle 45 times in the last month to ‘Oh my gosh, look at all these beads I got!’”

■ If you would like to learn more about Beads of Courage, go to www.beadsofcourage.org.

GRIT

“Being able to elevate my patients’ quality of life has been life-changing for both me and my patients. Over time you become an extended part of their families.”
— Dwight Putnam ’93

to reinvent and grow

Sometimes it’s the “dry spell” in a career that births the best ideas ... just ask an artist.

Dwight Putnam ’93 is a former pre-med student turned art major who worked as a commercial sculptor and is now a highly skilled pediatric prosthetist. He is well acquainted with the grit necessary to change a plan.

Dwight says he lasted 15 minutes in Austin College pre-med organic chemistry class when he realized he needed a new major and a new career. He chose art and soon met fellow artist **Johnny Edwards ’93**, who not only was a good friend and talented sculptor but also played a key role in Dwight’s early career as a commercial fabricator.

“While I had great ideas, it would actually take many years before my hand skills caught up,” Dwight says. “**Mark Monroe** (Associate Professor of Art) encouraged me, saying, ‘As long as you continue to make art, your hands will eventually catch up with your mind.’ He was right.”

In the early years after graduation from Austin College, Dwight worked with Johnny as a three-dimensional environmental fabricator using his artist skills.

“Life as an artist, while exciting for sure, lacked a certain sense of stability,” he says. “During one of my ‘dry periods,’ my mother suggested I look into an ad in the paper for artists to fabricate realistic silicone prostheses.” With his portfolio, he was hired as a technician sculpting wax hands, feet, fingers, ears, and noses. These sculptures would be molded and turned into realistic prostheses.

Prosthetists become licensed and certified with post-grad education and can expect greater opportunities and more stable careers. After more than 10 years since graduating from Austin College, Dwight completed the graduate program at California State University in Dominguez and a residency at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRH).

“Armed with my portfolio, 10 years of experience as a commercial fabricator and three years as a technician, I set up my interview and TSRH hired me,” he said. “My residency went so well that the hospital created a permanent position for me. The rest, as they say, is history. I hit the ground running and never looked back. That was 15 years ago this last spring.”



Scottish Rite in Dallas, Texas, is a world-renowned specialty hospital focused on pediatric orthopedic conditions. Dwight reports that his department makes roughly 350 to 375 customized prosthetic limbs each year for children who are 9 months to 18 years old. They come from all walks of life, from just about every country around the world.

“The large majority of the upper-extremity devices I make are highly customized tools that allow the patient to participate in whatever activities they have their heart set on,” he said. “I have made upper-extremity devices for playing a variety of musical instruments, riding bikes, cheerleading, gymnastics, football, baseball, horseback riding, fishing, and even for showing livestock at auctions.”

“Being able to elevate my patients’ quality of life has been life-changing for both me and my patients. Over time you become an extended part of their families,” he said. “I am basically a professional uncle to several hundred nieces and nephews from around the globe.”

Technology, such as 3D printing and CAD/CAM technology, has helped expand the number and

types of pediatric prosthetic components that are available. Many were once available only for adults but have been miniaturized and redesigned for smaller amputees.

“We just got our first 3D printer and are waiting on a state-of-the-art 6-axis CAD/CAM carver to be installed in our department,” Dwight says. “This particular brand of carver is only the second one of its type in the world. Now the challenge is getting trained in this technology and figuring out how to apply these amazing machines into our daily practice.”

Not one to back down from change or challenge, Dwight will likely draw on the grit he sees in his young clients to apply the technology to help them realize their dreams.

“This population of amputees is incredibly resilient and very energetic,” he said. “They do not view themselves as being any different than their peers or siblings. This unique perspective drives them to pursue the same activities as their friends and peers. This in turn inspires me to create the best device I can for each patient.”

To learn more about Scottish Rite go to www.scottishriteforchildren.org.

COMPASSION

to teach, learn, and serve

Initially, Lieutenant Commander Alice-Anne Alcorn, DDS, MSD, chose dentistry over general medicine so she could help others and have a predictable schedule, few emergencies, and maybe Fridays off—but then she decided she'd like to see the world.

After completing her bachelor's degree in business administration at Austin College, she joined the Navy and attended Baylor School of Dentistry on a U.S. Military Health Professional Scholarship Program. Taking her family with her, she has served near Hiroshima, lived in Honolulu, Indiana, and Camp Pendleton in California. In mid-summer 2021, she was selected to deploy as the Dental Planner with the Pacific Partnership 2022 aboard the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

Named for the virtue of compassion, the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) brings people of different nations together, building relationships as they prepare to work together in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. Participating nations in the 2022 deployment included United States, Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Oregon National Guard, Republic of Korea, and Chile.

The USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) was converted from oil tanker to hospital ship in the mid-80s. It's

the largest hospital ship in the world and one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States. When fully staffed, there are up to 1200 medical professionals and 70 crew members aboard the ship.

Alice-Anne's duties as Dental Planner began months before the trip was scheduled to embark in January 2022. After many hurdles, including COVID restrictions and proverbial red tape at home and abroad, the ship and crew finally set out in May 2022.

She says the Austin College experience helped her navigate the changes in plans and press on toward the goal. "That (Austin College) made such a lasting impression and foundation," she said. "Classes like Heritage (Heritage of Western Civilization) made you get out of your comfort zone and look at the world in a different way. I realized there's not always just one way to do something. You can pivot, be flexible, and adapt to the new challenges."

In the military, this is called "Semper Gumby," and it's a helpful skill for big missions like this.

"The purpose of these Pacific Partnerships is to build relationships with our ally nations so if a disaster occurs ... we've got the lay of the land and we'll know what resources may be readily available



“We are always learning and paying it forward. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what you speak. We had translators; but when you’re doing dentistry, you don’t always have to talk.”
— Alice-Anne Thompson Alcorn '05



COURTESY PHOTOS



or not,” she said. The Pacific Partnership deploys annually into the Indo-Pacific Region, although the destinations may vary. On this tour, host nations included Vietnam, the Philippines, Palau, and Solomon Islands.

Alice-Anne arrived in the Solomon Islands two full months ahead of the ship to scout out facilities, assess dental and medical supplies and needs, and begin scheduling engagements with the Solomon Islanders. She says she felt like she became an Islander for that time.

“I saw how little they have and how difficult it is to just get around on small buses,” she said. “They walk five miles to get anywhere. Some would have to take a banana boat, but it could cost a year’s salary.”

Working alongside the medical professionals at the various locations, the dentists and hygienists saw 3,713 dental patients. Doctors, surgeons, optometrists and even veterinarians completed thousands of engagements to care for the people and their animals—all the while, teaching and learning from one another.

Alice-Anne’s Austin College opportunities such as JanTerm in Spain, Model UN, Posey Leadership Institute, and even Heritage class gave her a picture of how the diplomatic process works and how to

understand the goals and needs of the host country.

“We are always learning and paying it forward. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what you speak,” she said. “We had translators; but when you’re doing dentistry, you don’t always have to talk.”

The Pacific Partnership 2022 included engineering projects to build schools, renovate playgrounds and improve facilities. Community engagement opportunities included beach cleanups and tree planting, reading at schools, band concerts, and sports events like soccer and basketball with the locals.

As a Navy dentist, Alice-Anne has enjoyed a group-practice environment, served her country, and had the benefit of traveling the world. And, on the USNS Mercy, she said “yes” to her original why—to help others, while completely setting aside all options for a predictable schedule.

To read more, search Pacific Partnership at www.cpt.navy.mil.

DEPTH

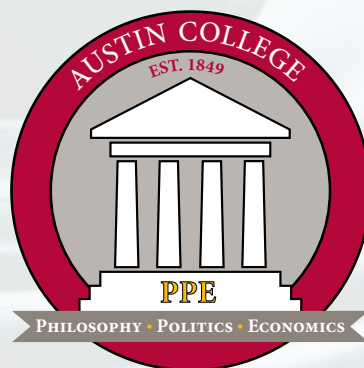
of New Academic Program Prepares Servant Leaders

Well known for preparing servant leaders who step boldly into the world, Austin College has implemented a Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) program that is designed to help students explore and make connections across those disciplines.

PPE was first offered at Oxford University about 100 years ago to educate political leaders. Today, the aim of PPE has expanded, and the number of programs has grown worldwide to more than 100 institutions of higher education.

Students can go “deep and wide” in this program and bypass the regular requirement of completing a minor; they complete a capstone project that includes independent research with a faculty advisor. Austin College PPE program directors are **Dr. Audrey Fleming**, Associate Professor of Political Science; **Dr. Mark Hébert**, Associate Professor of Philosophy; and **Dr. Daniel Nuckols**, Associate Professor of Economics.

Upon completing the PPE program, students are prepared to enter work in public and private sectors, business, and nonprofit arenas. Those who continue to post-graduate education are poised for deeper study in philosophy, economics, political science, business, policy, and public affairs. ■



Health Campus Takes Shape for New PA Program



PHOTOS BY GARY S. WACKER



◀ Signage identifying the Health Campus lights the way for the new Master's level PA Program, the second post-graduate degree offered at Austin College.

Austin College's longstanding commitment to pre-health education aims for the future with a new pathway for students interested in medicine. The addition of a graduate program, Master of Medical Science–Physician Assistant, expands the 'Roo footprint on the health care field in an area of tremendous need. Courses will be taught at the Austin College Health Campus, a 13,000-square-foot space for program administration and classroom instruction.

Work on the Health Campus started in spring 2022 after Austin College leased space in an office building adjacent to Texoma Medical Center in Denison. The renovations created two large classrooms, observation rooms for training in clinical procedures, conference rooms, common space, and offices. High-tech patient simulators that manifest vital signs, clinical signs, and symptoms will enhance students' training.

The first cohort of approximately 30 students is scheduled to begin classes in June 2024 at the Health Campus site, launching a 24-month plan of study. A new class will matriculate each June.

Austin College is grateful for leadership gifts from the Hillcrest Foundation, Texoma Health Foundation, Clara Blackford and W. Aubrey Smith Foundation, M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation, and individual donors whose generosity has supported start-up costs for the new PA Program.

The program's pre-clinical phase is 13 months of classroom instruction including simulations. Students then move to 11 months of supervised clinical practice experiences in outpatient, inpatient, emergency department, and operating room settings. Clinical experiences will be supervised by preceptors—health care practitioners who work one-on-one with PA students to teach the medical competencies of a Physician Assistant.

"PAs serve as an integral part of team-based healthcare and can improve access to care in underserved communities," says **Dr. Diana Noller**, founding director of Austin College's program. "We aim to educate PAs who understand the impact of illness and disease on the lives of others and are capable of providing high-quality, patient-centered health care that reflects the principles of medical humanities." ■

For more information on PA Program faculty, curriculum, and application requirements, visit <https://paprogram.austincollege.edu/>

Austin College has applied for Accreditation – Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The Austin College PA program anticipates matriculating its first class in June 2024, pending achieving Accreditation – Provisional status at the September 2023 ARC-PA meeting. Accreditation – Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding accreditation-provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. The PA program at Austin College will not commence in the event that provisional accreditation is not received. This means that students will not matriculate into the program and any deposits that have been made will be refunded. The Austin College PA program is approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The PA program has submitted substantive change and off-campus instructional site applications to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is awaiting accreditation decisions on these applications.

Resistance is Not Futile

By Leslie Whelan
Contributing Writer

How Austin College is Recovering Local History

Austin College alumni have traveled down Brockett Street countless times; through campus, over railroad tracks, and past homes and businesses—including the former home of a prominent Sherman resident of the last century. The dwelling at 314 East Brockett Street bears no indication that attorney William J. Durham (1896-1970) once lived here. One of few African American attorneys in Texas in the early twentieth century, Durham collaborated with future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to win the case *Sweatt v. Painter* that successfully integrated the University of Texas School of Law by challenging the “separate but equal” doctrine. That court decision served as a key precedent in the later Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, that struck down segregation in public schools.

Thanks to the work of Austin College students and faculty, local awareness of Durham’s historical significance is growing. The Social Justice Walking Tour, developed in 2018 and currently led by Assistant Professor of History **Dr. Felix Harcourt**, illuminates otherwise forgotten Sherman landmarks

“In the burying of the history of the violence is the burying of the activism in response to that violence. Therefore, this has been our goal: to try to tell those stories in such a way that recognizes both of these elements.”

—Dr. Felix Harcourt
Assistant Professor of History

such as Durham’s house and the former site of Sherman’s lost Black business district. Ninety years ago, the G.W. Andrews Building was the hub of this once-thriving three blocks of businesses and professional offices; Durham practiced law there. In 1930, however, life in Sherman took an unexpected and grim turn.

On May 3 of that year, a Black Grayson County resident named George Hughes was accused of assaulting a white woman and was arrested. Fearing that a mob would lynch Hughes, the Grayson County Sheriff sent him out of town until his trial. During his May 9 trial, 5,000 people filled the Grayson County Courthouse square demanding that Hughes be handed over. The prisoner was sheltered in a vault, but the mob set the Courthouse on fire, and Hughes did not survive as the building was consumed in flames. The mob retrieved Hughes’ body and dragged it four blocks to the Black business district, then burned down the G.W. Andrews building and surrounding businesses and homes. Only one rioter was convicted for arson; no one for lynching.

Durham's office was gone, but he stayed in Sherman until 1943, eventually moving to Dallas to continue a long and distinguished career. Yet, little is known about his life in Sherman because his community was destroyed. Many Black residents fled after the riot, and while the courthouse was built anew, the Black business district was never rebuilt. The 1930 riot had made international headlines, but regional efforts to preserve accounts of what happened were sparse. Then, once again, a tragic event altered the status quo. In 2020, the death of George Floyd at the hand of police in Minnesota stirred local citizens and community leaders to re-examine and explore their own history; Austin College has had the opportunity to contribute to these efforts.

UNCOVERING FORGOTTEN STORIES

After his initial involvement with the Social Justice Walking Tour, Harcourt says, "I wanted to think about ways that we could have students and the campus community engaged in local history more often—to have them think more about where they are, where they're living, and the history of the area." A grant initiative offered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) presented an ideal

opportunity to build upon existing endeavors. Harcourt, along with Assistant Professor of History **Dr. Claire Wolnisty** and **Dr. Greg Kinzer**, Professor of English and Dean of Humanities, applied for funding with the hope of expanding Austin College activities and resources related to "Racial Violence and Resistance." Their proposal resulted in CIC naming Austin College as one of seven Regional Collaboration Partners for the project, "Legacies of American Slavery: Reckoning with the Past." Wolnisty, Harcourt, and Kinzer were awarded a three-year, \$180,000 grant.

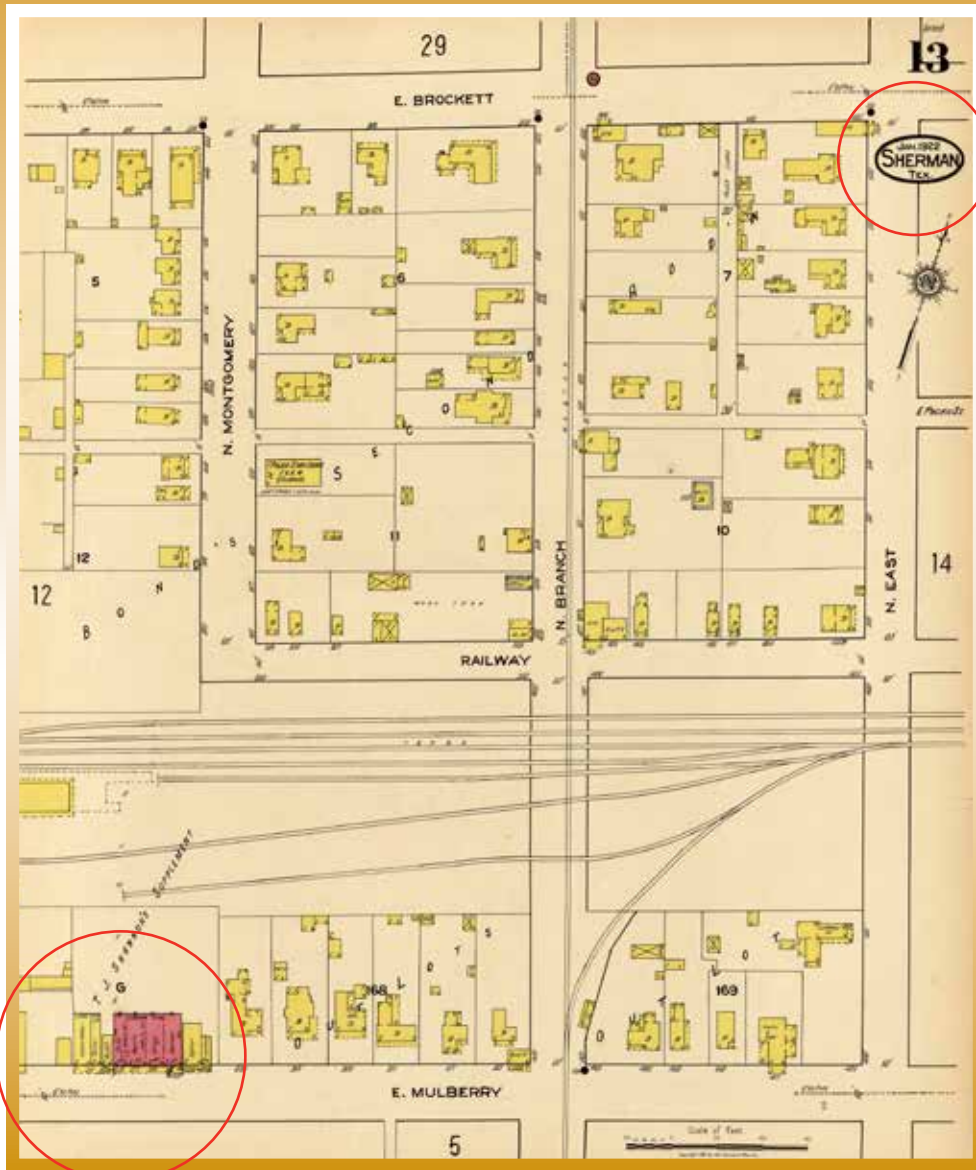
Thus far, this grant has enabled Austin College faculty to offer collegiate workshops, host a conference, foster student research, and support community partners in local public history efforts.

The 2021 collegiate workshop engaged Austin College faculty interested in revising or creating courses with respect to the local history.

In 2022, the workshop was opened to other institutions in order to establish networks with colleges that may share parallel histories and themes. Wolnisty stated that the overall goal of these workshops has been to build a cohort of faculty who will carry this work into their future classes and share those ideas with departmental and



The undistinguished façade of a house near the Austin College campus hides its significant history as the former home of prominent Black attorney William J. Durham. Durham's legal work was crucial in the eventual Supreme Court decision in 1954 to desegregate public schools.



Detailed, hand-drawn fire insurance maps created by the Sanborn Map Company are a rich resource of community history. This 1922 map section of East Sherman depicts commerce and homes along and near Mulberry Street, hub of the once-thriving Black business district. The buildings were burned to the ground in Sherman's 1930 race riot and never rebuilt.

Original map page located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin

divisional colleagues. Further, making connections with other institutions that will transcend the three-year grant is a priority.

Harcourt added, "The way that we can think about these workshops is that, rather than setting up folks to have a course that's just about one thing, we are helping them to integrate these ideas and themes into courses that are going to recur for, hopefully, years."

Student research opportunities have increased as a result of grant funding. During the 2021-2022 academic year, **Mariagisse Morales '23** and **Nate Overby '24** documented the change in Sherman's Black population from 1928 to 1935. **Camille Asmus '24** began analyzing this data in 2022 to clarify the long-term impact of the 1930 riot. Additionally, Morales compiled a directory of incidents of racial violence within close proximity

to other colleges in the CIC network. Morales explained that this directory serves as a resource for other institutions. “A lot of these incidents probably have not been researched. We wanted to create a starting point for other colleges to do the kind of work that Austin College is trying to do,” she said. As a future educator, Morales endeavors to share local history with students, noting that “history is always being made. It changes a little bit due to time and place, but if students do not understand what happened in the past, how can they understand what’s happening in the present?”

Clemon White '24 was inspired to learn more about William J. Durham after enrolling in Harcourt’s 2022 January Term course, “The History of Racial Violence in Texoma.” Harcourt helped White develop a summer research project to learn more about Durham. White conducted genealogical research and discovered living relatives who are carrying on Durham’s legacy. He has since had the opportunity to meet with and interview Durham’s niece, Judge Mary Ellen Hicks, the first Black female judge in Tarrant County (Texas); and her daughter, Kathleen Hicks, the youngest woman elected to Fort Worth City Council.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

The centerpiece of grant activities has been the regional convening, “Confronting Racial Violence and Resistance,” hosted by the College in September 2022. “We are here to give voice, and to listen,” said Kinzer at the conference opening. Visiting scholars shared presentations about confronting racial violence through visual and performing arts, teaching, and creative writing; they additionally discussed commemoration and memorialization, histories of violence and white supremacy, and histories of resistance.

While the word “resistance” often connotes a physical struggle against a violent aggressor, several visiting scholars offered thoughtful counter-perspectives about this concept with regard to racial injustice. Participants and attendees collectively expressed that the existence of this conference in and of itself was an act of bravery—an act of resistance. Dr. Kalenda Eaton of the University of Oklahoma, one of the conference speakers, described the evolution of her own understanding of resistance. She said, “Resistance was always tied to some kind of organized rebellion. As I was growing up, I saw that resistance was not that. Resistance was some sort of willful rejection of whatever they tried to do to us. One’s ability to resist can be tied to the rejection of the status quo.”

Reflecting on the opportunities at hand, Harcourt noted that the CIC grant has encouraged Austin College to position itself as a regional leader on issues of resistance to violence. “This is a destination; this grant makes the campus nationally known,” he said. “It has taken such a concerted effort to break through the wall of silence that has been built brick by brick for decades.”

In spite of such barriers, Austin College has demonstrated its remarkable ability to foster social engagement in students, faculty, and the wider community. As Clemon White reflected, “Being at Austin College encourages you to think critically, to question things, to be inquisitive, and to search for the truth.” ■

Leslie Whelan enjoys supporting the Austin College community through her work as a writer, nonprofit administrator, and performing artist. Since joining the Sherman Symphony Orchestra as a cellist and as coordinator of educational programs, she has collaborated with Austin College students and faculty in myriad ways. Leslie is a director and co-founder of Austin College Summer Music Camp, which launched in 2022.



Fort Worth, Texas, native **Clemon White '24** is majoring in Political Science and minoring in English. He plans to attend law school; he’s serving as president of the Austin College Pre-Law Society in 2022-2023, and was awarded a Summers Foundation Scholarship and the Joaquin Johnson Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding Student in Pre-Law. He also was selected as student speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day community celebration in 2022.

Connecting People and Place



Austin College Vice President for Institutional Enrollment **Baylee Kowert '05** knows well what visitors and students are thinking when they come to visit.

As the campus emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic in summer 2022, the College's leadership was taking a fresh look at the physical environment of the campus. "We realized it was important to reconnect with each other in spaces that provide comfort, familiarity, and inspiration," Kowert explained. "Everywhere our students study, live, gather, and enjoy meals together should reflect the energy and forward motion that the next generation of 'Roos will be delivering into their communities."



Some 21st century updates were needed. Plans were developed for a Campus Esthetics project that addressed signage, landscaping, and hospitality spots to connect the College's powerful academic brand with the physical spaces where Austin College life transpires.

"Austin College is rooted in a place-based educational learning experience, with the emphasis being on 'experience,'" said Kowert. "The experience encompasses everything from the lecture of the day in the Economics course, to the welcoming sounds of the library, to the food in the dining hall. These elements make up the impressions experienced by our students, faculty, staff, and prospective students, and help connect them to the mission of Austin College."

The first phase of the Esthetics project has resulted in large-scale outdoor banners placed at the entries of key locations. Wright Campus Center, Abell Library, and Mason Athletic Complex have crimson-and-gold banners that tell the story of what is inside each space. These signs and others make campus navigation easier for visitors and also project some bold 'Roo spirit.

"The Campus Esthetics project aims to fuse how one feels about this place with the design of the campus, and elevate the experience of being here," said Kowert. "We want interaction with the College to move from being just another day on campus to an inspiring sense of community where everyone belongs and strives to be their best." ■

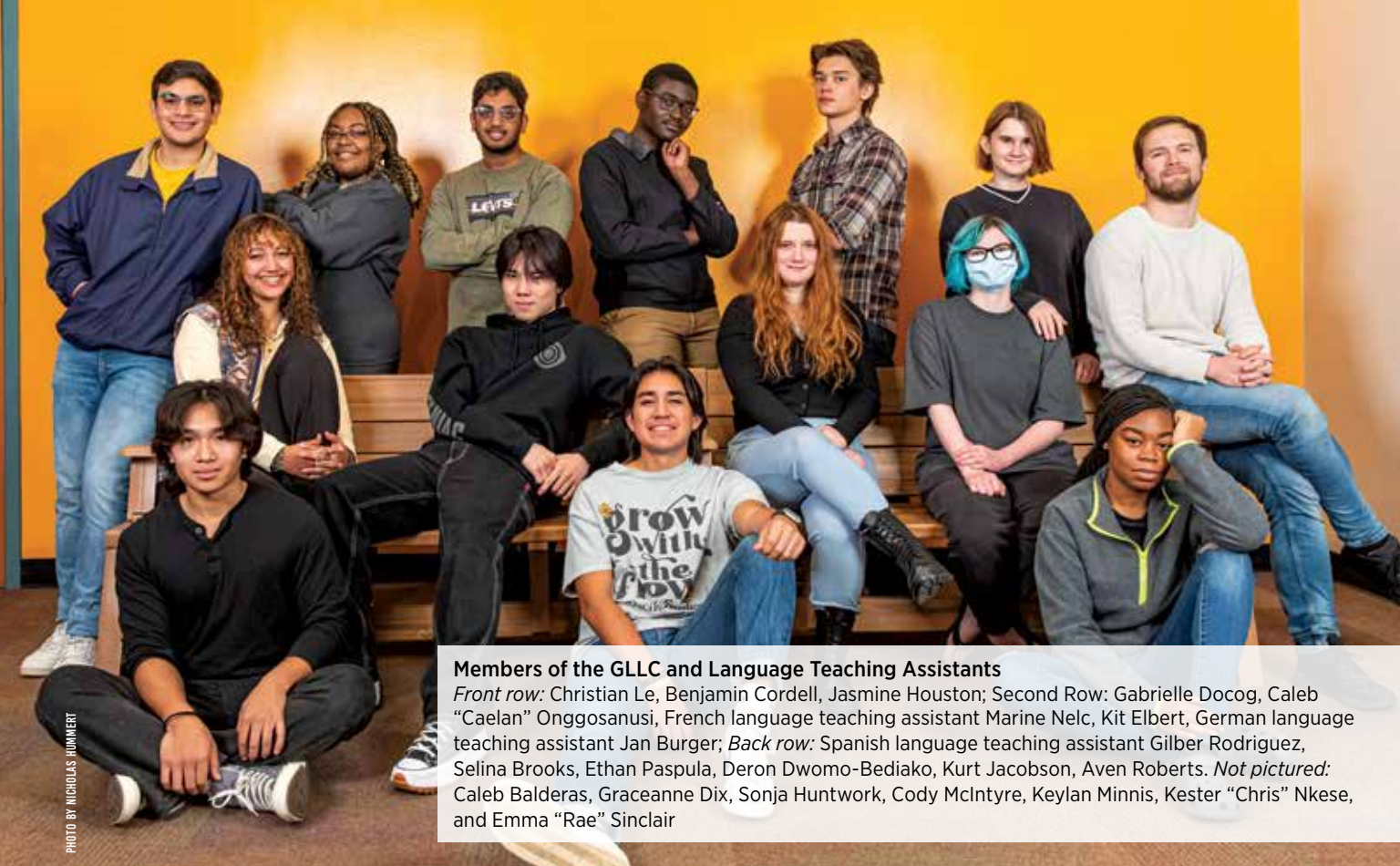


PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

Members of the GLLC and Language Teaching Assistants

Front row: Christian Le, Benjamin Cordell, Jasmine Houston; *Second Row:* Gabrielle Docog, Caleb “Caelan” Onggosanusi, French language teaching assistant Marine Nelc, Kit Elbert, German language teaching assistant Jan Burger; *Back row:* Spanish language teaching assistant Gilber Rodriguez, Selina Brooks, Ethan Paspula, Deron Dwomo-Bediako, Kurt Jacobson, Aven Roberts. *Not pictured:* Caleb Balderas, Graceanne Dix, Sonja Huntwork, Cody McIntyre, Keylan Minnis, Kester “Chris” Nkese, and Emma “Rae” Sinclair

Going Global While Living Local *First-Year Cohort Launches Residential Program*

The newly formed Global Living Learning Community (GLLC) in the Jordan Family Language House not only fills a wing of the unique residence hall, but also helps interested first-year students engage in global learning from the start of their Austin College experience.

The 18 first-year students in the inaugural cohort of GLLC were chosen by application when they showed a serious interest in global learning—not just for the sake of travel, but also to learn meaningful ways to serve others and represent the College to the world. Aside from living together and attending monthly programming, the diverse students have varied academic interests and co-curricular activities.

Cheryl Marcelo, Director of International Programs, works with **Dr. Beth Gill**, Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Dr. Julie Hempel**, Associate Professor of Spanish; **Dr. Colin Foss**, Assistant Professor of French; and **Dr. Wolfgang Lueckel**, Associate Professor of German, to plan and execute the programming. The students have

discussed topics such as different responses to COVID-19 around the world and how different cultures respond to LGBTQ identities. These discussions were led by Language Assistants who are international graduate-level students living on campus.

Marcelo says, “Our goals are to solidify a community of students who are interested in global learning; to have them be prepared to take what they’ve learned into their sophomore year and later, and be prepared not only in a practical sense to study abroad but also to have a consciousness of why they want to. Also, we hope some may be interested in learning one of the languages in the Jordan language house ... to keep them engaged from first year to fourth year.”

“We are definitely learning a lot in our first year,” Marcelo continued. “What works really well right now is integrating the rest of the Jordan residents, who are older. I think students enjoy getting to know other students and getting a peek at what is possible for them.” ■

Global Learning for a Bigger Purpose

As post-pandemic travel conditions continue to improve, Austin College students have returned to study abroad. Semester programs and JanTerm courses provide opportunities for students to become more independent and start to develop their role for good in the global community. Of the 16 students who studied abroad in 2022, these three have shared their favorite experiences.

Amna Haque '23

Major: Anthropology

Minor: Chemistry

Studied in Amman Jordan;

School for International Training

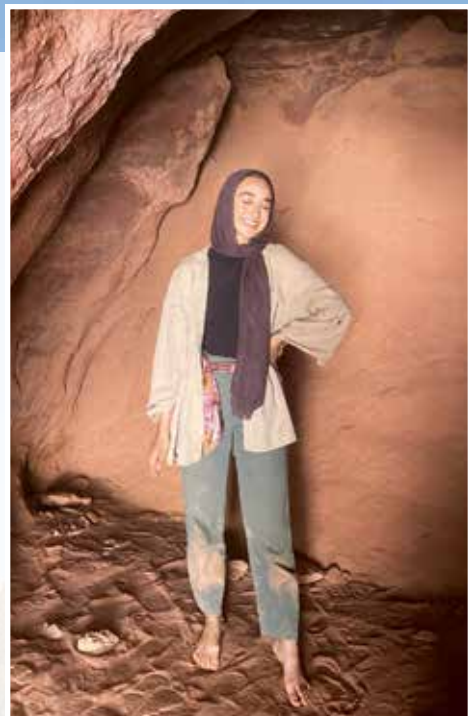
How did you prepare?

Aside from the practical components such as making sure my passport was valid, figuring out my flight details to Amman, and packing, I also wanted to make sure I was spending quality time with my family, friends, and community before I left. For that reason, my summer was full of wonderful memories. I have friends who have lived in Amman or visit their family there quite often, so I made sure to ask them any questions I had and sought their advice on life in Jordan. I also did my own research on what to know going into a study abroad. Lastly, I tried to practice some Arabic, so I had a baseline of phrases and vocabulary to use until Arabic class started.

What did you learn about yourself and the place you visited?

I learned so much! Honestly, this has been such an incredible time of my life. I love my people and my home, but being away and figuring out life for myself has taught me so much. I learned to advocate for myself, be truly comfortable with my own company, and to gain control over my outlook on life and reaction to events. I have gained contentment and increased my gratitude for the life I live. I knew living in Jordan would be different from Texas, and it kind of felt like the back-home feeling many in the West with Eastern origin feel—it was almost nostalgic. I loved it, though.

I know a lot about Levantine culture because many of my friends are originally from this region. Being in Jordan, though, I came to learn a lot about the lifestyle because I was so immersed within it. The knowledge I gained wasn't just on the culture, but the economy, history, and current issues being faced by those in Jordan, as well. In Amman, there are a lot of refugees and migrants—mostly Palestinians, Syrians, and





PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMNA HAQUE '23

Iraqis. I was able to interact with so many of them and learn from them what I don't think I would be able to learn elsewhere. Something to know about Amman is that expenses are high and, for most, wages are low. This makes life very challenging. However, I met some of the most content and at-peace people in Jordan despite the difficulties they face.

What was your favorite experience?

My favorite area we visited was The South of Jordan. First, we went to Wadi Musa (The Valley of Moses). Most people know about Petra, which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Petra is an ancient city in Wadi Musa. We stayed here for a night only and I don't think I will ever forget the sunset I saw across the mountains that day. The next day we went to Wadi Rum, also known as Valley of the Moon. I hiked up a small mountain and watched the sun set here, too. I had so much fun with my study abroad family during our night in Wadi Musa learning Jordanian dabke (a traditional dance) and doing karaoke. Stargazing was my favorite part. It was incredible.



Hector Diaz III '23
Major: International Economics and Finance
Minor: Accounting
Studied at University of Westminster in London, England

How did you prepare for your trip abroad?

I began preparing for my study abroad trip a year before I planned to go, which meant I had to do extensive research on where I wanted to go and what university I wanted to attend. Then, I met with **Cheryl Marcelo**, the Director of International Programs, to go over my options and begin the process. I renewed my passport, ensured I had all important documents ready and applied to the study abroad program of my choice. I was able to meet with **Hayley Jordan** at the Office of Financial Aid to discuss the finances of my trip and with **Dr. Ashley Tharayil**, Department Chair of Economics and Business Administration, to confirm the classes taken abroad would keep me on track to graduate in four years. Having Cheryl Marcelo and the study abroad program, International Studies Abroad (ISA), guide me throughout the process allowed me to be fully prepared for the journey that was awaiting me.

What did you learn about yourself and the place you visited?

Aside from having the urge to now travel all around the world, I learned that the world is bigger than what we are used to seeing. Meeting people from different cultures, talking with locals in London and visiting places that I once dreamt of visiting as a child proved to me that whatever we want to do in this world, we are more than capable of doing it.

What was your favorite experience?

My favorite landmark that I visited abroad was the spectacular scenery at the Seven Sister Cliffs, and I enjoyed an unforgettable hike through the cliffs from Seaford to Eastbourne, England.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HECTOR DIAZ '23



Zuni-Ire V. Rubio '23

Majors: Creative Writing & Communications
Studied in Dublin, Ireland; IES Abroad

How did you prepare for your trip abroad?

Going to Ireland, I honestly didn't know much about it. I don't have any familiar connections to the country and hadn't heard much historically or about the culture. I stuck to watching a few YouTube videos about social etiquette and the rest (such as transportation) I figured out once I was in Ireland.

What did you learn about yourself and the place you visited?

How boring American English is compared to Irish English. I will definitely say that you can wait to get your phone SIM card until you are in Ireland, rather than buying a pre-paid one ahead of time. It's a lot cheaper.

What was your favorite experience?

It's technically not an event but joining the Trinity Swimming and Water Polo Club in Dublin was one of the top decisions I made in Ireland. Not only did I make great friends and meet the sweetest people, but because of the international nature of Trinity College, I've met people from all over the world. Other than that, I really liked visiting Sligo and Donegal—the west coast is so pretty if you like nature! Do take the time to go to Heritage sites, like Newgrange. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZUNI-IRE RUBIO '23



BACKGROUND PHOTO BY MIKE SCHNITZER

Apple Stadium Becomes a Bright Spot for All 'Roos



The May 22 groundbreaking ceremony at Jerry E. Apple Stadium started the clock to complete the major enhancement project that would transform the facility and make it a place for all 'Roos, their families, and guests.

Crews from Hellas Construction worked seven days a week over the summer to install the artificial turf field, a fitness track, and updated visitor stands. Stadium lighting was installed by Nema3 Electric. At the football season home opener on September 10,


the College welcomed donors and friends for a special celebration and a kickoff to a new era for the sports facility.


The updates to Apple Stadium not only elevate the 'Roo football experience, but also open the gates for activities ranging from individual fitness to competitive intramural sports. This high-impact project was made possible by the philanthropy of many generous donors. ■

ROOS




STADIUM FACTS

 **Jerry E. Apple Stadium** is named for the late Jerry Apple '60, who, along with his wife Joy, supported Austin College athletics and made generous gifts toward many other campus initiatives.

 Austin College trustee **Joy Apple** joined the 'Roo team captains for the coin toss at the first football game in the enhanced stadium.

 **15,000 cubic yards of topsoil** were removed to prepare for the artificial turf field. That makes about a **30' x 80'** heap of excellent soil for future use on campus.

 There are **64 light fixtures** in the stadium with directional lighting on the field, track, and stands. When all the super-efficient LED bulbs are on, the lights supply close to **200,000 lumens**. For reference, a typical kitchen fixture illuminates at 60 to 80 lumens.

White is Ready for Crimson and Gold



After a nationwide search, **Tony Joe White** was named new head coach for the Austin College football program. “His accomplishments on the field speak to his football knowledge and pedigree as a coach,” said Athletics Director David Norman ’83 (MA ’84). “He also brings an outstanding background and understanding of NCAA Division III athletics, and as a native Texan, comes in with tremendous connections within the state’s football community.” White comes to Sherman from Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama where he served in the same role since 2017.

Speaking about his move to Sherman, Coach White says, “Austin College is a tremendous product to get to sell. The type of young man who is attracted to a place like Austin College is always a driven and ambitious person, and it’s fun to get to know those types of people. I look forward to being able to take what we do here and sell it to prospective students all over Texas. To be associated with AC is exciting for me.”

“This is all about the experience for these kids,” he continued. “There’s an outcome here at AC that you don’t get at other places. It’s the best of both worlds: you’ll get to have an elite academic experience and a great football experience. We’re excited about what the future holds.” ■



Success On and Off the Field

Athletes Gain Support and Recognition

Austin College’s newly reorganized Center for Student Success and Access Services now provides centrally located academic support specifically geared to student-athletes. **Cece O’Day** is in her second year as Coordinator for Student-Athlete Success, and as a former Division III athlete herself, she understands the time, dedication, physical and emotional strength that are needed to succeed.

“The students here are concerned with their academics, and they just want to keep playing their sport,” she said. “We have nearly 40 percent of our student population as athletes. We call it ‘the something else’ that makes the college experience satisfying. It could be pep band, theatre, or for these students—it’s their sport.”

For those who need added support to be their best in the classroom, Cece’s door is open. “I have students I meet with weekly to talk and stay on track,” she said. “And I do a lot of referring on to the next step, such as tutors, the writing center, or the counselor.”



As an outcome of her work with student-athletes, Cece was the catalyst to charter Chi Alpha Sigma, a national student-athlete academic honor society at Austin College. With the endorsements of Athletics Director **David Norman** and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Beth Gill**, the charter class was inducted in Spring 2022, with Cece as sponsor.

As one of 308 chapters nationwide, the Austin College chapter follows these eligibility guidelines: the student-athlete must attend a four-year accredited college or university that is an NCAA or NAIA member; hold a cumulative minimum 3.4 GPA; and have an endorsement from their head coach and be of good moral character. Austin College has chosen to reserve membership for senior class athletes.

“I think it’s motivating for the athletes,” O’Day said. “They know that someone is paying attention to all they are accomplishing.” Members of Chi Alpha Sigma received recognition at their Commencement ceremony and are eligible to apply for national graduate level scholarships.

“We have a lot of truly excellent student-athletes,” say Cece. “That’s one of the really fun things for me to recognize with the honor society. Once you’re pursuing excellence one place, you’re pursuing excellence everywhere. It’s fun to watch them do it, and it’s fun to help along the way.” ■

Charter Class of Austin College Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees

Football

Jacob Hanes, Tyler James

Volleyball

Mari Prazak, Brooklyn Talley

Men’s Soccer

Nick Kazanas, Xander Spurlock

Women’s Soccer

Sarah Carmichael, Taylor Dornseifer,
Meredith Harris, Hailey Woodard

Baseball

James Adams, Sergio De Paoli,
Kyle Lemke, Jordan Miller, Jon Voos

Women’s Basketball

Natalie McCoy

Men’s Swimming

Ben Rafalski

Women’s Swimming

Louisa White

Men’s Water Polo


Kyle Brown, Taiton Fox, Will Koelzer,
Tanner O’Dwyer, Brett Skinner, Sam Skinner

Women’s Water Polo

Shannon Berry, Kendall Katusak, Brooke Le,
Sophie Oliver, Valery Piachonkina, Madison Taylor, Lexi Wong



DEI
Conversations
Spark
Change



By Carrie Johnson '24
Contributing Writer

The identity of Austin College centers on life-changing learning experiences for its students. The College's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program has been refocused and refined to ensure that all Austin College students have equal possibilities to discover transformative moments that change their lives—and then, their world. Many of these experiences happen beyond the classroom. Learning includes action, but begins with conversation, so students on campus are sparking conversations around respecting and nurturing differences in themselves and others.

Through the work of the DEI office, student organizations, and **Dr. Carlos Lassiter**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, Austin College is on a powerful path of growth.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office intern **Kaitlyn Malone '23** is completing a Chemistry major with a Spanish minor and is on the Pre-Med track. She relates the phrase “transformative experience” to her own opportunities at Austin College and says she doesn't feel limited because she is a young black woman. “I feel like the classroom is open, opportunities are open,” she said. “Do you have to kind of hunt for them and ask questions for opportunities? Yes, but just knowing that people see you as more than what meets the eye is important.”

Austin College has what is called a minority majority with 51% of the students identifying as non-white. They include Latinx (Hispanic), AANAPI (Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander), Black, and multiracial.

Diversity in the college context means to include or involve people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc. As affirmed by the data on student population, the Austin College student body is diverse.



51% of Austin College Students Identify as BIPOC*

Diversity in the college context means to include or involve people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.

*Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Inclusion has two definitions—one is the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources to people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have physical or mental disabilities and members of minority groups, and the second definition is the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.

Equity is the quality of being fair and impartial. The goal of Austin College DEI programming is to be fair and accepting of all people.

However, sometimes diversity, equity, and inclusion can be uncomfortable for people to talk about, Lassiter says. In response to that, the DEI program is on a mission to ignite meaningful conversations among students, faculty, and staff. Lassiter has created a foundational framework of events to introduce basic concepts to the College community.

Lassiter and volunteers from the campus are facilitating 12 sessions, which began in September 2022 in partnership with the Johnson Center for Faculty Development and Excellence in Teaching. The November 2022 session was the annual campus-wide Cunningham Lecture and featured Justin Jones-Fosu, the author of *The Inclusive Mindset: How to Cultivate Diversity in Your Everyday Life*. These sessions, continuing through April 2023, are opportunities for staff to learn about DEI terminology, initiatives, and ways they can better serve and support marginalized students on campus, Lassiter said. The Faculty Learning Series explores DEI issues that impact students' learning on campus.

Sessions for students are designed so they can engage with each other despite a difference of perspective and identity, foster intergroup community that includes diverse identities, explore personal experience and societal issues, and supply

tools for navigating differences among people on and off campus.

Kaitlyn said, “I really just hope students come and advocate for themselves and know there’s a platform ready for them to speak on. I feel like there can be a lot of traditionalism in the classroom sometimes, so just having people get the sense that things are changing, the world is changing. I need to learn to adapt and learn what’s going on and not just be stuck in my ways.”

At Austin College, several student organizations based on culture and interests, including Black Expressions, Indian Cultural Association, La Familia, Asian Student Association, CHAMPS (Cultivating, Helpful, Aware, and Mindful People of Service), and the Gender-Sexuality Alliance, are vital to spreading awareness and learning to adapt.

Janaye Scales '24 is completing a major in Political Science and a minor in East Asian Studies. She serves as Secretary for Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow and as President of Black Expressions. Black Expressions aims to foster a community for African American students and spread awareness about Black culture at Austin College.

By encouraging conversation between faculty, staff, and students, Janaye believes fear can be overcome. She says conversations can continue—not just talking about issues once, but discussing them several times through the days, weeks, and months—consistently moving the effort forward.

“These sessions for Austin College will make student life feel more open for the minority and marginalized groups on campus in case they didn’t feel that way prior to the establishment of DEI,” Janaye says. “In regard to Black Expressions, by fostering discussions about things like race and gender and sexuality, all those topics, I think it’ll make students feel like there’s a safe space where they can speak out and not stay silent about these

things on our college campus.”

Helping create these safe places as the DEI intern, Kaitlyn is excited to put her fingerprint on certain projects like the Social Justice Film Series. The series will feature films such as *13th: A Film Exploring Racial Injustice* that illustrate and advocate for diversity. The documentary explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States and is titled after the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, which abolished slavery in 1865.

Additionally, Kaitlyn, who is pursuing a medical career, believes her internship with DEI is powerful for her future. “I think, for me,” she said, “I really wanted to learn about diversity in different areas such as gender, sexuality, and disability, because I feel like you hear about it, but do you actually *know* what it entails? So, just having that insight on how to approach situations and to have an open mind I feel is definitely useful in the medical field because you’re going to be working with people of all different backgrounds.”

Both Janaye and Kaitlyn believe Austin College is making strides and can continue by promoting DEI and recruiting and including students who would receive help from the programming.

“We’re not afraid to tackle these hard discussions that need to be had,” Janaye said.

These sessions prepare the campus community for a more connected world that stems from the hearts and minds of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The enlightenment provided through the DEI program strengthens the accepting atmosphere that Austin College already fundamentally provides. Transformative experiences are on the horizon, and Austin College offers opportunities and hope. ■

Carrie Johnson '24 is majoring in English and Media Studies to pursue a career in journalism and broadcasting. She is a Chickasaw and Pawnee Native American who was selected in summer 2022 as one of seven students nationwide as a fellow for the Native American Journalists Association. She attended seminars and was fully funded to attend the National Native Media Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. She is now an intern for the *Chickasaw Press* and was recently selected to a cohort on the NPR Next Generation Radio Project out of Oklahoma City. She was also a fellow for Investigative Reporters and Investigators and virtually attended the DBEI (Diversity, Belonging, Equity, and Inclusion) Symposium in October 2022. On campus, Carrie is a student-athlete, staff writer for *The Observer*, and an intern for Institutional Marketing and Communications.

CUNNINGHAM LECTURERS ADVANCE DEI MISSION

Opportunities for discussions around DEI are found in existing programming such as The Cunningham Lectures. “Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) are Christian values,” Austin College Chaplain John Williams ’84 notes. “The Cunningham Lectures are an ideal way for Austin College to promote and facilitate JEDI conversations in a religious context.”

The Cunningham Lectures are a program of Religious Life at Austin College and were co-sponsored by the President’s Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. In 2022, Dr. Carlos Lassiter welcomed two speakers to the campus community.

Reverend Dr. Maria Dixon Hall



Southern Methodist
University

Chief Diversity Officer &
Senior Advisor to the President
for Campus Cultural Intelligence
Initiatives

“Beyond Babble: The Importance of
Cultural Intelligence”

April 14, 2022

Justin Jones-Fosu



Founder & CEO of
Work. Meaningful.

Author and Lecturer

“How to Cultivate Diversity in Your
Everyday Life”

November 10, 2022

The Cunningham Lectures were established with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Shem Cunningham to bring distinguished speakers to the campus. Shem was a member of the Austin College Class of 1920.



Michelle Zhou '18 and her sister **Maxine Zhou '14** moved to Oahu, Hawaii, in fall 2022 to begin their careers. Maxine works in psychiatry, and Michelle is a dentist. In addition to looking forward to enjoying the beach and hiking in their beautiful new home, the sisters also want to work in an underserved community with a diverse population. They also expect to put their Chinese language skills to use with the large Asian population on the island.

Page 52 **ALUMNI BOOKSHELF**

Page 55 **'ROO-MATES**
Recent Weddings

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

Page 61 **'ROO LEGACIES**

Page 62 **IN MEMORIAM**



Cupcakes with Clyde!

Dr. Clyde Hall '46 welcomed friends and visitors at his special 100th Birthday celebration in Wright Campus Center on October 29, during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Professor Emeritus Hall has helped shape the Austin College experience for thousands of students through his teaching and ongoing devotion to the College. See more Homecoming and Family Weekend coverage on page 50.

'ROONOTES

1958

Mike and Mary Thulemeyer Murray celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on August 9, 2022, and are deeply grateful for the 59 or 60 years of “happy marriage” enjoyed. Mike said most people really can’t claim every day was “happy,” can they? He remains involved with the Leadership Academy for Poland, which seeks to bring world-class education and leadership development to Poland. Mike delivered a virtual commencement address there in September 2022. He says his four years with the academy, including seven trips to Poland and numerous Zoom workshops, have been some of the most rewarding of his career.

1964

Ken Loyd (MA '69) was inducted into the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Honor in May 2021.

1966

Herbert B. Spangler has retired from the Boy Scouts of America as Assistant Scout Executive.

1982

Doug Kohrs was named a board director of Sequana Medical in Belgium in July 2022. He is the President

and CEO of Responsive Arthroscopy, which he founded. He founded several other companies and has a record of more than 40 years of success in the medical device industry. He serves on the boards of several companies.

1983



Terri DeGroot Jentz retired in August 2020 from Kaiser Permanente. She and her husband, Chris, moved from Portland to Ashland, Oregon, approximately 15 miles north of California. Terri says Ashland is well known for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and is nestled in a scenic mountain setting with great hiking trails, exciting river rafting, inviting wineries, and, of course, a top-notch quilt shop. Sounds like her retirement years may be busy!

Mitchell Schulman joined the Origin Bank Memorial Banking Center team in Houston, Texas, in spring 2022 as Executive



Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager. With more than 38 years of experience in the financial services industry, he specializes in businesses and real estate lending.

1985

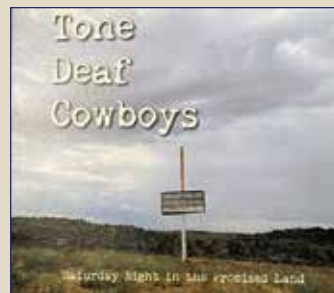


Rick Avery is the director of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. As director,

he oversees agency programming in agriculture and natural resources, Family and Community Health, 4-H and Youth Development, and Community Economic Development. Rick has an extensive background in both government relations and in government. His Capitol Hill experience includes service as an Assistant for U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen and U.S. Rep.

Greg Laughlin. Most recently, Rick served as Deputy Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments. His career in government also includes serving as County Relations Officer for the Texas Association of Counties, where he worked with elected and appointed county officials in all 254 Texas counties, providing technical support, continuing education, and resource guidance to government operations. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University.

Kerry Yancy earned a Master of Criminal Justice in Homeland Security and Emergency Management degree from the University of Mississippi in 2022. A physician, Kerry concentrated on disaster response and identifying victims of human trafficking in an Emergency Department



The Tone Deaf Cowboys album *Saturday Night in the Promised Land* is now available on Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, and other music streaming services.

The Tone Deaf Cowboys are a Folk & Roll band including Austin College alumni **Andy Blair '85**, **Amy Coffman '85**, **Bain Ennis '85**, **Larry Martin '85 (MA '86)**, **John Williams '84**, and John's brother Matthew.

HANGING UP THE WHITE COAT

John Andersen '66, M.D., retired in September 2021 after a pioneering



career in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas that lasted more than

four decades and brought the UTSW program national recognition.

Dr. Andersen was also a committed educator and was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement. "When I teach, I learn from my students," he said in a recent UTSW article. "They are great at asking questions and keeping me on my toes, which makes me a better physician."

Dr. Andersen was working in pediatrics when a gastroenterology research fellowship became available. He found he enjoyed the challenges of treating complex medical problems. He said he sometimes was the third or fourth doctor a family consulted with very complex medical problems and conditions. "I enjoy solving problems and seeing someone get better," the doctor said. "That's pretty validating."

1985 (continued)

setting. Going back to school after many years went so well that Kerry began a new bachelor's degree in Spanish for Health Professionals. Since 2018 she has been a faculty physician in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, spending two weeks there each month, enjoying the "combination of great people, great medicine, and great education," she said.

1986

Lee Wood announces that he and his partners opened a new restaurant in 2022 in Plano. Darna Mediterranean Market serves foods from around the Mediterranean region as well as Turkish coffee and desserts from various countries.

1987

Squire J. Booker has been awarded the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Merck Award and its Ruth Kirschstein Diversity in Science Award. This is the first time ASBMB has awarded two major awards to the same individual in the same year. Squire is the Evan Pugh Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Penn State, where he also is the holder of the Eberly Family Distinguished Chair in Science and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

1989

Darrah Dunn became the Managing Artistic Director of Sherman Community Players near the end of its 73rd season. He continues in this role, which gives him new ways to use his creativity and talent for collaborating with others. He had been involved with theatre at Finley Playhouse for more than 30 years, both performing and directing.

Gary Ivory became President



of Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Inc., in January 2021. YAP is a

national nonprofit that gives communities alternatives to incarceration by placing young people in residential treatment facilities. The new role was a promotion that came 30 years after the former prison chaplain and son of East Texas farmers joined YAP as a frontline Youth Advocate. Before joining YAP, Gary served as a Chaplain in the role of Youth Minister at New Jersey (formerly Trenton) State Prison. In 1996, Ivory was one of 10 national leaders awarded the prestigious Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellowship, an intensive and highly selective executive leadership development opportunity. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. (Read more about Gary on page 14.)



Montie Krumnow joined **Betsy Furler** at the company, For All Abilities, in November 2021. The 1985 Kappa Gamma Chi pledge sisters share a passion for neurodiversity and disability inclusion in the workplace. For All Abilities is a 100% 'Roo-owned software and consulting firm that helps employers proactively provide expert-recommended supports that make employees more productive and satisfied. Montie was one of the oil industry's top petroleum product brokers before retiring and then joining this effort.

1991

Jeff Cordell became the Athletic Director for the Sherman (Texas) ISD in summer 2022. He had most recently served as Athletic Director of Crane ISD, a 3A district near Odessa. As

the school's Head Football Coach, Cordell had a record of 25 wins and 8 losses. He also led the Crane High School girls golf team to win a state championship in 2019 and was the Head Coach for four state powerlifting medalists in 2022.



Estevan Garcia became Chief Medical Officer for the

Massachusetts Department of Public Health in February 2022.

Josh Lack was elected to the Board of Directors for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in June 2022. The program promotes agriculture by hosting an annual,



family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage, and provides year-round educational support within the community. Since its beginning in 1932, the Rodeo has committed more than \$550 million to education and the youth of Texas.

1993

Heisha Hunter Freeman

was appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott in January 2022 to the Texas State Independent Living Council. The appointment term continues until October 2024. Federally funded and mandated, SILC is a state-wide nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure that all Texans with disabilities have access to quality independent living services.

Christy Youker was

promoted to Manager of the Community Appearance Division with the City of Victoria. In this role, she oversees and coordinates beautification projects in Victoria's public spaces. She joined Environmental Services in March 2021 as the Environmental Programs Coordinator. She also serves as the Executive Director of Keep Victoria Beautiful.

1995

Amanda Hammel, Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer for Memorial Hermann Health System, was awarded the Nonprofit/Public Sector CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Award by HoustonCIO for 2022. Amanda is the executive leader of a team of more

than 700 people who have been instrumental in developing IT solutions to improve health outcomes, particularly relevant during COVID. The team is also compiling and analyzing large amounts of health data to understand patient needs and to create healthier communities. The ORBIE® Award recognizes professional achievements in 25 chapters that may cover a state or a large city.



1996

Stephanie Barnes has been promoted to partner in the Collin County-based



law firm Plunk Smith in the firm's Frisco, Texas, office. She

has more than 17 years of experience representing clients in various complex business litigation and civil litigation

HUCKABY RECOGNIZED BY SOCIETY OF PROFESSORS OF EDUCATION



Dr. M. Francyne Huckaby '89 received the 2022 Mary Anne Raywid Award from the Society of Professors of Education in recognition of outstanding contributions to the study of education. She is Texas Christian University's Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs, former Associate Dean and Interim Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and College of Education faculty member. In addition to being faculty in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, she has served as Interim Department Chair for Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, Interim Dean and Associate Dean for the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Director of the Center for Public Education.

1996 (continued)

matters in state and federal courts throughout Texas. She also is a former officer for the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association and a member of the Judge Paul Brown American Inn of Court. Barnes is AV Preeminent Peer Rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Leslee Hunter Mallinson



has been promoted to the role of Senior Vice President of Brand and

Communications for Balfour Beatty's national operations. The industry veteran is responsible for delivering strategic communications counsel and brand management across the company's entire U.S. business. She had been a member of the company's executive leadership team for the past eight years.

Michelle Davis Leverette (MAT '98) earned her Ed.D. in Professional Leadership with an emphasis on Social Education from the University of Houston in August 2021. Luckily, she said, her program was online since most of her coursework occurred during the COVID pandemic. In April 2022, Michelle was named the



Kiwanis Club's Junior High Teacher of the Year for Arlington

ISD and Arlington ISD's Junior High Teacher of the District. She is pursuing a

leadership role in public education as an administrator or as a professor for pre-service teachers after 24 years in Texas public school classrooms.

Michael Anthony Garcia completed his Master of Fine Arts degree through the School of Art Institute of Chicago in July 2022. The program afforded him the opportunity to further explore his interdisciplinary sculptural, performance, and video practices in conjunction with poetry-based projects, which were the focuses of his written and exhibition thesis work.

1997

Holland Harper has been named Chief Development Officer of the HWH Group. In his new role, he will oversee the performance and execution of the HWH Group team and day-to-day operations for the Paris, Texas-based company. Previously, Holland was president of Harrison, Walker & Harper, the sister company to HWH Group. HWH Group focuses on supporting corporate expansion and growth.

Wendy Canfield Collins, who attended Austin College only in the 1994-1995 year, graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington with a Master of Social Work degree in 2021 and was licensed in 2022. She works as a Licensed Medical Social Worker in hospice in Dallas.

1998

Amanda Wilder Lark completed a Doctor in Medical Science degree from

the University of Lynchburg in January 2022 and works as a PA at McGuiness Dermatology.

1999

Tina Miller Howard has owned and operated Leaves Book and Tea Shop in Fort Worth since 2016. In 2022, she expanded her culinary reach by purchasing Stir Crazy Baked Goods, described by some as a pillar of Magnolia Avenue. Tina, who holds a master's degree in Management from The University of Texas at Dallas, is not sure exactly what new things might come from her ownership, but assured others that for a time, at least, little would change at either business. She looks forward to brainstorming and envisioning what next steps might be ahead. (The former bakery owner asked Tina to buy the business as she was ready to find what was next for her, too.)

Daniela Gonzalez de Serna



has joined The Alamo as General Counsel. She is honored to be serving as

the first and only In-House Attorney for the sacred Spanish mission, church, and 1836 battlefield with a rich 300-year history. The Alamo, known as the Shrine of Texas Liberty under the purview of the Texas General Land Office and managed by Alamo Trust, Inc., has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered a global cultural icon. It attracts more than 1.6 million visitors per year, making it one of the top tourist attractions in the State of Texas.

Polly Thomason was named head coach of the University of Hartford (Connecticut) Women's Basketball program in May 2022. She arrived at Hartford by way of The University of Texas at Dallas, where she served as head coach for 17 seasons and had many successes. In addition to team success, Polly was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) National Coach of the Year Finalist in 2020-2021, the WBCA South Region Coach of the Year in 2016-2017, and the D3Hoops.com South Region Coach of the Year in 2014-2015. She also is a six-time ASC East Coach of the Year.

2001

Leslie Bethell Roper is the new pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Before taking that position, she celebrated a 15-year tenure with the congregation at First Presbyterian Church of Batesville, Arkansas, in May 2022. She had first served as



associate pastor for youth and children's ministries at the church, then in

2012 she became head of staff. Leslie and her husband, Jeff, have two sons.

Monica Shah was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Distinguished Neonatal-Perinatal Physician for exceptional work in the medical field. She has more than 12 years of experience caring for newborns, the last nine years in Austin, Texas. She has a specific interest in neonatal nutrition and quality improvement.

Dr. Shah treats critically ill and premature infants who can require specialized care during their first weeks of life. Coordinating with other physicians and her patients' families, she evaluates and treats babies for breathing disorders, congenital disorders, infection, and life-threatening illnesses or medical problems.

2002

Courtney A. Kuykendall has been elected a partner at Eggleston King Davis. She gained significant experience in municipal and land use law during the real estate boom of the last 15 years in North Dallas, McKinney, and Frisco. At Eggleston King Davis, she handles commercial transactions, estate planning and probate matters, real estate transactions, and all types of corporate, partnership, and business entity formations. Eggleston King Davis maintains offices in Weatherford, Fort Worth, and Dallas, Texas, and Sacramento and Los Angeles, California.

2003

Rania Batrice, President of Batrice and Associates,

was honored at the 2021 American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) annual conference. She was named one of the year's "40 Under 40" leaders and innovators in the political business community (media, advertising, polling, and public affairs) who are making a mark in their profession and whose conduct has been consistent with the professional code of ethics of the AAPC.

DeMarcus Harris became the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Mesquite High School in early 2022. He has taught history and coached football and track for 14 years, beginning at Hillcrest High School, then Little Elm High School, Seguin High School, and most recently, Cedar Hill High School.

Holly Hull Miori earned her Ph.D. in Public Affairs in December 2021, at The University of Texas at Dallas. She serves as the Senior Director of Development at UTD.

Sarah Carabias Rush has relocated to take the position of Chief Economic Development Officer for

the Greater San Antonio Regional Economic Partnership. She looks



forward to sharing her new home and its rich culture and history with the world. The move was bittersweet; Sarah had loved her North Texas home, and she spent 18 years with the Dallas Regional Chamber where she led corporate recruitment, international engagement, and leadership development programs.

2004



Kat Kornegay and Jessica Wescott '09 found themselves in the midst of change as Dallas branding and advertising agency Johnson & Sekin did some rearranging to start 2022. Kat had been with the company for nearly 10 years as an Account Director and

was appointed Chief Purpose Officer in the formation of the firm's C-Suite. She will oversee all functions of helping brands, teams, and organizations uncover their purpose within business models and across industries. Jessica, appointed Chief Financial Officer, is new to the company and will lead the financial strategy, planning, and growth. She previously served as COO and CFO of Fuzzy's Taco Shop. She brings more than a decade of operations, financial, and client-facing experience to her new role with a focus on data-driven insights to analyze businesses and make growth decisions, her new employer said in announcing her appointment to the company.

2006

Cathie Jones Hoffman has spent the past five-plus years as Regional Medical Director at Skilled Physicians Group in McKinney, working as a physician in wound care and



AUTHOR PRAISES COACH NASH

Marvin Nash '03 is one of 27 coaches included in the book *Thirty Days with America's High School Coaches* written in 2021 by author and coach Martin Davis.

Davis interviewed over 130 coaches for the book and has said Nash would be one he would most want to coach his own kids. At San Marcos High School, Nash now is the Varsity Football Assistant Coach and the Boys Track Head Coach. In the book released in January 2022, Nash says he is looking for success on the football field, but he's looking for success for each individual too—winning not just on the field but finding ways to win in aspects of everyday life. Nash has 16 years of coaching experience at both the middle school and high school levels. He's coached football, basketball, track, and wrestling in that time.

PEREZ WORKS TO INSPIRE INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Ta'jin Perez '12 is the Deputy Director for Western Native Voice, a nonprofit organization working to increase Native American participation in voting and self-determination. His work inspires Indigenous leadership across Montana, both in tribal nations on all seven Montana reservations and urban areas where half of Montana's native population lives. Ta'jin, who is Totonac (an indigenous people of Mexico), grew up in Wyoming. He is a first-generation American, and a first-generation college graduate. He is the father of two children, Rowan and Elio.



2006 (continued)

educating new doctors. She recently became a fellowship-trained Post-Acute Surgeon and Wound Care Specialist, which she said allows her to provide even better care for her patients and further her role in medical education. Her husband, Dr. Kevin Hoffman, and kids, Harrison, 9, and Genevieve, 7, are her "avid supporters on the adventure that is life."

2007

Sara Giddings served as chair of the Texas Young Lawyers Association from June 2021 to June 2022. She had been a member of TYLA since 2015 and received many accolades from the organization, including the Outstanding First-Year Director Award, Outstanding Director Award, the Legacy of Service Award, the Trial



and Appellate Advocacy Award, and a Presidential Citation by State Bar of Texas President Allan DuBois.

2012



Anne-Alise "Ali" Hinckley, an associate with the Kessler Collins law firm in Dallas, was recognized in *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America 2023* in Commercial Litigation. She also had been included in the category for 2022. A member of the firm's litigation group, she represents clients in a wide variety of industries and has successfully represented her clients in state court, federal court, and federal administrative proceedings. Since 2016, she has served as a coach of SMU Dedman School of Law's student team at the Defense Lawyers Mock Trial Competition in San Diego.

2013

Lauren Ward Rose was named Assistant City Manager at City of Sachse in December 2021. In the new position, Lauren assists the City Manager in developing, planning, and implementing Sachse's goals and objectives by providing high-level administrative direction to key city departments. She also attends city council and other public meetings and represents the city manager's office as a member and liaison to city boards and other key groups. Before the promotion, Lauren served as Director of Strategic Services for the city, where she had also held the positions of Strategic Services Manager and Assistant to the City Manager. She had previously worked for the City of Mesquite.

Sarah Villaseñor joined the Collier Legal Search team in fall 2021. She worked as a paralegal in the intellectual property arena before joining Houston Christian High School's business alumnae relations/event planning team. Sarah joins the CLS veteran team to continue the group's

long-standing tradition of solid legal recruitment and placement of quality attorneys and paralegals in Houston and throughout Texas. A native Houstonian, she is bilingual in Spanish.

2014

Truman J. Word received his Ph.D. in Material Science/Metallurgy & Additive Manufacturing in December 2022 from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). His research has been "developing and characterizing self-healing polymer blends for use in additive manufacturing." At publication deadline, he had not taken a job, but he would like to work in the aerospace or automotive industry or perform research at a national laboratory for 10 years then become a professor at a university. While living in El Paso (his hometown), he worked as a year-round competitive swim coach for two club teams in the area.

2017

Jack Kennady is a fourth-year medical student at University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine. He

served as the 2022 Student Representative to the editorial board of the *American Family Physician* journal through the



American Academy of Family Physicians. He peer-reviewed journal

submissions, served as an anti-racism bibliography editor, contributed to AFP website content, participated in the AFP podcast, and assisted in social media management. He plans to have a career as a full-spectrum rural Family Medicine Physician.

2018

Michael Cleveland, Director of Advanced Energy for Progress Rail, a Caterpillar company, was featured in a podcast for SAE International. In his role with Progress Rail, he is responsible for the vision around the future of locomotive technology and the energy transition. Michael also has 11 years of experience in the rail industry, previously leading BNSF's battery electric and

hybrid programs, where he handled the development, testing, and deployment of not only locomotives but also intermodal cargo handling equipment.



Reed Heim is the Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator at Guyer High School in the Denton ISD. He was the Defensive Coordinator and Linebackers Coach at Guyer before taking on the new role. His coaching career began as the Linebackers Coach at Virginia Military Institute in 2003. He also had stops at SMU and Baylor, where he was a Defensive Assistant for three seasons. After earning his degree at Austin College, he went on to complete a master's degree in Health, Human Performance, and Recreation from Baylor University. 🦘

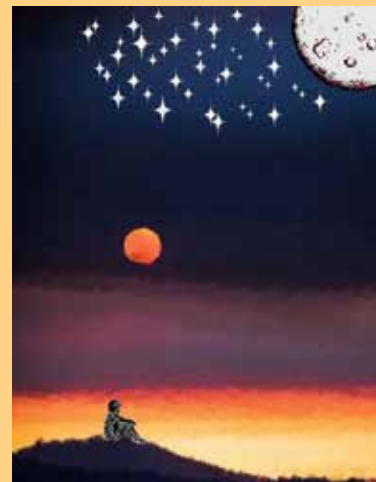
RECENT GRADUATE RECOGNIZED



Sonia Charles '22 is studying Traditional Optometry at Salus University in Pennsylvania.

The three-year editor of *Suspension* Literary Magazine

remains working as a writer and artist. Last summer, her creative work was nominated for the Best of the Net anthology, an award-based anthology that showcases the best of published literary and artistic works across the entire internet. Her short story, "Lemonade," and art piece, "The Starman Sits at Dawn," were nominated by *antonym*, a literary and arts publication, as part of their fiction and art selections.



WEERAKOON JOINS POST-DOC PROGRAM AT YALE

Sitara Weerakoon '17 completed a Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health in May 2022. In 2019, she received a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology degree.

She presented her dissertation findings at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, fully funded through a travel award. She also received several other scholarships, including the Outstanding

New Student Scholarship as both a master's and doctoral student. In June 2022, she joined Yale University as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Medicine NIDA T32

Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Substance Abuse Prevention and the Yale SPH Substances and Sexual Health Lab. In her postdoctoral program, her research focuses on adolescent polysubstance use and socioenvironmental risk factors among minority youth.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

2022

AUSTIN COLLEGE HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND



The **2022 Homecoming and Family Weekend** featured Distinguished Alumni, football, soccer, the Homecoming Court, and many activities for alumni, students, and families. Though the weather was not the best part of the weekend, folks still enjoyed tailgating, tours, receptions, panel discussions, and more. Special celebrations marked anniversaries for Drakes' 75th, Austin Teacher Program's 50th, Lambda Chi's 40th, and Public Affairs Interns' 5th. Many 'Roos and friends warmed up at 903 Brewery for the Homecoming Celebration featuring Band on Grand, whose members are all members of the Austin College community.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Three alumni were added to the Distinguished Alumni rolls of the College during Homecoming 2022. The individuals are recognized for excellence in their profession and in their communities and for modeling the spirit of service and broadened perspective fostered by Austin College.

Aldo Billingslea '87 (MA '88)



Aldo Billingslea has been a full-time faculty member at Santa Clara University since 1988 and is the William J. Rewak Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He has been honored for work in the classroom, on the stage, and for his outreach service to disadvantaged students in the community.

A professional actor and member of the Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity Association, Aldo has performed to much acclaim in the Santa Clara and Bay areas of California, as well as in theatres across the nation.

Aldo and his wife, Renee, and their daughter, Trinity, live in Santa Clara, California.

Steven Pounders '81, M.D.



Steven Pounders continues a successful practice in internal medicine with a specialization in AIDS/HIV. He has worked at major Dallas hospitals and his private practice has been a clinical training site for future medical practitioners from several metroplex universities. At a 30-year career celebration four years ago, Steven received a Special Recognition Proclamation from Dallas city officials for his service to the community.

He has received many honors and accolades for his work as both a scientist and humanitarian in service to the LGBTQ community and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Steven and his husband, James O'Reilly, live in Dallas.

Ting Sun '87, Ph.D.



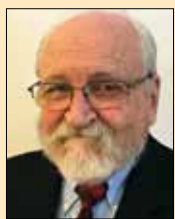
Ting Sun has more than 30 years of experience in the world of education, particularly in charter school program quality and reform. She earned a Ph.D. in Education at the University of California at Davis.

Ting served as a Program Consultant at the California Department of Education's Charter Schools Unit, and in 2015, she became a member of the California State Board of Education, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. Ting co-founded the Sacramento-based Natomas Charter School, serving as its Education Programs Director, and later, its Executive Director.

Active in her community, Ting has received many honors, including being named a "Woman Who Means Business" by the *Sacramento Business Journal*.

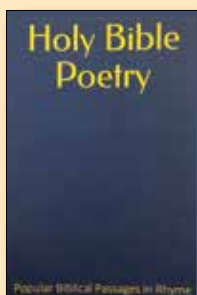


Michael J. McMains '65 published the 6th Edition of *Crisis Negotiations: Managing Critical Incidents and Hostage Situations in Law Enforcement and Corrections, 2021*. The first edition of the book, coauthored in 1995 with Wayne Mullins, Professor at Texas State University, was based on McMains' initial 13 years of experience and over 400 critical incidents with the San Antonio, Texas, Police Department. The text integrated experience, theory, and research in crisis intervention, risk assessment, group dynamics, psychopathology, persuasion, and negotiations to give Criminal Justice practitioners tools for resolving high-risk, potentially violent encounters as peacefully as possible. National data has suggested that up to 99% of high-conflict incidents have been resolved without injury or death using principles outlined in this book. The 6th Edition updates the original text and adds Andrew T. Young, Professor of Psychology and Counseling at Lubbock Christian University, to the authorship.

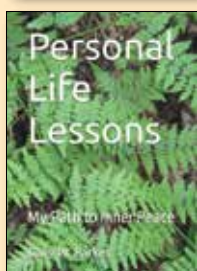


The book has served as a resource for policing agencies and prison systems throughout Texas and the U.S., the FBI, and the U.S. Department of State's Anti-Terrorist Assistance Program. It has been used as a text in multiple academic programs. "Blessed are the peacemakers ..."

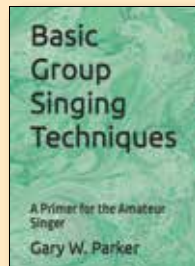
Gary Parker '67 is a retired financial services industry actuarial executive living in Dallas. Since he retired, he has written several books.



Holy Bible Poetry: *Popular Biblical Passages in Rhyme*
Each of the 176 poems includes a popular Biblical passage word for word. A limited number of additional words and phrases are added to produce a rhyming poem with consistent timing and meter. The additions are intended to clarify or enhance the message.



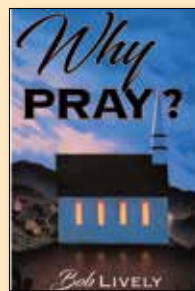
Personal Life Lessons: My Path to Inner Peace
A book of assertions, affirmations, and truth statements representing lessons for the author and probably for many others experiencing life's adventure of learning and personal growth.



Basic Group Singing Techniques: *A Primer for the Amateur Singer*
This booklet is a basic, to-the-point review of the essential elements of proper vocal techniques for group singing. Written in lay person terms, the principles are adaptable to all sizes of vocal groups from small ensembles to large choruses and choirs.



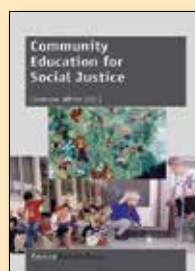
One and Done: *Dealer's Choice Quartet Overnight Success Story*
A fascinating true story of a barbershop quartet's journey from formation to international champion in 18 months, as well as their rewarding experiences as champions.



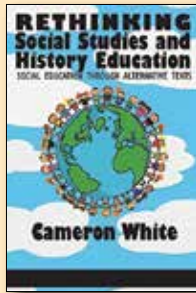
Bob Lively '68 has written 500 newspaper columns, mostly for the *Austin American-Statesman*, and 15 books. He says he has probably said enough, perhaps even too much, but either way, is done, having written his last book, *Why Pray?*

Does prayer make a difference? When life delivers harsh blows—loss, illness, death—how does prayer help us? Do we even know how to pray? When we get it wrong, does God listen anyway? Lively has delved deeply into all these questions and more. His stories from personal experiences shed light on what it's like to emerge from the shadows of grief, fear, heartache, and the burden of mistakes. How did he manage it? Why should we pray? At first, his reasoning seems simple. You'll find the answer, and even more, inside these pages.

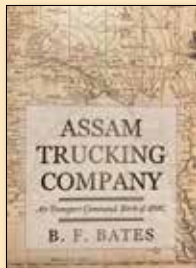
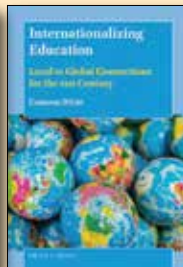
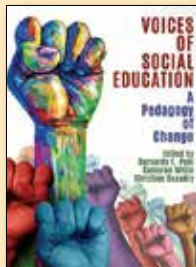
Now retired and living in the Texas Hill Country, Lively spent more than 40 years as an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church.



Cameron White '78 (MA '79), Ph.D. has written, co-written, or edited 15 books during his career as Professor of Social and Intercultural Education at the University of Houston. Recent books include *Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education*; *Social Education Voices*; *Intercultural Education: Kosovo Voices of Struggle and Resilience*;



and *Internationalizing Education*. He also served as a Secondary Social Studies Teacher in Texas for several years (thanks to the AC Education Program) and has received numerous grants and awards including Fulbright awards, teaching excellence awards, and teaching American history grants. He also has considerable international education experience in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. He recently retired from the University of Houston after more than 15 years. He and his wife, Lori Domel '79, live in Friendswood, Texas.



Barbara Foster Wilson Bates '83 (MA '84), under the pen name B. F. Bates, published her second book on history, *Assam Trucking Company, Air Transport Command, Birth of AMC*, in 2020. *Assam Trucking Company (ATC)* chronicles the daily routines and operations, as well as the innovative maintenance concepts, of the Air Transport

Command in the China-Burma-India Theater of WWII. Lessons learned in theater were applied and evolved into today's Air Mobility Command. Begun as a graduate paper in U.S. Historiography, Bates took the suggestion of **Dr. Light Cummins** and expanded her paper into a book. Over the next 36 years, work assignments as an instructional designer with military contractors allowed her access to various research resources.

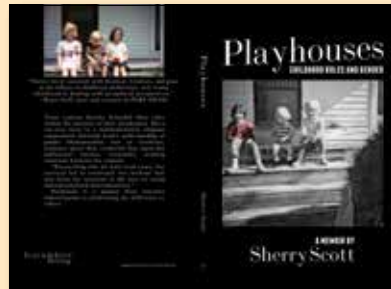


Her first book, *Texoma Medical Center: The First Twenty-Five Years*, was published in 1985. Now retired from Boeing, Bates lives in the Dallas area and keeps her hand in writing and education by tutoring the next generation in English and Social Studies.



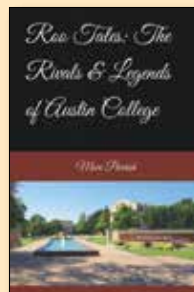
Sherry Owens Scott '89 has written her third book, *Playhouses: Sexuality and Fundamentalism, Childhood Roles and Gender, A Memoir*.

Three cousins fiercely defended their roles within the sanctity of their playhouses. But a six-year stint in a fundamentalist religious organization thwarted Scott's understanding of gender. Homosexuality was an insidious infective spirit that conferred



fear upon her adolescent naivete, eventually eroding relations between the cousins. "Reconciling who we were took years,

but survival led to relational ties without fear and hearts for activism in the face of rising institutionalized discrimination. *Playhouses* is a journey from corrosive indoctrination to celebrating the difference in others."



Marc Parrish '92 has published his third book about Austin College, *'Roo Tales: The Rivals and Legends of Austin College*. Book #3 tells the stories of Austin College sports competition against rival schools and Austin College's sports legends in the Athletic Hall of Honor. The book is dedicated to retired Director of Admission **Jay Evans '64**,

who Marc says was an important influence before and during his AC years. He is grateful to Coach **Larry Fedora '84** for writing the foreword.

AC Book #2, *'Roo Tales: The Stories of Austin College History*, was published in 2021. Because of its huge size at publication in 2020, AC Book #1 was split into two smaller books: *'Roo Tales: The Stories of Austin College Football* and *'Roo Tales: The Stories of Austin College Athletics*. All of Marc's books about Austin College are available on Amazon in e-book, paperback, and hardcover formats. Marc is an Assistant Director of Informational Technology in Austin. He and his wife, Dianne, work for The University of Texas System and are the proud parents of Alex, 17, and Malia, 12.



ALUMNI SPEAK AT 2022

TEDx AustinCollege

Two alumni and one student were among the six speakers for TEDxAustinCollege, offering “Ideas Worth Spreading” on October 1 in Sally and Jim Nation Theatre of Ida Green Communication Center.



Caitlin Graves '13, Ed.D.

**Keep the Cape:
Invisible Disabilities
Are Not Superpowers**



Trevor Slansky '22

**Gritty Optimism:
Hope in the Face of
Climate Change**



Bella Sada-Nieto '23

**Betting on Yourself:
My Journey with
Amplified Pain Syndrome**

See all 2022 TEDxAustinCollege talks: www.austincollege.edu/tedx

HONORING OUR SPORTS LEGENDS

Legends 2022

Athletes returned to campus in August 2022 for the annual Legends event and celebrated the legends of their sports. The awards event on August 6 was highlighted by the presentation of the Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year honors, the Athletic Hall of Honor inductions, and the Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching.



The Legends honorees, pictured left to right, are Bart Tatum, Jessica Fleming, Clint Rushing, DeAndre Holmes, Marjory Gibson, Kim Kehoe, Brian Coleman, and Hardee McCrary, plus President O'Day.

Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees:

- Brian Coleman '93 – football/track
- Jessica Fleming '12 – volleyball
- Marjory Gibson '08 – swimming
- Kim Jacoby Kehoe '94 (MAT '95) – basketball/volleyball
- Clint Rushing '07 – football/baseball
- Bart Tatum '91 (MAT '92) – football

Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year:

- DeAndre Holmes '15 – boys and girls powerlifting

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

- Hardee McCrary '73

1977

Alan Stephenson and Donna Gum were married on April 22, 2022, on what Alan described as a lovely day in the better-late-than-never department.

1996

Greg Koch and José Ontiveros were married in the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Diego's Balboa Park on July 4, 2021. Greg's sister, Kadia Koch '00 (MAT '02) was a member of the wedding party. Alumni attending were Casey McClellan '79 (MA '80), who serenaded the couple at the wedding reception, plus Brandie Sellers '95 and Taylor Marchman '96. Greg now uses the name Greg Ontiveros Koch.

2005

Sam Levin and Sheena Idelson were married on July 23, 2022, in Broomall, Pennsylvania. Several alumni family members and friends attended, as pictured. Left to right are the groom's uncle and aunt Jeff Levin '79 and Ginny Harleston '79, Sam and Sheena, Jon Harris '03 (MAT '05), Jennifer Whetsel McDowell '04 (MAT '05), and Cory McDowell '04.

2007

Sara Giddings and Austin Miller were married on March 12, 2022, at Rockin' Star Ranch in Brenham, Texas. Sara is an attorney and continues her practice.



Austin Miller and Sara Giddings '07



Alan Stephenson '77 and Donna Gum

2009

Ann Huston married Landis Ehler of Fort Collins, Colorado, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park on September 18, 2021. Ann's Omega Zeta pledge sisters Kylee Rutledge and Kat Harrington '08 were bridesmaids. Robert Likarish also attended the festivities. The bride and groom work for the National Park Service in Utah.

(Roo-Mates continued on Page 56)



José Ontiveros and Greg Koch '96



Sam Levin '05 and Sheena Idelson (center) with alumni family and friends



Ann Huston '09 and Landis Ehler

2009 (continued)

Alyssa Steed and Nathan Vinson were married on January 15, 2022, at United Presbyterian Church in Cleburne, Texas. Honorary attendants and guests included the bride's Austin College roommate **Mandy Rehling Waite** and her JanTerm travel companion **Lisa Simpson Emery**. Alumni attendees included the bride's great uncle and aunt **Jack Hunnicutt '51** and **Alice George Hunnicutt '54**, uncle and aunt **Jack Mealy '77** and **Laurie Steed Mealy '77**, uncle and aunt **Eric Turner '80** and **Lisa Steed Turner '80**, and cousin **Kathryn Turner '08** with her husband **Paul Rabek '08**.

2010

Liz Webb and Danny Mullins were married on October 2, 2021, in Wake Forest, North Carolina. Liz and Danny met doing community theatre in the Raleigh area, cast as love interests in a show called *Isn't It Romantic*. Liz works as a Data Manager in the Admissions Office at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, and Danny is an employment and education lawyer in Raleigh. They live in Durham with their dog Kodi.

2011

Katie Masucci and Star Walker were married on May 1, 2022, at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. 'Roo bridesmaids were **Katie Deeds Holland '06** and **Natasha Patel**. Star is a mechanical engineer, and the couple lives in Plano, Texas.

2012

Kim Cook and Lauren Chapman were married on April 2, 2022. Kim did not change her name but the couple is known as the Chapman family. Kim owns several businesses, mostly in marketing, and Lauren owns a custom steel fabrication business.

2013

Adam Phillips and Gabe Sanders were married on November 13, 2021, in Dallas with many friends attending. **Jordan Dugger '08** officiated and **Aparna Jassar** and **Blake Barnes** were Adam's best woman and best man. Adam earned a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Texas Woman's University and worked as a Registered Nurse in the

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's Medical Center in Dallas for more than five years. (That's also where he met his husband, who is also a nurse.) Adam completed a master's degree in Nursing as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in December 2022. He is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner with UT Southwestern Medical Center and works at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. The Phillips-Sanders couple hopes to continue to live in Dallas.

2016

Alex Martinez and **Noelle Low '17 (MAT '18)** were married on July 30, 2022, at The Hall of State in Dallas, Texas. 'Roo attendees included **Nicholas Low '11**, **Seth Torres '12**, **Eddie Scaggs '15**, **Matthew Galvan '15**, **Christian Thomas '15**, **Macey Blakley '17**, **Daniel Crowe '18**, **Justin McMath**—attendee of '16, and **Allison Martinez**—attendee of '22. The couple lives in Richardson with three chiweenie dogs. Noelle is a Theatre teacher at High Point Academy, and Alex is a District Manager for Valet Living.

2017

Ana Maria Rea and James Ventre were married in January 2020. She was promoted in 2022 as head of the Department of Advocacy at RAICES, an immigrants rights nonprofit organization.

2019

Emma Thornbush and **Michael Suresh** were married on November 6, 2021, in Des Moines, Iowa. Both are graduate students at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. 'Roo attendees were **Richard Reyes**, **Thomas Yuan**, **Yasmin Davidson**, and **Imran Blackall '20**. The couple is now Emma and Michael Thornbush-Suresh.

2020

Zoe Rice (MAT '21) and **Paola Matus** were married on November 6, 2021. The couple lives in Forney, Texas. Paola is an Audio Engineer working for Showtech, and Zoe is an Orchestra Director at Rockwall-Heath High School. The two have created a new name for their family: Rheus.



Alyssa Steed '09 and Nathan Vinson



Danny Mullins and Liz Webb '10



Katie Masucci '11 and Star Walker



Lauren Chapman and Kim Cook '12

PHOTO BY THE MARSHALLS



Adam Phillips '13 and Gabe Sanders



Noelle Low '17 (MAT '18) and Alex Martinez '16



James Ventre and Ana Maria Rea '17



Emma Thornbush '19 and Michael Suresh '19



Paola Matus '20 and Zoe Rice '20 (MAT '21)

2007

Ohi and **Cat Moran Ayeni** announce the birth of their daughter, Camryn, on December 8, 2021. Big brother Jonathan helped welcome her home.

Palmer Frances was born on January 23, 2022, to **JR Ohr** and his wife Morgan. Waverly is the proud big sister.

Frank McStay and **Carla Khalaf McStay '12** welcomed a baby girl, Laila McStay, to the world in November 2021, after moving back to Dallas that June. Carla is on the faculty at UT Southwestern Medical School, and Frank has returned to the think-tank world at Duke University.



Camryn (Ayeni '07)



Palmer Frances with big sister Waverly (Ohr '07)

2008

Austin Trantham and his wife Stephanie welcomed their daughter, Lilliana "Lilly" Grace on July 14, 2022. The family lives in Wesley Chapel, Florida, where Austin is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Saint Leo University and Stephanie is a homemaker.

2012

Alexander Clark and his wife welcomed their first child, Harriet "Hattie" May Clark, on May 11, 2022. The couple moved to Dallas in 2021, and Alex began a job as a Litigation Associate at Haynes and Boone, LLP, that fall. He became a teaching assistant at SMU Law in fall 2022 and was accepted into the Leadership Class of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.



Lilliana "Lilly" Grace (Trantham '08)

2009

Eric and **Lisa Simpson Emery** welcomed their daughter Georgia on October 20, 2021.



Georgia (Emery '09)

2010

Joan Elizabeth Booher was born on December 7, 2021, to **Elise Koestner** and **Jesse Booher '08**. Godparents are Sarah Champion and TJ Roberts '06.



Joan Elizabeth (Booher '10)

Taylor Woods and **Justin Light '09** welcomed a daughter, Cecily Isabel Light, born on May 16, 2022.



Cecily Isabel (Light '10)

2011

Olivia Elizabeth Lee was born on February 24, 2022, to **Jane Jennings Lee** and Matthew Lee. Ann Prud'homme Jennings '73 and Monty Jennings '73 are grandparents.



Olivia Elizabeth
(Lee '11)



Laila
(McStay '11)



Harriett "Hattie" May with dad
Alexander (Clark '12)



Amelia
(Davidson '12)



James Andrew with big sister
Abigail (Hannan '12)



Iris Liliana
(Mumby '12)



Evelyn Lillie
(Handoyo '13)

2012

Laura Massey Davidson and **Michael Davidson '13** welcomed their daughter, **Amelia**, on March 10, 2021. Laura has been accepted as part of 500x Gallery in Dallas and will have a solo show of her art there May 27 through June 10, 2023. She is also part of Cohort 3 of a studio artists residency at The Cedars Union that continues until June 2023, and she is a member of a woman-owned artist co-op store called Trade Oak Cliff. Michael is a Senior Professional Product Manager at CoreLogic.

Katie Senor Hannan and **Jamie Hannan '11 (MAT '10)** welcomed their son **James Andrew Hannan III** on December 3, 2021. Katie is the Operations Coordinator at DePelchin Children's Center, and Jamie is a Policy Analyst with Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. James joins his big sister Abigail, 4, and parents at their home in Porter, Texas.

Jack Mumby and **Coral Kennelty-Cohen Mumby** welcomed a daughter, **Iris Liliana**, on December 19, 2021. The family lives in Washington, D.C.

2013

Anthony Handoyo married his college sweetheart, **Julia Smith**, on November 14, 2020, and they welcomed their daughter, **Evelyn Lillie**, on November 20, 2021. Anthony graduated from The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2017 with a Doctor of Osteopathy degree and has started a family medicine practice in Frisco, Texas.

Eleanor Beth was born April 15, 2022, to **Jason Henry (MAT '14)** and **Heather Farquhar Henry**. She is very loved by her big brother Owen. The family lives in Richardson where Jason is a fifth grade teacher. Heather is an Instructional Specialist in Mesquite ISD.

(Joey's continued on
Page 60)



Eleanor Beth
(Henry '13)

2014 (continued)

Thomas and **Julie Coggins Dunlap** welcomed their son, James Henry Dunlap, on July 16, 2022, in Norfolk, Virginia. Coincidentally the doctor who delivered James is a 'Roo, Dr. Ivy Zo Li Fitzpatrick '02. Both the doctor's and Julie's husbands are stationed in Norfolk with the military. Continuing the coincidences, Dr. Fitzpatrick did her residency at the Naval Medical Center San Diego—where Julie was born years ago. Julie is a Senior Bank Examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and Thomas is a Lieutenant (E2-C Pilot) in the Navy.

Jack and Christine Garner Kunde '15 welcomed their son, Grant Raymond Kunde, on May 10, 2022.

2015

Sawyer Lynne Jesko, was born on July 26, 2022, to **Noah and Jenna Longo Jesko (MAT '16)**. Noah is in veterinary school at Texas Tech, having completed a master's degree and is finishing a doctorate at West Texas A&M University. The family lives in Amarillo and includes two 4-year-old puppies. In her seventh year at Randall High School, Jenna has a new role as Student Support Specialist this year, as well as continuing to coach girls basketball and track.

Keely and **Bryce Murphy** welcomed their daughter, Magnolia Grey, into the world on February 24, 2022. The family lives in Springtown, Texas, on their farm, Haven Homestead.

2016

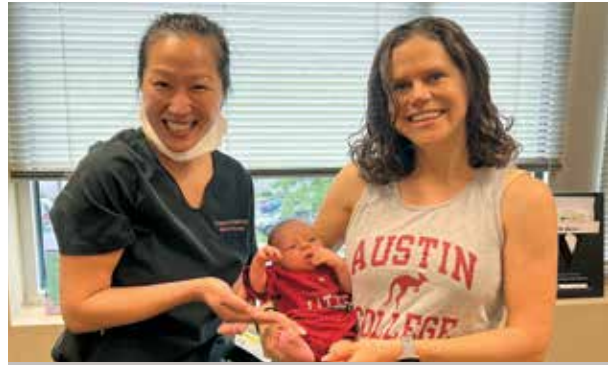
Nora Rose Zapp was born June 5, 2022, to **Amanda Kelly Zapp (MAT '17)** and **Kelly Zapp**. The family lives in New Caney; Amanda teaches art at Porter High School, and Kelly works at Verizon.

2017

Ana Maria Rea and James Ventre welcomed their son, Mateo James Ventre Rea, in January 2022.

Lancia Ward was born on January 31, 2022, to Robert and **Lacyn Hill Ward**. Lacyn works as a Public Affairs Specialist at Trinity Industries, a railcar manufacturing and leasing company based in Dallas. Robert is a Dev Ops Engineer for Intuit.

Zoe Garner Register '18 and **Cary Register** announce the birth of their son, Clark, born July 10, 2022.



James Henry (Dunlap '14)



Grant Raymond (Kunde '14)



Sawyer Lynne (Jesko '15)



Nora Rose (Zapp '16)



Mateo James (Ventre Rea '17)



Magnolia Grey (Murphy '15)



Lancia (Ward '17)



Clark (Register '17)

Continuing Their Family Traditions

Every fall, the incoming class includes students with 'Roo family members, and the Class of 2026 is no exception. Some new students have siblings who've graduated or are still on campus. Others continue the Austin College family tradition by following cousins, aunts, uncles, parents, or grandparents to campus—whether the family members attended recently or years ago. Below are those who reported for a “legacy” photo during Opening of School activities.



Lola Barcus-Schafer with dad Scott Schafer '88, also niece to Lelo Schafer, Mary Morrison, and Mark Barcus, all '84



Jacqueline Bridgeford with father Jeffrey '98



Bonnie Dong, sister of Benjamin '22



Jeannine Paredes with aunt Agueda Paredes '06



Anita Renaud, cousin of Catherine Urrutia Kelly '00



Aven Roberts with parents Matt and Tami (Walker) Roberts, both '95



Alyssa Sharp (right), granddaughter of Harvey Millsap '42, with cousin Kaylee Fuhr '17



Jay Skipworth '95 and son Blake



Chloe Taylor with stepmom Jessica Pearson Taylor '08



Tyler Ward, with uncle Staley Shiller '95

Amaan Lackan, son of Darren Lackan '95, M.D., and mother Nuha Alavi Lackan '97, Ph.D., reported his family connections but is not pictured.

ALUMNI

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1942 Allene Brown Eatherly May 10, 2022 | 1967 Darrell Wootton March 15, 2022 |
| 1943 Rosalie Tocquigny Oelkers. November 30, 2022 | 1969 Sandford Leibick July 7, 2022 |
| 1947 Dorothy Prentice February 19, 2022 | 1970 Kay Watson Haddaway February 21, 2022 |
| 1948 Mona Bell Brown July 23, 2022 | 1971 Larry Ivey. February 22, 2022 |
| 1950 Darrell Cantwell November 14, 2022 | 1971 Michael Rutledge May 14, 2022 |
| 1951 Jack Hunnicutt October 10, 2022 | 1971 Gayle Clarkston Skipworth June 5, 2022 |
| 1951 Peggy Swafford Kresse June 23, 2022 | 1972 Leonard "Rick" Dirks Jr. February 26, 2022 |
| 1951 Neilson Smith August 11, 2022 | 1972 Kent Streit August 28, 2022 |
| 1951 Jerry Tompkins December 19, 2022 | 1972 Gregory West March 7, 2022 |
| 1952 Elizabeth Ann "Beezie" Lang Cooper October 14, 2022 | 1973 Frank "Monty" Jennings September 29, 2022 |
| 1952 Bobby Hunter September 8, 2022 | 1973 Manuel Lopez August 1, 2022 |
| 1952 William "Graham" Reeves July 14, 2022 | 1973 Robert Watson February 2, 2022 |
| 1953 Janelle Ramsey Freeman January 22, 2022 | 1974 Richard "Rick" Hylden March 18, 2022 |
| 1953 James Wilson September 10, 2022 | 1974 Julia Jones. August 8, 2022 |
| 1954 Doug B. Garland. October 22, 2022 | 1975 Barbara Kallina McCann. December 25, 2022 |
| 1954 Bessie Gilliam Jenkins January 20, 2022 | 1975 Richard "Rick" Wright July 1, 2022 |
| 1954 Carroll "Bud" Pickett April 3, 2022 | 1976 Blaise Jones June 24, 2022 |
| 1956 Peggy McCoy Faulk February 28, 2022 | 1978 James Lee Grigson September 24, 2022 |
| 1956 Edward "Estes" Van Dyke June 6, 2022 | 1978 Dona "Kelly" Stringfellow Mercy August 31, 2022 |
| 1957 John Arledge August 21, 2022 | 1978 John Muire January 17, 2022 |
| 1957 Grantland Groves June 20, 2022 | 1979 Jerome Pedersen. July 13, 2022 |
| 1957 John "J.C." Johnson Jr. August 28, 2022 | 1979 Daniel Phelps March 22, 2022 |
| 1958 Lou Wilson Hatchett April 20, 2022 | 1980 Allison "Al" Childress Jr. January 25, 2022 |
| 1958 John "Ray" Long September 24, 2022 | 1980 Kristin Koon Goodale July 9, 2022 |
| 1958 Maurice Martin September 29, 2022 | 1981 Alma Luyties McKinney March 27, 2022 |
| 1958 Richard Sibley Mitchell December 12, 2022 | 1981 Stephen Powers. July 23, 2022 |
| 1958 Joseph Turner May 27, 2022 | 1981 Robert Rogers October 31, 2022 |
| 1959 Larry Miles December 21, 2022 | 1982 Tina Ann Cornelius Briscoe November 28, 2022 |
| 1959 Mary "Amelia" Poole Sudderth. January 21, 2022 | 1982 Thomas Emms October 25, 2022 |
| 1960 Barbara Broyles Leitner July 22, 2022 | 1982 Kenneth Koriath May 22, 2022 |
| 1960 Jill Ledebur Mills March 28, 2022 | 1983 Richard Woodruff Jr. March 4, 2022 |
| 1960 Bobbye Kraft Robinson July 18, 2022 | 1984 Roy Bayless. July 13, 2022 |
| 1960 Jo Bob "J.B." Taylor March 9, 2022 | 1984 Charles Broach May 5, 2022 |
| 1961 Melba Bearden Ballou. August 23, 2022 | 1984 Debra White Cervin. February 14, 2022 |
| 1961 Bertron "Bert" Groves July 19, 2022 | 1985 Max Jordan February 25, 2022 |
| 1962 Victor "Brooks" Bouldin. May 17, 2022 | 1985 Lecia Bark Willingham March 27, 2022 |
| 1962 George Wilson Hail February 24, 2022 | 1986 Rossi Felix September 1, 2022 |
| 1962 Bobbye Greene Hearrell. December 24, 2022 | 1987 Whitney Benjamin Kelly November 5, 2022 |
| 1962 Ronald Sanford March 14, 2022 | 1987 Kevin Dean Smith. October 19, 2022 |
| 1963 Frank Stephen Powers September 17, 2022 | 1988 Samuel Cress November 1, 2022 |
| 1964 Rockford Vance Gray Jr. December 9, 2022 | 1988 Jack White. September 10, 2022 |
| 1964 Judith Evans Luttrell October 30, 2022 | 1993 Christopher Bryson March 12, 2022 |
| 1965 William McLeRoy November 15, 2022 | 1994 Jennifer Mazer February 1, 2022 |
| 1965 John Self March 14, 2022 | 1998 Robert "Tate" Gorman May 14, 2022 |
| 1965 Elsie Tyler Todd July 13, 2022 | 2009 Jace Powell February 12, 2022 |
| 1965 Frank Yeatman March 8, 2022 | 2013 Cole Joiner April 13, 2022 |
| 1967 John Hacker II. January 8, 2022 | 2017 Katarina Bell Dodson October 14, 2022 |
| 1967 Jack McCubbin. March 1, 2022 | 2019 Stephen "Jess" Barrett January 3, 2022 |
| 1967 Carl Stapp February 5, 2022 | 2020 Elizabeth "Clarice" Davidchik Harrison August 4, 2022 |

Austin College Board of Trustees

This generous and faithful member of the College's Board of Trustees died during the past year. Find the full obituary on the College website.



Senior Trustee **Ellis Olmstead** died September 2, 2022. A civic leader in Sherman, he was active on the College's board from 1994 to 2006, serving as a long-time chair of the Investment Committee, as well as a member of the Business Affairs Committee. He was a business leader, particularly within Chapman Inc. and Shell Oil, and was involved in many community affairs. He served on the boards of, among others, Wilson N. Jones Hospital, the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, and Grayson County Airport authority, leading all of those.

Friends We Will Miss

Thomas "Tom" Caskey, M.D., husband of Senior Trustee Peggy Pearce Caskey and parent and grandparent of alumni, died January 13, 2022. During his distinguished medical career, he was known for leading groundbreaking research in human genetics.

Joan E. Douglass, wife of Austin College Trustee Bill Douglass, died February 24, 2022. She served on numerous community boards in the Sherman area, including a founding role with Home Hospice of Grayson County.

Jerome "Jerry" McNair Fullinwider, a 2013 Austin College Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters recipient, died on July 21, 2022.

Retiree **Karl Haller** died on April 15, 2022, at 105. He spent more than 33 years in Austin College Biology classrooms and labs as a staff and adjunct faculty member until he retired in May 1998.

Frances Neidhardt, the widow of Dr. Carl Neidhardt, died on June 15, 2022. She was a lover of art, poetry, and literature.

Retiree **Jessielea Patrick** died on October 23, 2022. In her 30 years at the College, she saw technology for her job heading up telephone services advance from switchboard operator to digital telecommunications.

Marie Schores, the widow of Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology Dan Schores, died on July 28, 2022.

Betty Stephens, widow of Senior Trustee Dr. Raymond Stephens, died August 15, 2022. Parent of three 'Roo alumni, she was deeply involved alongside Ray in all aspects of Austin College life including establishing an international studies scholarship fund in the Stephens family name.

Retiree **Cathy Stewart** died on September 10, 2022. She was an administrative assistant for 30+ years in Science and Math, from 1972 until she retired in June 2002. In the IDEA Center, the Mary Catherine Stewart Administrative Office, just outside the office of the Dean of Science, honors her.

Austin College Faculty

Austin College faculty members often arrive on campus planning to stay only a few years—and retire from the College many years later. We celebrate the lives of these faculty members who did just that—and who now have died after making a tremendous mark upon the students, faculty, and history of Austin College. Find full obituaries on the College website.



Professor Emeritus of Classics **James F. (Jim) Johnson** died October 31, 2022. Johnson joined the Austin College faculty in 1977 and retired in 2013. During those 36 years, he taught Heritage of Western Man and Communication/Inquiry, along with his academic specialties—classical civilization,

Greek, and Latin—as well as "Classical Mythology." He also led several January Term study trips to Greece. Johnson helped to lead Austin College's Richardson Summer



Language Institute for high school language teachers for many years as well as high school Latin conferences on campus. Very involved in professional organizations, he was selected as the Texas Foreign Language Association College Teacher of the Year in 1992.



Kim Victoria Snipes died November 12, 2022. She joined the Austin College faculty in 1993 as Biology Lab Coordinator/Safety Instructor and Adjunct Instructor in Biology, when she and her husband, Dr. Wayne Meyer, moved to the community for Meyer to take a position with the Biology

faculty. Snipes lost her eyesight due to complications from cancer, but she found ways to incorporate her blindness into her teaching and raise awareness of the realities of disability.



Dr. Howard A. Starr, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education, died October 28, 2022. He joined the Austin College faculty in 1964 and retired in 2013, making him one of the longest-tenured faculty in the College's history. In addition to teaching, Starr served in many capacities at the College, among them chair of the counseling center, Dean of Social Sciences, and Vice President of the former College Relations Division, which included the areas of admission, financial aid, alumni and parent relations, college information, and college mailing and printing services. A certified Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Texas, Starr was also certified as a Clinical Hypnotist by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis and was a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association (APA).

Alpha Delta Chi – Past and Present

By Sarah Gunderson '81

Established in 1933, the Alpha Delta Chi (ADX) sorority is the oldest social sorority at Austin College. **Margaret Binkley**, a freshman from Sherman, is credited as the sorority's founder. It was felt there was a need for closer contact and good feelings between the girls of the dormitories and their Sherman sisters. The 1934 *Chromoscope* states the objective of the sorority was to provide entertainment for themselves and their friends. At the beginning, the Alphas were known for hosting an all-school Christmas dance and a Valentine banquet and dance, as well as picnics and other dances.

Margaret Binkley married **William W. Collins Jr.** Together, they were lifelong supporters of Austin College and the Alphas. In addition to establishing several endowed scholarships, their significant contributions made possible campus areas including Honors Court, Margaret Binkley Collins Fountain, Zauk Circle Drive, *Quest* sculpture, Margaret Binkley Collins Walk, and the Collins Alumni Center. Margaret continued her relationship with the Alphas until her death in 2002, often sending notes to new members.

Today, the women of ADX have become much more than a social sorority. They participate in several service projects throughout the year. Ski Lodge is a school-wide service project which is steeped in a rich history with the sorority and may have had its beginnings with the Christmas dances from the 1930s. Alphas have been volunteering at the Clinton & Edith Sneed Environmental Research Area and Prairie Restoration Project since 1998. The project is overseen by **Dr. Peter Schulze**, who serves as an Alpha sponsor. In addition to these projects, the Alphas host philanthropy events including Texas-ville, Skate for the Cure, and a cupcake eating contest. The Alphas recently honored their longtime sponsors **Hank Gorman** and **E. Don Williams** upon their retirement from teaching at Austin College. They will be forever in their hearts.



The alumnae of ADX work with the current active Alphas on campus in a variety of ways to establish connections across generations and enrich the bonds of sisterhood long after graduation. Alumnae provide mentoring and advice to actives as well as share in the events that help shape the sorority and provide lasting memories. In 2018, the Alphas (with family and friends) established the 85th Anniversary Alpha Delta Chi Endowed Scholarship which provides scholarships to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Several times a year, alumnae and actives get together for lunch to coordinate activities such as homecoming and rush. Alumnae in the DFW area meet quarterly for social time and to catch up.

In 2023, the Alphas will be marking their 90th anniversary as a sorority, as well as 25 years of volunteering at Sneed. Plans are underway to celebrate both events. We hope to see lots of Alphas for these events! ■



Sarah Gunderson is an Austin College Trustee and past member of the Alumni Board and the Athletic "A" Association. She is an active ADX alumna and supports 'Roo athletics as a Legends Weekend sponsor and Slats McCord Golf Tournament sponsor.

Sarah is retired from a career in property management and volunteers her time to several efforts in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



We see the possibilities

Experience. Engage. Discover. Develop. Focus.

An Austin College education offers many pathways to explore ideas and uncover passions, from working on summer science research in the IDEA Center to walking ancient roads abroad during JanTerm. All this is possible because scholarships open doors for students to come here to change the world.

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