

Austin College

MAGAZINE | 2024 ISSUE



Explore. Belong.
Make a Difference.

New Master's Degree Helps Meet
Growing Healthcare Need

Austin College
Meets the Moment



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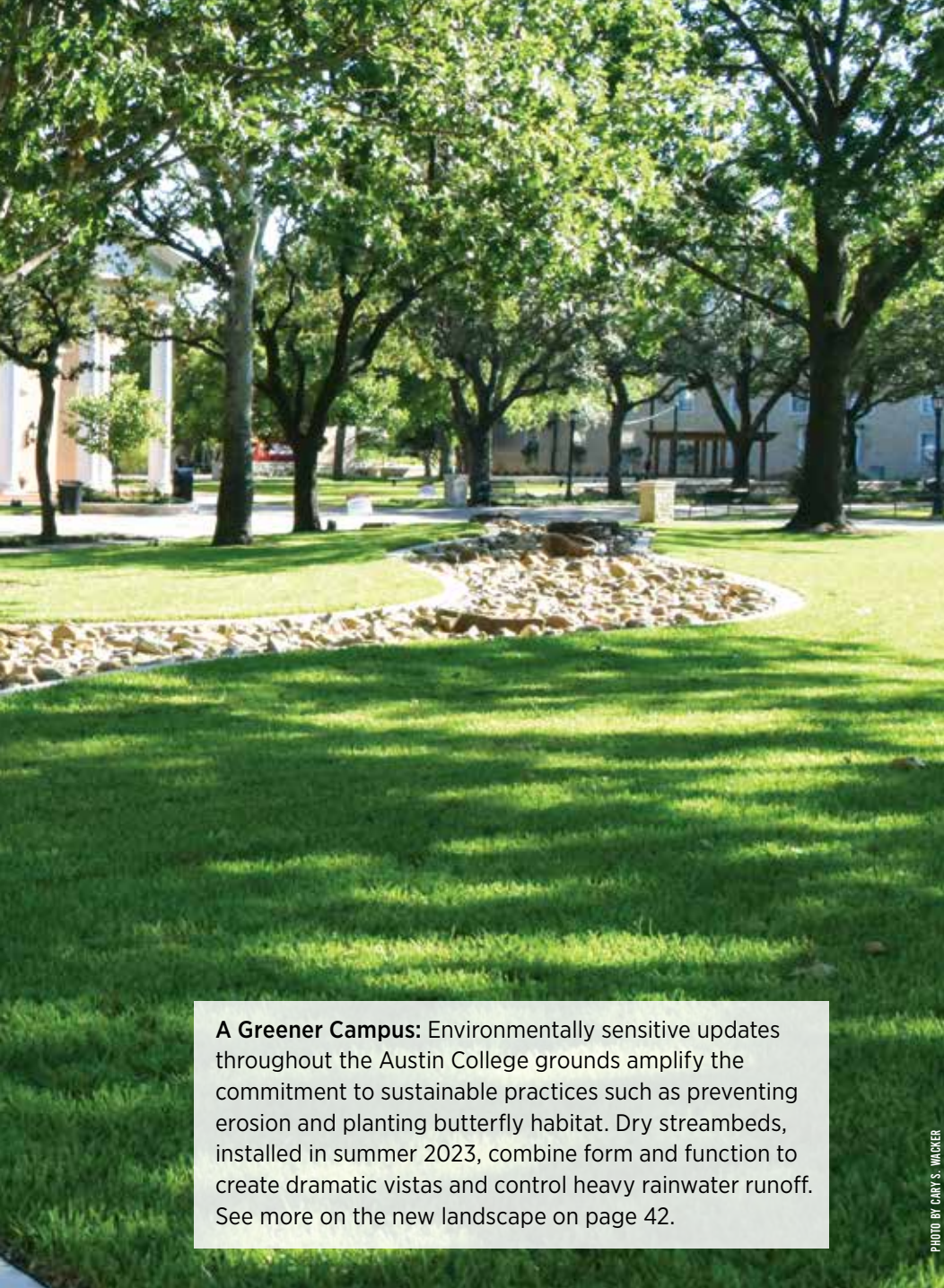
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A Greener Campus: Environmentally sensitive updates throughout the Austin College grounds amplify the commitment to sustainable practices such as preventing erosion and planting butterfly habitat. Dry streambeds, installed in summer 2023, combine form and function to create dramatic vistas and control heavy rainwater runoff. See more on the new landscape on page 42.

PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Cary S. Wacker

EDITOR
Leigh-Ellen Romm

STAFF WRITER
Laura Veach

CONTRIBUTORS
Kayla Brooks
Jeff Kelly
Marc Parrish '92
Willa White '24

MAGAZINE DESIGNER/ART DIRECTOR
Melanie Fountaine

'175' ART ILLUSTRATOR
Maddie Wilson '23

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Nicholas Hummert
Jayni Gogineni '27
Cristan Gutierrez '24
Alyssa Vyrva '24
Cary S. Wacker

Steven P. O'Day, J.D., L.H.D.
President

Elizabeth Gill, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
& Dean of the Faculty

J. Pernel Jones
Vice President for Business Affairs

Carlos Lassiter, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
& Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer

Gillian Grissom Locke '07
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Mary Randers
Interim Vice President
for Institutional Enrollment

Heidi Rushing '04
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer



PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

◀ **ON THE BACK COVER:**
Solstice Calendar, the massive stone sculpture by John Van Alstine installed in front of Abell Library in 1986, represents both art and science in its function as a solar calendar. The stones also beautifully symbolize the passage of time, a thought very much on the minds of 'RooNation during this 175th year.

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“The first months of this 175th year have been ones of excitement, achievement, and accomplishment, but we continue to stride forward, building even further on this momentum.”

Happy milestone year, Austin College!

We are halfway through the 175th year of this historic institution. There is so much happening on campus, it is impossible to capture it all in one letter. We have, however, tried in this edition of *Austin College Magazine* to give you a glimpse of the energy and excitement felt all across 'RooNation as we remember our history and heritage, celebrate the present, and anticipate all of the opportunities the future holds.

The theme of this issue and for the celebration of this milestone year is **Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.** These few words sum up the ongoing experiences of Austin College students and alumni. We are proud to introduce you to some of them in the pages that follow. They are exploring new ideas and fields of study. They are finding places of connection and belonging on campus and with the larger Austin College community. Finally, as I often say, “At Austin College, we transform students, so they can transform the world;” they are making a difference.

Everything you will read about within these covers, whether it is about academic programs to explore, teams or places where students find belonging, or the many ways students, faculty, and alumni make a difference (through their work or their writing), exemplifies our theme for this milestone moment.

The first months of this 175th year have been ones of excitement, achievement, and accomplishment, but we continue to stride forward, building even further on this momentum. Perhaps, in another 175 years, historians will look back on this time and say that this was a moment of renaissance for Austin College. This was a moment when Austin College was bold, we dug in, and we took some chances. It is my hope they will say we were confident, we were wise in our approach, and we were right.

For now, we will continue to **Explore, Belong, and Make a Difference!** Thank you to all of 'RooNation for your support.

Enjoy this year's magazine.

Best,

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

A Homecoming To Remember

When the new academic year began in fall of 2023, the curtain went up on the official commemoration of Austin College's 175th year.

That set the stage for Homecoming & Family Weekend 2023 to be especially memorable, bringing together 'RooNation for a grand campus celebration of people, stories, and a vision for the next chapter of this historic institution.

Photography by Cristan Gutierrez '24, Nicholas Hummert, Alyssa Vyrva '24, and Cary S. Wacker



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Homecoming & Family Weekend - November 2-5, 2023 • John D. Moseley Scholars Luncheon • Austin College Alma Mater •





City of Sherman Proclamation • Golden 'Roos • Alumni Art Educators Exhibit • Reunions • Historical Campus Walking Tour



Access the online portion of the 175th Historical Campus Tour here. Read and hear stories about campus landmarks, complete with photos, documents, and anecdotes.



- Roos Football
- Rowdy 'Roo
- AC Swimming & Diving
- Alumni Artists Reception



- Tailgating in the Outback • Fans
- Austin College Commons • Friends
- Shakespeare in the Nation Theatre



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Adams Observatory Open Night • Memories • Celebration Cake • Class of 1973

EXPLORE. BELONG. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

*Among the greatest milestones of Austin College
are the achievements of its alumni.*

By Leigh-Ellen Romm



While Austin College marks its 175th year, the timeline teems with the lives of thousands of alumni who have experienced an Austin College education—from Joab H. Banton, the first graduate in 1854, to Cynthia Y. Zapata, the most recent in May 2023.

As the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under its original name and charter, Austin College has endured pandemics and wars, and has expanded its student body with co-education in 1918 and desegregation in 1959. All those souls, with their hopes and dreams, have had opportunities to learn more about the world, find friendship, and help their neighbors—in the community and around the world—through acts of service.

The following alumni, all graduates since 2000, were nominated by faculty and staff members to represent the outstanding outcomes of an Austin College education. Although their stories are as different as the lives they lead, these alumni agree that an Austin College education has uniquely prepared them for the future.



You can read more alumni profiles that exemplify the celebration theme Explore. Belong. Make a Difference. on the 175th Milestone Celebration webpage of the Austin College website.

*Trusting his intuition
to reach a lifelong goal*



How does a D3 soccer player who majored in economics and Spanish become a Power Five Division I assistant coach at the University of Maryland, recruiting talented soccer players from around the world and preparing many of them for the professional stage? **Miles Vaughn '09** would say it's by having the emotional intelligence to consider his many options and then leaning into the choices he made.

"In my current work, the most important thing I do is communicate with people all over the country and world," Vaughn says.



"I firmly believe that the international experiences in studying abroad in Spain and JanTerm in Guatemala helped open my eyes to different people and cultures. After graduation, I spent two years as a Teach For America corps member in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Then, with the help

of mentors at Austin College, I was able to win a Fulbright English Teaching award to Colombia. These experiences have informed my approach to my career and have helped to steer me toward my current career in coaching."

He always wanted to coach soccer, but he says he assumed it would be at the club level or a

youth recreational program. So, after his Fulbright experience, rather than continue to law school or a Ph.D. program, Miles returned to Baton Rouge to first teach in a private school and eventually coach soccer full-time at a large club with 7,000 members. When his wife began the MBA program at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, Miles found a new club coaching job in a new part of the country. It was there that he met University of Maryland's head soccer coach; he says he was in the right place at the right time.

"I had been in the state for about six months," Miles says, "and when he had a job opening, he called me and said, 'do you wanna come work at the University of Maryland?' I said, 'that sounds like a great opportunity.'"

In the six years since, Miles has worked with many international student athletes from Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and Asia. "I think that going to different countries and experiencing different cultures through Austin College has helped me to understand what these young athletes are going through," he says. "So, I think being able to help them as they are exploring this different culture is sort of like a really cool, full-circle moment."



Finding harmony between music and medicine

When she came to Austin College, **Megan Chiu '18** had a dream to go to medical school—and she had a cello.

“Music really served as my kind of therapy,” she said. “I would always go back to music and always want to either just put in headphones and tune out everything or play cello. Being in the Sherman Symphony, when we had those long rehearsals ... it felt like we were all a big community of just people who loved music.”



When the time came to apply for medical school, Megan felt her dream had changed and her major could, too. She credits Austin College faculty members, Associate Professor of Music Dan Dominick, Professor Emeritus of Music Dr. Ricky Duhaime, and the late Kim Snipes from the Biology department, for helping with that decision and introducing the idea of music therapy.

“I could use everything that I’ve learned so far in my lifetime to really do something in the medical field that’s more holistic,” she said. “That’s more talking about the healing environment, that’s more talking about wellness overall. My experience at Austin College has encouraged me to pursue a career that incorporates all my passions equally: music, medicine, and service.”

Megan works as a full-time, board-certified music therapist at Baylor Scott & White Health – All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas, and has recently completed her Master of Music Therapy degree from Texas Woman’s University. “My liberal arts degree from Austin College has taught me core values of who I am as a developing professional and human. These core values include leading with compassion and empathy so that I may empower and advocate for my patients, future music therapy professionals, and the field of music therapy.”

Clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions can address a variety of healthcare



goals such as decreasing anxiety, decreasing perception of pain, and increasing emotional expression. Megan sees patients across a variety of units in the hospital including ICU, palliative care, transplant, and oncology.

“Austin College gave me a platform to learn about accessibility and advocacy,” Megan says. “A lot



of times our patients are just having such a hard time processing what they’re encountering at the hospital. So, for me to come in and say, listen, I’m not going to talk about anything medical with you yet, but let’s talk about some music. We’re not

going to tell a patient this is how they’re supposed to be coping, but that they’re finding their own way, and I’m just guiding them through. Working at the hospital has provided me a way to foster human connection and focus on the whole person, rather than their diagnosis.”

*Going to serve,
returning for love*



Emily Coufal Vann '00 has traveled to Kenya many times to visit the Maasai People of Amboseli. As a board member of Coins for Change, the nonprofit established in 2010 by her aunt and uncle, she has helped provide education, livestock, and skills training. In return, she has developed friendships that feel like family ties.

“Over the years, Coins for Change has sent roughly 150 children through high school and five have gone on to higher education,” Emily

says. “CfC has also raised money to purchase more than 1,500 cows and countless goats, which are invaluable in the Maasai community for nourishment and currency.” CfC has also supported surgical operations, famine relief, teacher housing, and provision of water tanks for communities throughout the Amboseli National Park area.

The organization’s low overhead allows it to maximize funding directed into the hands of the people who need it. Using a texting app, Coins for Change sponsors can regularly communicate with their friends and partners in Kenya, such as Chief Mary, the first female chief of police, who helps navigate the school system for the sponsored students.

“In 2019, my family sponsored one of the Coins for Change students, Jackson Sinyok, to come live and work in Dallas with our family for the summer. While here, he was able to get an internship in

accounting, thanks to fellow alumnus Matt Sisk '99,” Emily says. “That was an invaluable experience for him.”

“Two years later, we were invited to celebrate Jackson’s wedding in Amboseli, which I attended with my 13-year-old son,” Emily says. “On this trip we represented Coins for Change, visiting students, purchasing goats, taking tea in many of the surrounding bomas and enjoying the cherished friendships.”

Emily currently supports six students herself and credits her work as a senior sales manager at Hudson Energy for making that possible. “What I love about my job is that I help people,” she says. “I manage people, and I help them make money. I help the company as the liaison between my company and the customer and then salespeople. And so, for me, that brings me joy and resources to allow me to do my stuff that I love in Kenya.”

“It continues to fill my soul with love and happiness as my connection to people in Kenya deepens,” she said. “There are many Maasai I now consider family, who have enriched my life beyond measure. Austin College instilled a lifelong love and interest in different countries and cultures, opening my heart to new perspectives in the world. I feel so fortunate that I attended Austin College—it changed my life beyond measure and for that I am eternally grateful.”





Alumni recount stories of inspiration for meaningful careers



Katy Walters '07

**Minister of Word
and Sacrament**
**Forest Hills
Presbyterian Church**
Helotes, Texas

ACTivators prepared minister for life of service

Katy Walters says that no day as a pastor ever looks the same—she could be praying at the bedside of a congregant before surgery, teaching scripture in a Bible study class, or traveling to a youth conference making sure the snacks never run out and everyone is hydrated and enjoying God’s creation.

“Austin College nurtured my faith, my love for serving the children of God, and willingness to give the gift of time and care for others through AC’s Religious Life, specifically through the ACTivators program. AC was a safe space for me to grow, fail, play, and learn, and I’ve seen it do the same for many other ‘Roos,” she said.

Being prepared to learn and adapt has helped Katy at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. “I lead worship on Sundays, preside at funerals and weddings, lead and attend more meetings than I think are necessary, and try to be present in our community,” she said. “During this current call I’ve also learned much about managing a staff, multiple buildings, facility usage—and how to correctly use plungers.”

When not on campus, she serves the larger church through Mission Presbytery committees, helping by preaching, teaching, and leading small groups at youth conferences, or serving as a summer camp chaplain. Katy shares, “I often say that my theology involves four words: God loves all y’all.”



Anthony Swift '03

Senior Director
Natural Resources
Defense Council
Canada Program



Blair Whalen '17

Renal Social Worker
DaVita Dialysis
Houston, Texas

Strong foundation strengthened environmental activist

There's a lot at stake every day when **Anthony Swift** goes to work. As a member of the Natural Resources Defense Council, he says he must effectively communicate and advocate before a number of audiences such as policy makers, technical and scientific experts, corporate stakeholders, broad coalitions of other NGOs, grassroots organizations, Indigenous allies, and the general public.

"To be effective in my current role, I have had to be able to achieve mastery, or at minimum a proficient understanding, of a broad range of fields ranging from forest ecology, the economics, logistics and supply chains of the oil and gas and pulp and paper industries, as well as law and policy issues at the subnational, national, and international levels in the United States, Canada, and Europe," he said.

"While no four-year program could have taught me everything I needed to know to excel in these varied contexts, Austin College did something better. By giving me an excellent, multi-disciplinary foundation of knowledge and teaching me how to approach learning and communication, Austin College gave me the tools I needed to build the evolving expertise necessary to be an effective advocate for the planet and the natural systems on which we all depend."

PHOTO BY REBECCA GREENFIELD FOR NRDC

Exposure to cultures set social worker's trajectory

Blair Whalen connects her varied experiences at Austin College to meaningful outcomes in her post-graduate education, career, and acts of service. "It really can't be overstated how I was able to do everything I wanted while at AC, and how it set me perfectly along the trajectories that led me to what I'm doing today," she said.

While living in the Jordan Family Language House, she not only learned Japanese language and culture, but also enjoyed friendships with students studying Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. She took advantage of opportunities to study abroad in Japan and Scotland. "All of the cultural insights I gained from these experiences really helped me to become a better social worker. Being able to view the world through lenses and systems different from your own and what you have experienced is so important to the work," she said.

In addition to her career, Blair has devoted her efforts to fostering dogs that are waiting for adoption or euthanization in the Houston animal shelter system—saving 24 pups in the past year! "My education at AC focused on giving back as much as possible to help remedy systemic problems. The fact that I'm able to take pups into my home, getting them ready for their forever homes, helps me feel like I'm personally making an impact in what is really an overwhelming problem."



Casey Kaczmarczyk '08

Senior Service
Delivery Analyst
Axos Systems

Wellington, New Zealand



Celeste Longoria '04

Deputy Director of
Constituent Services

U.S. Congress Representative

Phoenix, Arizona

Communication skills led to work & life abroad

It's not what you know, it's where you want to go, that matters. Casey Kaczmarczyk says he knew the whole world was available to him after graduation from Austin College, so he started with three years in Japan, followed by two years in Gambia, West Africa, with Peace Corps.

He says that he and his partner continued to ride the teaching wave. "We were not being tourists," he said. "We were working in the middle of nowhere. I'm talking mud hut and no electricity." In time, they chose to settle in New Zealand, where Casey works in the energy market, helping move the country toward its goal of 100% renewable energy.

"Austin College taught me to put myself out there and get out of my comfort zone," he says. "I also joined an industry that has nothing to do with either of my majors (communication studies and Japanese studies), and I still felt prepared to jump right in and give it my best. I am so glad I did."

What started as a six-week data entry job 10 years ago escalated into a meaningful career. "I didn't have any direct skill set—no technical ability for the job. But AC did give me really good communication ability which I leveraged hard. So, when I did not have the skills, I did know how to learn and how to teach others," he said.

Opportunities inspired dedication to public service

"I think my story emphasizes that the liberal arts experience is designed to introduce you to things you didn't even know you were going to be passionate about studying," Celeste Longoria says. She majored in communications and history, completed all pre-med requirements, and studied abroad in Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

Since graduating, Celeste has dedicated her career to community service, working in direct roles as an educator, a poverty law paralegal, and currently in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she engages with constituents and federal agencies on behalf of Congressman Ruben Gallego.

"Austin College instilled in me a dedication to public service and a desire to always give back to the community ...," she says. She recalls the Alpha Phi Omega service project picking up trash on State Highway 56 in Sherman. She said, "This is a simple project, but it was also humbling and eye-opening. This is a perfect analogy for direct service to community: it's simple in concept, but exponentially impactful."

"I am endlessly proud of being an Austin College alumna and consider myself a steward of the education it provided," she says. "When professional folks ask where I honed a skill such as writing or public speaking, the answer is always Austin College. I attended a school that made it a point to send me out into the world with the tools I needed to excel, and I have."



Kola Alade '10

Pediatric Psychologist
Cook Children's
Medical Center
Hurst, Texas



Lauren Wheeler Hutton '16

Registered Nurse
Sanford Health Family
Birth Center
Fargo, North Dakota

First-year class opened door to psychology career

Kola Alade is a lifelong athlete who says his four years on the Austin College basketball team were some of the best times of his life—and they prepared him for his future. “I was around teammates who not only were a great group to be around but were ambitious about their career goals, and they are doing great things today,” he said.

While a first-year student at Austin College, Kola learned about psychology in an introductory class. Today, he has a Ph.D. in school psychology from Texas Woman’s University and is a nationally certified school psychologist. He works at Cook Children’s Hospital in Hurst, Texas, as a licensed psychologist.

“I primarily conduct psychological testing and evaluations for kids as young as two years old and teens up to age 17,” Kola says. “Concerns for my patients typically include autism, ADHD, trauma, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, OCD, and various neurodevelopmental disorders.” Based on the evaluations, Kola provides treatment plans and feedback to parents and caregivers, and therapy and counseling for the children.

Kola returned to campus as the 2023 Cunningham Lecturer, presenting his talk titled, “The Mental Health Umbrella: Our Need for Diversity & Equity.”

'Roo athletics instilled discipline needed for nursing work

Lauren Wheeler, postpartum nurse, takes care of moms in the hours they are first learning to care for their brand-new babies. Every family is unique, and Lauren says having a minor in Spanish from Austin College has been helpful. Although the Spanish language is not prevalent in that part of the country, when migrant workers travel through, there is a need to speak and understand it.

“One of my favorite parts of living up here is ... I’m able to be a resource for the postpartum team and help with assessments and teaching for Hispanic moms, without using a translator,” says Lauren.

She says the high level of detail, compassion, and determination that is needed in her nursing job was instilled in her by Austin College professors, swim coaches, and Athletic Director **David Norman '83 (MA '84)**. While on the Austin College swim team, Lauren earned All-SCAC honors four seasons in a row and broke the program record for the 100M butterfly. Now she excels on the hospital floor as a three-time nominee for the international Daisy Award, a recognition program that celebrates outstanding nurses.

Lauren and her husband, **Robert Hutton '14**, moved to North Dakota for work, where he is a teacher. “I am so grateful for the community we have found here in Fargo, 1,000 miles away from where we both grew up and everything we knew. Without Austin College, we would have not been open-minded enough or had the relationship skills instilled in us to thrive in a far-away place that we now call home,” she said.



Nancy Pineda Gama '21

Conservation Educator
John Bunker Sands
Wetland Center
Seagoville, Texas



Natalia Carter '05

Independent Solar
Consultant
Powur, PBC
Fort Worth, Texas

Applied learning built confidence for COVID-era grad

Nancy Pineda Gama can tell you her favorite insect—the six-spotted tiger beetle—faster than you can say, ‘Go ’Roos!’ She uses her passion for informal education and nature to share that information and so much more as she leads immersive field research experiences for the next generation of nature lovers.

She is a double-certified Texas Master Naturalist and facilitates community events and expos, guided nature walks, and field trips for the public. “As an immigrant, Latina, and first-generation college graduate, I often felt out of place in a predominantly white- and male-dominated environmental field,” she said. “Therefore, I am proud to be part of an organization that is committed to providing education, outreach, and service that not only helps with the management of natural resources but strives to increase access to environmental education and appreciation for nature.”

Applied learning courses and career shadowing opportunities helped give Nancy the experiences she needed to be successful in the nonprofit and education sector. “It allowed me to familiarize myself with software programs, grant reporting methods, and public outreach and engagement,” she said, “... even preparing me on what to expect with leadership styles, communication, and challenges in the workplace and the variation within the nonprofit field. Most importantly, these experiences and courses empowered me to always ask questions and never stop learning.”

Environmental studies lit the path for international student

In 2000, Natalia Carter, a Russian college student, won a debate club speech contest in her homeland. The prize was a month-long trip to Washington D.C. to study with Dr. Shelly Williams, Austin College political science professor at the time. After returning to Russia, she applied for admission to Austin College and secured scholarships and financing. In 2003, she returned to the United States, this time to Texas, where she would find her purpose and make her new home.

In her excitement, Natalia took many different classes about international relations and economics, and then she discovered environmental economics. “I remember the light bulb just came on,” she said. “It’s like something in me shifted, and I became really interested in the true cost of goods, the true cost of pollution—the environmental cost of everything. I knew at that time that I need to know more.”

Although that was many years ago, Natalia has gained momentum through her career as a solar energy consultant and with her family that lives an environmentally conscious lifestyle.

“I would say most of our lifestyle is powered by solar, including our house and the electric car,” she said. They have made other adjustments by composting, recycling, and cutting out animal products. “I believe that we have all the tools and resources to combat the worst consequences of climate change. How we take action and encourage other people to take action is up to us.”



TJ Randers '01
General Dentist
Lubbock, Texas



**Victoria Briscoe
O'Connor '13**
Assistant Director of Clinical
and Professional Services
Genesis Women's Shelter
and Support
Dallas, Texas

Dentist credits college experiences for continued service

TJ Randers arrived at Austin College with a solid plan to become a dentist. Largely for practical reasons, such as budget, time, and long-term goals, he dedicated himself to pre-dental coursework—and yet, many additional opportunities crossed his path.

He says that because the school is small and close-knit, it naturally eliminated the things he didn't need and cut straight to the things he wanted. He played soccer and tennis. He participated in Habitat for Humanity; he learned about environmental science and got to build a house out of hay bales. For a JanTerm he traveled to Peru for a photography class. He learned to lead and serve—two things that have helped him as a dentist who serves others locally and in other countries. TJ volunteers regularly in Lubbock at the Impact Clinic and has traveled to Mexico and Peru several times on health mission trips. He says that returning to Peru as a dentist is a meaningful full-circle moment.

"I'm really grateful for the time that I got to spend there—what fit so well for me was I got to be involved with as many things as I wanted to be involved with," he said. "The encouragement to be a well-rounded person and the emphasis on service has been something I have tried to put into practice in my life."

Broad worldview equipped trauma-informed therapist

For many students, Austin College has been life-changing. For **Victoria Briscoe O'Connor**, Austin College is life. She runs with a long line of alumni including an aunt, uncle, her parents, her husband, and many of their best friends. She remembers scrambling over the bleachers as a little girl at 'Roo football games and appreciates the great comfort when generations of Austin College family and friends recently offered support when her mother passed away. "That's a way I feel like I belong within the community from all of the powerful connections AC provides me," she said. "That just speaks to the heart that we're such a family."

"The Austin College experience prepared me to be an empathetic, thoughtful, and informed clinician," Victoria said. As a licensed professional counselor, she provides trauma-informed therapy to women and children survivors of domestic violence and supervises other counselors at the agency.

"I learned critical thinking skills to appropriately evaluate research findings as well as thoughtfully examine the impact of societal issues that many people face today," she said. "I had volunteer opportunities where I found a passion for nonprofit work and helping others. Through my JanTerm study abroad experiences and my post-graduate Fulbright year, I developed a desire to learn about other people and broaden my worldviews. I would not be the same person I am today without Austin College!"

Blooming Where They Were Planted



While Austin College alumni make a difference all over the world through their work, citizenship, and service, many make significant contributions right here on campus. The proud alumni pictured here work as members of the faculty and staff to deliver the unique Austin College experience to current students.

Left to Right:

Front Row: Maddie Wilson '23, Rebecca Jones '13, Marian Bailey Jones '20, Margie Briscoe Norman '83, Gillian Grissom Locke '07, Rosie Fasullo '19, Clara Harper '23

Second Row: Lisa Holloway '11, Emily Eldridge '12, Kendall Armijo '21, Kimberly Harder Donnell '08 (MAT '09), Cathy Raines '86

Third Row: Julie Mielke Macpherson '91, Mari Elise Ewing '07, Baylee Locker Kowert '05, Carey McClain '88, Darian Johannsen '23

Fourth Row: Courtney Sellars '22, Carlos Estrada '23, Pan Bridgwater '23

Fifth Row: Melanie Brown Oelfke '84, Joseph Allison '01, Shannon Cornelison-Brown '04

Back Row (on stage): Frank Williams '81, Chris Goldsmith '07, Sandy Philipose '99, Athena Padgett Todd '13, JR Ohr '07, Heidi Rushing '04, Xavier Maxwell '22, Ed Richardson '95, Dan Pucul '04, John Williams '84, Brian Watkins '04, Scott Austin '83, David Norman '83 (MA '84), Bradley Oh '15, Steven O'Day, Hon. L.H.D. '21

Not Pictured: J'Lee Bumpus '01, Karson Dykes '22, Taylor Goyen '19, Mark Monroe '81, Liz Preas '09, Christen Reamy '13, Ashley Tharayil '10 ■

New Master's Degree Helps Meet Growing Healthcare Need

By Leigh-Ellen Romm



As the population surges in Texas, access to quality healthcare becomes more difficult. The Texas Medical Association reports that Texas is well below the national average of 246 physicians per 100,000 people with only 204.6 patient care physicians per 100,000. Austin College is proud to announce—help is on the way.

In October 2023, the new Austin College Master of Medical Science-Physician Assistant degree program received provisional accreditation and began admitting applicants for the first class to matriculate in June 2024. With just two years of post-graduate study and successful completion of licensing exams, the graduates of the new program will be PAs who can diagnose, treat, and follow up with patients while working with a supervising physician.

“I believe adding this program at this time is an illustration of Austin College’s responsiveness to a very real and immediate need,” **President Steven P. O’Day** said. “We are going to rise to the moment in the community, the region, and the country. Healthcare shortages need to be addressed, and we, as an institution, have embraced that.”

The vision for a PA program was unveiled in May 2021. President O’Day and **Dr. Beth Gill**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, along with faculty members **Dr. David Griffith**, Professor of Business Administration, and **Dr. Kelly Reed**, Professor of Biology and Director of Pre-Health Sciences, presented compelling data for the new master’s degree and secured unanimous approval from the Austin College Board of Trustees.

Recalling that pivotal vote, O’Day said, “A moment before the confirmation, one of the Board trustees—also a physician—raised his hand and said, ‘This is not something Austin College should do.’ Then he paused ... and added, ‘This is something Austin College *has* to do.’ That was an important moment because an initial investment by the institution was required to build a new degree program. And, to some extent it was an ‘if you build it, they will come’ moment.”

Before even applying for provisional accreditation, a new PA program must be poised for operation with facilities secured, director and faculty hired, curriculum developed, clinical sites confirmed, and financial support in place.

Dr. Diana Noller, founding director of the new program and Associate Professor of Medical Science, attributes the commitment of the inaugural faculty and staff to their desire to serve others. “We recognize that the community needs better access to healthcare ... we value being a part of the solution,” she said.

Significant gifts totaling more than \$1.25 million supported the start-up costs and build-out of the satellite Austin College Health Campus. Generous benefactors with longstanding ties to the College include the Hillcrest Foundation, Texoma Health Foundation, Clara Blackford Smith and W. Aubrey Smith Charitable Foundation, M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation, and individual donors.

The 13,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is in Denison, next door to Texoma Medical Center. It includes classrooms, faculty offices, treatment simulation rooms, and shared spaces for collaboration. The inclusive design provides a variety of ways to interact with anatomy including virtual dissection tables and mixed-reality lenses for holographic study of the human body.

The 24-month program includes 13 months of classroom training and 11 months of clinical training with rotations through outpatient, inpatient, emergency department, and operating room settings. More than 100 medical sites have partnered with the College for these rotations, including Texoma Medical Center, Medical City, Baylor Scott & White, and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, along with other clinics and private practice offices.

Of the 306 PA programs nationwide, Austin College will be set apart by the close-knit community created by prioritized inclusivity, low student-to-faculty ratio, and small campus—the same hallmarks of the Austin College undergraduate experience.

“Our values of excellence, introspection, accountability, and engagement are very important to us,” Noller said. “And the way we live those out in everyday practice is unique. We also have thought



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

Dr. Diana Noller is the founding director of the Master of Medical Science-Physician Assistant program and Associate Professor of Medical Science. She holds a D.H.Sc. from Still University, an M.M.S. from Arcadia University, an M.S.P.T. from Thomas Jefferson University, and a B.S. from the College of New Jersey. She brings 15 years of experience in educating physician assistants to Austin College.



PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

The Skills Lab is an integral part of the new Austin College Health Campus. Here, students will use modern educational tools including virtual dissection tables and mixed-reality lenses to practice the hands-on skills needed to expertly fill the healthcare shortage in our area.

about how to be inclusive of others ... which means we are building a program that’s accessible to the greatest number of people to the greatest extent possible. That is not commonly found in PA education.”

Austin College has a long-standing reputation for educating and preparing qualified students for medical school. The new Master of Medical Science-Physician Assistant degree will help more students realize their dreams of a career in medicine while helping solve the problem of a healthcare shortage. ■

The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Austin College Physician Assistant Program sponsored by Austin College. 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. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.



‘We plan to make an impact’

’Roos engage with global climate leaders

By Cary S. Wacker

▲ Climate Ambassadors energized by a UAE desert sunset

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is halfway around the world from Sherman, Texas, but it no longer seems as remote for seven students. The first-ever group of Austin College Climate Ambassadors traveled there in December as official observers to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (also known as COP28). The event is the annual gathering of almost 200 nations to shape world climate action.

Planning for the journey began in 2022, when physics professor **Dr. David Baker**, Adams Observatory Co-Director and Donald MacGregor Chair in Natural Science, applied for Austin College to be granted official observer status as a research or educational institution—a process that takes 10 months for approval.

Ultimately, Austin College received U.N. badges for three observers. With COP28 spread over two weeks, the College maximized the opportunity by sending a different group each week of the conference. Baker and associate professor of biology **Dr. Keith Kisselle**, Department Chair of Environmental Studies, each accompanied a group. Badge access rotated among the Austin College delegates.

To prepare, students enrolled in a Fall Term class focused on climate science, policy, communication, and solutions. Each Climate Ambassador investigated a specific topic related to the environmental issues on the COP28 agenda. Once in Dubai, each group attended sessions in the “Blue Zone,” the U.N.-controlled area where heads

of state and environmental ministers negotiate policy. They also explored the “Green Zone,” an area hosted by UAE with exhibits, panel discussions, artists, lobbyists, and entrepreneurs.

While traveling, the students shared their experiences in Dubai on the Climate Ambassadors’ official Instagram account and via a live Zoom broadcast back to campus. The groups reported on topics as varied as water security in food systems, the relationship between health issues and climate change, and rising temperatures’ impact on habitat.

Austin College Climate Ambassadors also worked with students from Juniata College and Swarthmore College (both in Pennsylvania) at the COP28 conference to document important climate negotiations and to advance undergraduate representation at COP. “Early-researcher participation is critical for climate progress,” said Baker. “The purpose of the official observers is to serve as an avenue for transparency and to report on policy decisions.”

The trip yielded some extraordinary experiences: witnessing the historic vote to implement a global Loss and Damage Fund that will assist vulnerable countries affected by catastrophic weather; hearing world leaders speak, including then-U.S. Climate Ambassador John Kerry and French President Emmanuel Macron; and personally meeting U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres.

Back on campus, Austin College students will work throughout Spring Term 2024 to enhance public awareness of climate issues and accelerate meaningful climate solutions. Their participation in the U.N. Climate Conference is another marker of the College’s commitment to caring for the environment. “AC Climate Ambassadors engaged with climate leaders from around the world. We hope to inspire meaningful climate solutions that make sense for our local communities,” Baker explained.

As the students like to say, “There is no Planet B.” ■

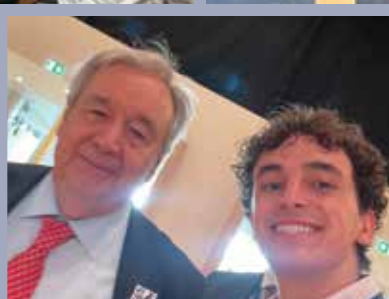


▲ Climate Ambassadors with Dr. David Baker are (L to R): Jed McPike '25; River Naile '24; Deedee Jansen '25; Robert Cagle '24; Axel Wilson '25; Asier Quiroga '25; Drew Easley '24
▼ Students heard speakers from the global community at COP28 in Dubai.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. DAVID BAKER

▲ Attending the UAE Declaration on Climate and Health session during which \$1 billion was pledged for climate and health solutions.
▼ Inside the Blue Zone at COP28, Dubai



▲ Asier Quiroga '25 with U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres





Austin College Meets the Moment

By Cary S. Wacker

Construction cranes lining Sherman's southern horizon are emblems of huge investment in high-tech industry—and of new opportunities for Austin College to lead in education.

PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

“The future of Austin College depends on being relevant. Technical skills plus liberal arts empowers people to think differently about the world; to be adaptive.”

— **Dr. Beth Gill**, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*

The founders of Austin College could not have seen where science would be today, but their endeavors certainly foreshadowed the College's commitment to science education as part of a robust liberal arts curriculum.

“From the beginning, the trustees realized the need for strong science courses in the curriculum,” wrote Dr. George Landolt in his 1970 history of Austin College, *Search for the Summit*. A 1923 alumnus and former head of the chemistry

department, Landolt was referencing a Board of Trustees report from the year 1853 that described the College's role as an official meteorological observation partner for the Smithsonian Institute.

True to those roots, Austin College in 2023 again set its sight on bold ventures. With new degree programs, additional majors, and pioneering partnerships that are forward-thinking and student-centered, the College is primed to offer innovative learning that is relevant in a changing world.

EXPANDING ACADEMIC OPTIONS

Austin College is fortunate to be located amid the booming semiconductor corridor, sometimes called the Silicon Prairie, stretching from Dallas to Sherman along U.S. Highway 75. Major international companies involved in silicon wafer manufacturing, including Texas Instruments, GlobalWafers, and Coherent, have announced new facilities in Sherman, with more to come. With Sherman's global reputation rising, the College's leadership cast a vision for adding dynamic new courses informed by this technology wave.

A significant curriculum development is the addition of a Bachelor of Science degree beginning in Fall Term 2024. This addresses a critical issue: students graduating in some science or technology fields need the B.S. credential for their resumes to move forward in the job application process. **Dr. Beth Gill** explained that in today's world, resumés are often machine-read—so the automated process might eliminate a Bachelor of Arts credential in fields such as neurology, computer science, data analytics, chemistry, or physics.

Happily, the rigor of the Austin College

curriculum already meets the requirements in many disciplines for a Bachelor of Science degree, so virtually no changes beyond formal faculty approval were needed to implement this degree, said Gill. Plus, the offering is important for the forthcoming full engineering program. Following many months of planning, the College will hire a Founding Director and Professor of Engineering in the summer of 2024.

"We are adding an excellent four-year engineering program grounded in the liberal arts and sensitive to regional needs. It will be a distinctive program because of a well-rounded curriculum that produces critical thinkers and collaborators who gain a broader lens for the practice of engineering," Gill explained.

The new program leverages the College's regional position, says Gill. Although Austin College is not alone in offering an engineering program in North Texas, "Ours will be distinctive because of the high-touch education model that characterizes an Austin College degree," noted Gill. "Here, it's not just an engineering degree, but a transformative education experience to serve students for life."

NEW ACADEMIC OPTIONS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE



Bachelor of
Science Degree
coming in
Fall Term 2024



New four-year
engineering program
grounded in the
liberal arts



More courses in
artificial intelligence,
machine learning,
robotics, and
data analytics



Michael Higgs, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and Dean of Sciences, explained that the engineering program's founding director will develop the curriculum for a general engineering degree and future focus areas, and hire faculty needed to teach subdisciplines, such as electrical and mechanical engineering. The program also will provide options for people who already have associate degrees. "We want to make sure there are next steps for everyone wanting to work in the engineering field," Higgs says, "and we can lower barriers through gateway agreements with other schools to provide more on-ramps for additional education at Austin College."

In addition to engineering, Austin College is adding more courses in artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, and data analytics to prepare students in many existing disciplines for work of the future.

These options play a critical role in workforce development to meet regional needs. "Sherman is the center of gravity, the hub of the hub. This is where semiconductor is investing," Higgs emphasized. The industry's rapid growth in North Texas is so dramatic that the Texoma region has been named a Tech Hub by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

A PATH FOR TRANSFORMATION

Austin College is poised to become the regional institutional anchor of the Red River Workforce Group for the newly formed Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub (TSTH), a collaborative semiconductor ecosystem focused on industry innovation, supply chain resilience, and workforce development. The 41-member consortium, led by Southern Methodist University in Dallas, resulted from a successful application in 2023 to Phase I of the EDA's Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) grant program. **Dr. David Griffith**, The Jack B. Morris Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies and Director of Special Projects, **Professor Michael Higgs**, and **Lisa Holloway '11**, Director of Corporate, Foundation, and Government Relations, played major roles in preparing the application.

The EDA also invited TSTH to prepare an application for Phase II of the Tech Hub program for additional funding.

"If awarded, the next EDA grant of up to \$75 million for semiconductor industry workforce training is a game changer for the Texoma region," Griffith said. "Our success with the Phase I grant represents Austin College's commitment to the growth and transformation of Sherman and the Texoma region." Griffith serves on the TSTH Executive Committee and leads the Red River Workforce Development component.

Gill notes that as a member of TSTH, the College's location and programmatic expertise place it at the nexus of efforts to enhance the national semiconductor supply chain infrastructure while also creating new opportunities for Austin College students.

"By leveraging our central location in the heart of growing semiconductor industries and our institutional expertise in physics and engineering, computer science, data analytics, strategic management, and entrepreneurship, Austin College is uniquely situated to facilitate consortial collaboration in many ways," she continued.

The stakes are high, but Austin College is ready. "This is *not* workforce development in the traditional sense; Liberal Arts for the 21st century is powerful. We are the gold standard for transforming students," Gill concluded.



Representing Austin College in the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub planning process are Dr. David Griffith, Professor Michael Higgs, Dr. Beth Gill, and Lisa Holloway '11. President Steven O'Day has tasked the group with guiding a bold vision for new courses and majors to meet the needs of the region's rapid growth.

A STARRING ROLE FOR SHERMAN



Semiconductors—the conductive materials used to create electronic components—are integrated into a vast number of devices for daily life. Think cell phones, cars, and medical equipment, for starters.

With nearly \$40 billion in investment flowing to Sherman since 2018 to build new semiconductor fabrication plants and allied industries, North Texas leaders knew they had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pursue funding when the EDA’s Tech Hubs grant program opened.



Kent Sharp
SEDCO President

The Texoma Semiconductor and Technology Hub, a geographically connected consortium of academic, industry, and government entities, was the result. Kent Sharp, president of Sherman Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO), says that bringing together such a diverse group speaks to the commitment of the region to bring jobs and opportunities for the next 20 years.

“Everyone in the world has been trying to recreate Silicon Valley (in California) for years. All the elements—R&D (research and development), entrepreneurship, and money—came together there at the right time,” said Sharp.

“Now, what’s exciting for me is seeing so much flowing into our Texoma region—the R&D component, real-world projects being built, and plans for workforce development,” he said. “Sherman is well on the way to becoming the next hot spot for technology innovation.”

As a Tech Hub partner, SEDCO has facilitated conversations between Austin College and Sherman industry to explore future job needs.

“It’s exciting to see that Austin College recognizes the need for new STEM pathways to be created,” said Sharp. “Traditional engineering, chemistry, and physics curriculums need to be infused with sophisticated training in data collection and problem-solving. For example, if a microchip malfunctions in a truck, a million data points from every stage of the manufacturing process need to be analyzed. SEDCO and the economic development sector can be investing in academic research and supporting new faculty to address educational needs in data analytics and AI, among others. We are happy to be working with Austin College on ways to prepare students for jobs that may not even yet exist.” ■



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA VYRVA '24



Creativity on Display in Art Showcase

▶ Celebrating the rich and diverse creative talent of individuals on campus, the Art and Art History Department curated and displayed *ART 175: Faculty and Staff Art Showcase*. Guests were welcomed to the opening reception, held September 7 in the Dennis Gallery of the Betsy Dennis Forster Art Studio Complex. The exhibit continued through October 13, 2023.

Art in various forms comprised the exhibit, including painting, sculpture, photography, textiles, digital arts, video art, and mixed media.

The show included works from:

- Dr. Margaret Emma Brandl, *English*
- Kayla Brooks, *Center for Student Success and Access Services*
- Brianna Burnett, *Art*
- Dr. Renee Countryman, *Psychology/Neuroscience*
- Rosie Fasullo '19, *Information Technology*
- Dr. Jeffrey Fontana, *Art History*
- Becky Goldsmith, *Faculty spouse*
- Dr. Steven Goldsmith, *Biology*
- Dr. Greg Kinzer, *English*
- Carey K. McClain '88, *Mailing & Printing*
- Mark Monroe '81, *Art*
- The late Dr. Richard Neidhardt, *Art retired*
- Dr. Andrea Overbay, *Mathematics*
- Jess Reinhard, *Art*
- Heidi Rushing '04, *Institutional Marketing and Communications*
- The late Dr. Daniel Setterberg, *Communication Studies retired*
- Dr. Julia Shahid, *Education*
- Karen Sims, *Admission*
- The late Kim Snipes, *Biology*
- Timothy Tracz, *Art retired*
- Cary Wacker, *Institutional Marketing and Communications* ■



Austin College Honors the Beauty and Strength of Diversity

On the morning of Commencement 2023, graduates assembled on Windsor Mall with the common joy of young people celebrating a big achievement. Among the billowing robes, more than 70 students were set apart with colorful regalia that represented and honored their unique family or cultural identities.

A few days before, a new initiative celebrating diversity was offered to seniors at the first Multicultural Stole Ceremony on May 3, 2023. **Dr. Carlos Lassiter**, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer and Vice President for Student Life, hosted the event in Sally and Jim Nation Theatre. The evening featured student speakers **Traelyn Marsh '23** and **Mariagisse Morales '23**, and performances by the South Asian Dance Association and **Clemon White '24**.

“The celebration and the stoles reinforce the College’s Inclusion and Diversity pledge to cultivate minds, uphold justice, togetherness, and common humanity,” Lassiter said.

The special graduation stoles were funded through private gifts to the College and presented in recognition of these student organizations: Asian Student Association, Black Expressions, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Indian Cultural Association, La Familia, and Muslim Student Association. ■

Long Shot Leads to Adventure & Opportunity



By Willa White '24
Contributing Writer

“Becoming a Voyager has offered me experiences beyond the classroom. The program has given me the opportunity to meet people who are changing the world.”

“Coffee in one hand, Confidence in the other” is the caption on the mug my mother gave me my first year of college. It sums up my life. When I applied for the Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship for Public Service, I knew I was a long shot—1,800 applicants, 100 recipients. I don’t attend an Ivy League institution. I’m not a National Merit Scholar. But, I’m confident. I’m resilient. I’m persistent.

I’m also a woman, an immigrant, a minority, and an adoptee. I was born with infantile esotropia during China’s one child policy. Disenfranchised by my birth country, I know what it means to live between two cultures. I was raised by white parents to be an American, but I’m visibly Asian in the age of COVID-19.

The negatives in my early background forced me to learn to advocate for myself. I want to work in government, so I can advocate for others. The Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service, created by former President Barack Obama, Mrs. Michelle Obama, and Brian Chesky, the co-founder and CEO of Airbnb, exists to help shape the next generation of leaders.

I’m honored to be a member of the inaugural cohort. In addition to receiving a last dollar scholarship of up to \$50,000, I was invited to participate in a Fall Summit, and received a \$10,000 stipend to design and complete my own “Summer Voyage” with the goal of gaining exposure to new communities and experiences in my chosen field.

At last year’s Democracy Forum and Fall Summit held in New York City, I attended a session and heard from former President Barack Obama. I spoke to Nick Antipov, the co-founder of MAKEOUT, an anti-discrimination project empowering the LGBTQ community in Belarus, and co-founder of ICanHelp. I heard Tabata Amaral, a member of the Brazilian House of Representatives, speak on the importance of open and free elections. I interacted with Juan Carlos Monterrey Gómez, the Vice Chair for the Implementation of the UN Climate Convention. He is also the Executive Director of the School for Biocultural Leadership at Geoversity. His knowledge of climate transparency, carbon markets, and nature-based solutions may save the world.

My favorite moments were those spent with my fellow Voyagers: making Chinese dumplings with a

chef at an Airbnb Experience; sharing a seat on the bus with Mae, a senior at Gonzaga; posing with new besties in front of the Forever 21 billboard in Times Square and sharing our plans to make the world a better place.

Because I hope to go into politics, I chose Washington, D.C., for my 2023 Summer Voyage. Anyone who knows me knows I'm not a spontaneous person. I like policy and plans. Spending six weeks on my own in a new city forced me out of my comfort zone. I scheduled my days, made my own meals, set goals, and met them.

Spending the summer in D.C. made me realize how small the world is. I ran into Clemon White '24, an Austin College classmate, at the Congressional Baseball Game. Because of a mutual friend, I got to meet Xochitl Hinojosa, the Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Department

of Justice. Hinojosa offered great advice about how to jumpstart a career in politics. Through one of my fellow Voyagers, I was able to attend a lecture by Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, one of my political heroes.

I learned something new every day. Volunteering with the nonprofit Voices for a Second Chance, I planted a garden. I toured law schools at George Washington and American Universities. I saw the pandas at the National Zoo, paintings at the National Portrait Gallery, and as much of the Smithsonian as time allowed.

Becoming a Voyager has offered me experiences beyond the classroom. The program has given me the opportunity to meet people who are changing the world. With coffee in one hand and confidence in the other, I hope to join them soon. ■

The Voyager Scholarship is a two-year program for students in their junior and senior years of college who are committed to pursuing careers that serve the public and their communities. After graduation from Austin College, **Willa White** will join the Obama Foundation's global community and have access to Foundation resources and programming.

She is a Catherine Rosalie Fincher Kucera Scholarship recipient; a member of Phi Alpha Theta, Xi Epsilon, and the Austin College Chamber Orchestra. She has majored in political science and history with a focus on public policy.



White joined 99 other members of the inaugural cohort of the Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship for Public Service class. She had many experiences including volunteering with the nonprofit Voices for a Second Chance (VSC) to plant a garden.



While attending a summer internship lecture, White met the speaker, Senator Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota. White says she admires Klobuchar as a politician and as an informative and humorous speaker.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLA WHITE '24

Veterans Bring Experience to 'Roo Athletics

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT



Leadership, collaboration, and communication are the important skills these veterans say they bring to Austin College athletics. After first serving their country, they're now working toward degrees at Austin College and participating in team sports.

Sgt. Nick Denbo '26 served for four and a half years in the Army 82nd Airborne and stationed at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. Military experience runs in his family—he says that although most served in the Marines, he was the first in his family to join the Army since World War II. He deployed to Iraq in 2020, and in 2021 he assisted with the three-week evacuation mission of Afghanistan.

“Being an athlete helps with the drive you need to be in the military. It comes with the dedication and commitment you need there,” he said. “Especially with being a sergeant in the Army, the military develops your leadership skills.” Nick is a pitcher for the 'Roos baseball team and is studying psychology and public health.

Army Specialist Elijah Davis '26 followed a long line of family members serving in the military. He enlisted in 2018 and continued through 2022. He was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and was domestically deployed to Texas to assist

with border patrol. “College comes with its own challenges just as the military did,” Elijah said. “It was a big adjustment as a student-athlete, not only physically but mentally as well. I developed skills in the military that were transferable to college like discipline, problem solving, technical skills, communication, and adaptability.” Elijah played 'Roo football in the 2023 season and is studying psychology.

Hoping to discover more about himself and his career options, **Sgt. Ben Meraz '26** (not pictured) enlisted in the Army in September 2017 and was stationed at Fort Liberty in North Carolina as a member of the 82nd Airborne. Now, he is a running back for the Austin College 'Roo football team and plays infielder for the baseball team. Ben said, “Learning how to be a good member of a team, knowing your role, and learning how to take direction are all important parts of athletics and military service.” Ben is studying business finance and accounting.

Three members of the coaching staff join these student athletes as military veterans: Men's and Women's Head Swimming & Diving Coach Dan Snow, Marines; Head Volleyball Coach Ed Garza, Air Force; and Adjunct Instructor of Kinesiology Zachary Sullivan, Army. ■

This 'Roo Rules the Pool

By Laura Veach



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

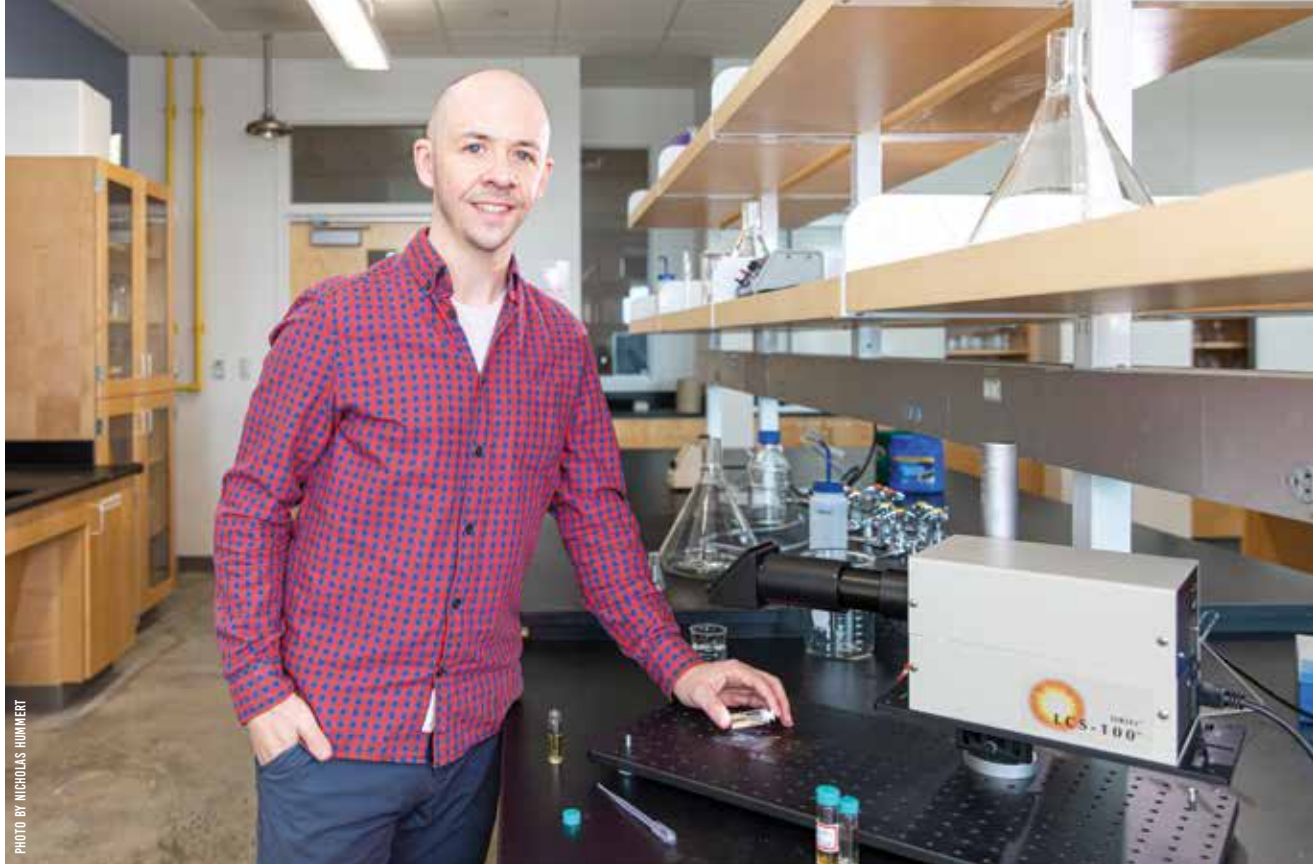
► **Sammi Thiele '24** has made history during her undergraduate career at Austin College. As a regular on the Dean's List, her academic achievements are worthy of note, but her accomplishments in the pool will be remembered long after she graduates. As a junior, Thiele broke the SCAC Championship 100M backstroke record with a 56.22 time, qualifying her to compete at the NCAA Division III National Championships. And, in 2023, she bested her own time with 55.35—marking the first time in SCAC history a woman has finished the 100M backstroke in under 56 seconds. She's also a dual-sport athlete, contributing to the nationally ranked women's water polo team as a member all four years of her career.

One might assume climbing the podium to collect such a prize could top this champion's list of greatest moments; however, Thiele says the biggest rewards have been the memories made during training trips and her time spent with the team. This is what makes swimming memorable for her—relationships with the coach and teammates who helped her get there.

Thiele, an English major with a minor in education, plans to earn her Master of Arts in Teaching in the Austin Teacher Program then follow in her mother's footsteps and become a high school teacher. She also hopes coaching will be a part of her future. Thiele's face lights up when she talks about her experience coaching water polo club teams with athletes ranging from six to 18 years old. She knows she can't swim competitively forever, but she can share her love of the water by employing her teaching skills. "I know there will come a time when my body gives out, but my heart hasn't," Thiele says. She plans to pour her heart into the next generation of champions. ■

Sammi Thiele has earned many medals in the pool, and she has been named SCAC Elite 19 Award Winner as a top female swimming student-athlete, honored twice with the Austin College Gene Day Female Athlete of the Year, and was chosen by her teammates for the 2023 Hannah Award for Most Outstanding Female Swimmer. She is a leader on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and a member of Sigma Tau Alpha, the international English honor society.





Research Benefits Faculty & Students

Chemistry professor shares insight

By Laura Veach

► **Dr. Aaron Harrison**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, says lessons in the classroom are just part of the teaching and learning experience. He and many Austin College faculty members conduct independent research projects that deepen their own understanding, enhance their lessons for students, and expand the knowledge in their field of interest. He shares how this aspect of his career is so fulfilling.

What do you hope to accomplish with your research?

I've always been fascinated with the interaction of light with matter, and my research throughout my Ph.D. until now has focused on the field of *photochemistry*: the absorption of energy, in the form of sunlight, by molecules present in the atmosphere. This is a major source of chemical change in the environment.

My research aims to better understand the underlying mechanisms of sunlight-driven photochemical reactions. Understanding this chemistry is essential for making meaningful models and predictions about the evolution of Earth's atmosphere.

What does the participation of students add to your projects?

Working with students is an important part of my research and the Austin College experience for chemistry majors in general. Engaging in research allows students to apply what they've learned in the classroom to real-world problems. This hands-on experience is invaluable for their academic and professional development. Also from a pure research perspective, students might ask questions or consider aspects of a project that more experienced researchers might not, leading to new research directions or insights.

What is the verification process to have research findings published?

For research publications, the submitted manuscripts will go through a peer review process where the draft will be sent to reviewers in the field to anonymously review the work. The editor will then compile those comments and ask me to respond to them before a decision is made about acceptance for publication. I also write for online publications like *The Conversation* where I have an editor, but drafts of the article do not undergo any kind of external peer/expert review. ■

Faculty Research Adds Depth and Breadth

Austin College faculty members' research projects and fine arts performances allow them to pursue specific interests, enhance current classroom offerings for students, and contribute to the body of knowledge in their areas of expertise. The following list reflects publications and performances reported between October 2022 and April 2023.

◆ **Empowering Students as Change Agents in Psychology Classes.**

Edited by M. Fortner and I. Katzarska-Miller
Society for the Teaching of Psychology
"Same Rhetoric, Different Decade: Recognizing the Times, Calculated Action, and Other Sources of Empowerment"

Dr. Nate Bigelow

Professor of Political Science

Dr. Lisa M. Brown

Dean of Social Sciences

Dr. Danielle Franks

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Felix Harcourt

Associate Professor of History

Dr. Sandy Philipose '99

Professor of Education

Dr. Claire Wolnisty

Associate Professor of History

◆ **Vivomatografías: Revista de Estudios Sobre Precine y Cine Silente en Latinoamérica**

"Un Vagabundo Revolucionario y Antimaterialista: Charlot en Don Quijote de Hollywood de Luis Felipe Rodríguez (Cuba, 1936)"

Dr. Patrick Duffey

Professor of Spanish

◆ **ACS Earth and Space Chemistry**

"Reaction of Glyoxal and Ammonium as a Potential Contributor to Protein-Like Fluorescence in Atmospheric Measurements"

◆ **International Journal of Chemical Kinetics**

"Temperature-Dependent Kinetics of the Reactions of CH₂O with Acetone, Biacetyl, and Acetylacetone"

◆ **Earth and Space Science**

"Chromophoric Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM) Across an Elevational Gradient from Sea Level to Mountain Lakes"

Dr. Aaron Harrison

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

◆ **Hume Studies 47**

"Hume and the Royal African"

Dr. Max Grober

Professor of History

◆ **Cancer Med**

"Adjuvant Chemotherapy Non-Adherence, Patient-Centered Communication, and Patient-Level Factors in Elderly Breast and Colon Cancer Patients"

Dr. Kerri-Anne Mitchell

Assistant Professor of Public Health

◆ **Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day**

"The Tejano Considers Seeds"

Dr. Sebastián Páramo

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

◆ **Bowed Colors**

Performed by Peter Sulski and Randall Hodgkinson
"Capriciously Strung"

Dr. John McGinn

Associate Professor of Music

◆ **The American Economist**

"Examining the Association Between Financial Education and Financial Risk Tolerance"

Dr. Ashley Tharayil '10

Associate Professor of Economics

◆ **Histories of Tibet: Essays in Honor of Leonard W.J. van der Kuijp**

Edited by J. Liang, K. Schaeffer, and B. McGraff
"No Stone Unturned: Un-Disciplining Tibetan Buddhist Studies"

Dr. Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan

Professor of Religious Studies

◆ **History from Loss**

Edited by D. Woolf and M. Hughes-Warrington
"Edward A. Pollard, 1832-1872"

Dr. Claire Wolnisty

Associate Professor of History ■

CREATE: Expanding Student Enrichment Opportunities

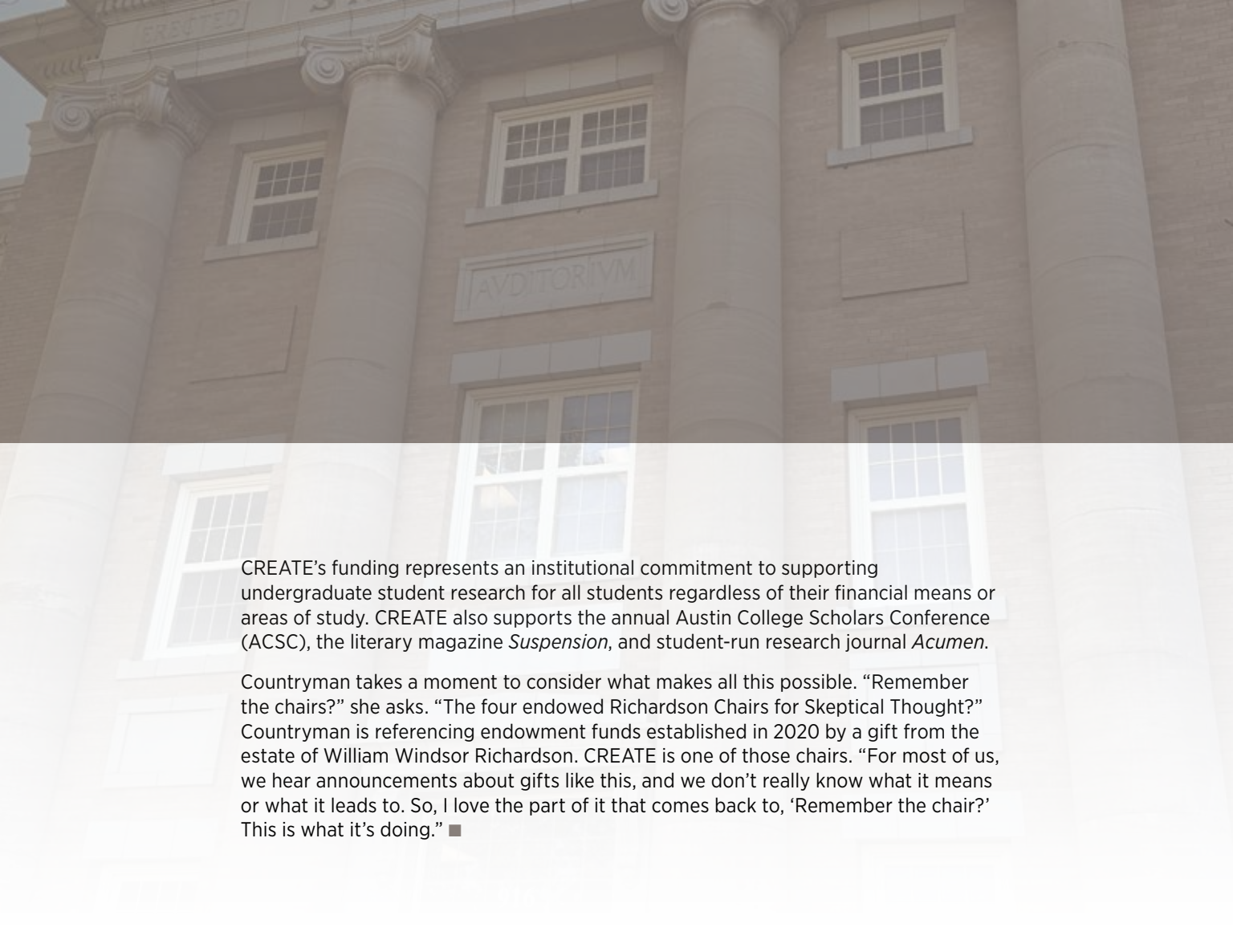
By Laura Veach

When **Dr. Renee Countryman** was named Richardson Chair for the Center for Research, Experiential, Artistic, & Transformative Education (CREATE) in 2021, her goal was to make the most of the program's resources. She focused on providing off-campus learning opportunities to as many students as possible. "We exist to fund students, and I just say 'yes,' and then I have a committee of people who vote and say 'yes,'—because we just want to say 'yes,'" she said.

CREATE is the home for undergraduate research at Austin College. Students, either individually or as a group, identify a subject they would like to research, then team with a mentoring faculty member, and apply for funding from CREATE to support their research. In the eight years since its start, the Center has supported more than 600 students from every academic program and background.

The CREATE committee enthusiastically grants up to \$600 per student per year to defray costs associated with undergraduate research. Publishing a research paper as an undergraduate demonstrates leadership and initiative to future employers and post-graduate institutions and provides valuable hands-on experience. However, Countryman says, it can cost \$1,000 or more to have an article published in a nationally recognized peer-reviewed journal—decidedly cost-prohibitive for most college students without CREATE's backing. CREATE also supplies up to \$600 per year for students to travel to and participate in program-related conferences. Academic conferences provide opportunities for students to learn from industry experts, gain experience and inspiration, and network with other student researchers.

"When we look at students in the fine arts, they don't go to conferences like the science students do, probably because those opportunities are not as prevalent," says Countryman. "But something that truly helps them develop as future artists, as future actors, as future writers, is to be able to go to readings, to go to art shows, to attend plays." To facilitate these opportunities, the CREATE committee has introduced the CREATE Research and Development (R&D) Program beginning in fall of 2024. R&D will provide up to \$150 per year per approved applicant to attend fine arts events and lectures, art shows, and performances. "It's designed for undergraduate students to leave campus and travel regionally for experiences that will develop their careers or guide in their research interest," said Countryman.



CREATE's funding represents an institutional commitment to supporting undergraduate student research for all students regardless of their financial means or areas of study. CREATE also supports the annual Austin College Scholars Conference (ACSC), the literary magazine *Suspension*, and student-run research journal *Acumen*.

Countryman takes a moment to consider what makes all this possible. "Remember the chairs?" she asks. "The four endowed Richardson Chairs for Skeptical Thought?" Countryman is referencing endowment funds established in 2020 by a gift from the estate of William Windsor Richardson. CREATE is one of those chairs. "For most of us, we hear announcements about gifts like this, and we don't really know what it means or what it leads to. So, I love the part of it that comes back to, 'Remember the chair?' This is what it's doing." ■



The Richardson Chairs for Skeptical Thought

- ❖ **The Richardson Chair for the Center for Research, Experience & Transformative Education**
Dr. Renee Countryman, *Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience Program Director*
- ❖ **The Richardson Chair for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program**
Dr. Mark Ronald Hébert, *Associate Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department Chair*
- ❖ **The Richardson Chair for the Professionalism and the Humanities Leadership Program**
Dr. Claire M. Wolnisty, *Associate Professor of History*
- ❖ **The Richardson Chair for Comparative Politics and International Relations**
Dr. Rüçhan Kaya, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*

Using Critical Thinking to Harness the Power of AI



By Kayla Brooks
Contributing Writer
*Assistant Director of Student Success
Center for Student Success & Access Services*

Does it feel like the letters A and I are hanging out together a lot more?

Professional chefs cook (lousy) recipes generated by AI. Content creators ask AI for mashups of animals that don't exist. It's the hottest topic in Hollywood right now—as WAG and SAG-AFTRA debated for months to protect artistic contributions and the use of human likeness.

So, what's the deal with AI—artificial intelligence—anyway? Is it scary? Revolutionary? Both? Past TEDxAustinCollege speaker **Devin Gonier '09** defines artificial intelligence in its simplest terms. Gonier is Chief Technology Officer at WageUp in Denver, Colorado, where he directs product development using AI that inspires excitement and inspiration in the work environment.

“Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is a very broad term that encompasses a number of subfields in computer science, but specifically aims at solving problems that would otherwise require human intelligence to achieve,” he says. “Importantly, AI systems typically have a managed state and target objectives in which they make decisions or take actions according to an objective.”


Gonier explained there are subfields that are essential ingredients in any advanced AI system.

First, there is Natural Language Processing, the study of using algorithms to understand and use language, and also Machine Learning, the study of using datasets to train models to generalize understanding of a domain or task.

“Interestingly, there's a growing movement in reframing research as building ‘Augmented AI,’” he said. “Those are tools that can solve problems without human intervention but do achieve better performance when done in conjunction with humans, such that a human and AI achieve better results together than AI alone or a human alone. In the context of education, this is especially important. Our goal should be to teach students how to leverage AI in the classroom.”

“Instead of punishing students for using ChatGPT, make it a requirement for an assignment,” he explained. “If you ask your students to write a paper on Plato's *The Symposium*, ask students to use ChatGPT, and cite it as part of the authorship process. Top points go to students who effectively used their own thinking and AI thinking to produce ideas that would not be possible independently,” Gonier suggested.

This assignment could be especially useful if the professor can compare and contrast the ChatGPT citation with a more traditional citation—pointing out what AI gets right *and* wrong.



Dean of Humanities **Dr. Greg Kinzer** discusses AI frequently in his writing courses. He shared, “AI language models, like ChatGPT, aren’t going anywhere. As teachers, rather than avoiding them or seeking to prevent students using them, we should embrace these new technologies in the classroom. I want my students to understand what ChatGPT is, what it isn’t, and how to use it.”

“Students in my classes have started exploring some of these questions in really interesting ways,” he continued. “In a poetry writing course, students tasked ChatGPT to write original poems on a range of topics. We had a great time examining what patterns emerged, where the AI seemed to run into limitations, and what those limitations might signal about the language model. The experience also really challenged our sense of what it means to write a poem.”

In his Fall Term 2023 advanced literature course, Kinzer had students use ChatGPT as a research tool where they discovered that even AI has built-in human bias.

“Just ask an AI image generator to generate an

image of a ‘professional,’ a ‘Black professional,’ and a ‘woman professional,’ and you’ll immediately see what I mean. Moving forward, I hope to develop new ways for my students to explore the ethics of these new AI technologies and to think critically about the gap between what AIs can do and what our human values might want them to do,” he said.

Gonier noted, “In education, many teachers are very anxious about what this means for evaluating student performance and for even the possibility of being replaced in certain contexts. I don’t anticipate an existential risk from AI anytime soon.”

AI may be a mix of terrifying and thrilling. Fortunately, the field of higher education has weathered similar storms in the past. Remember the introduction of calculators, personal computers, and the internet at large? Remarkably, evolving technology has often been intermingled with how students are educated. Austin College is making efforts both inside and outside the classroom to ensure students feel comfortable and curious about change—including AI. ■



Austin College highlights **Devin Gonier '09** as part of the 175th Year Celebration. His work to open the lines of communication about artificial intelligence is an example of the celebration theme: *Explore. Belong. Make a Difference*. Gonier says that research in AI, especially as it pertains to ethics and reinforcement learning, is the best way to do philosophy in our modern era. He followed his Austin College undergraduate degree in philosophy and religion with a master’s degree in machine learning from Columbia University.



The Girl on the Mall

By Laura Veach

During fall of 2023, **Caroline Clure** became a familiar figure seated in the middle of Windsor Mall while drawing the east end of the campus corridor. Just one human figure is drawn into the entire project. Once the exhibit is installed, she hopes viewers will find and identify the figure.

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMMERT

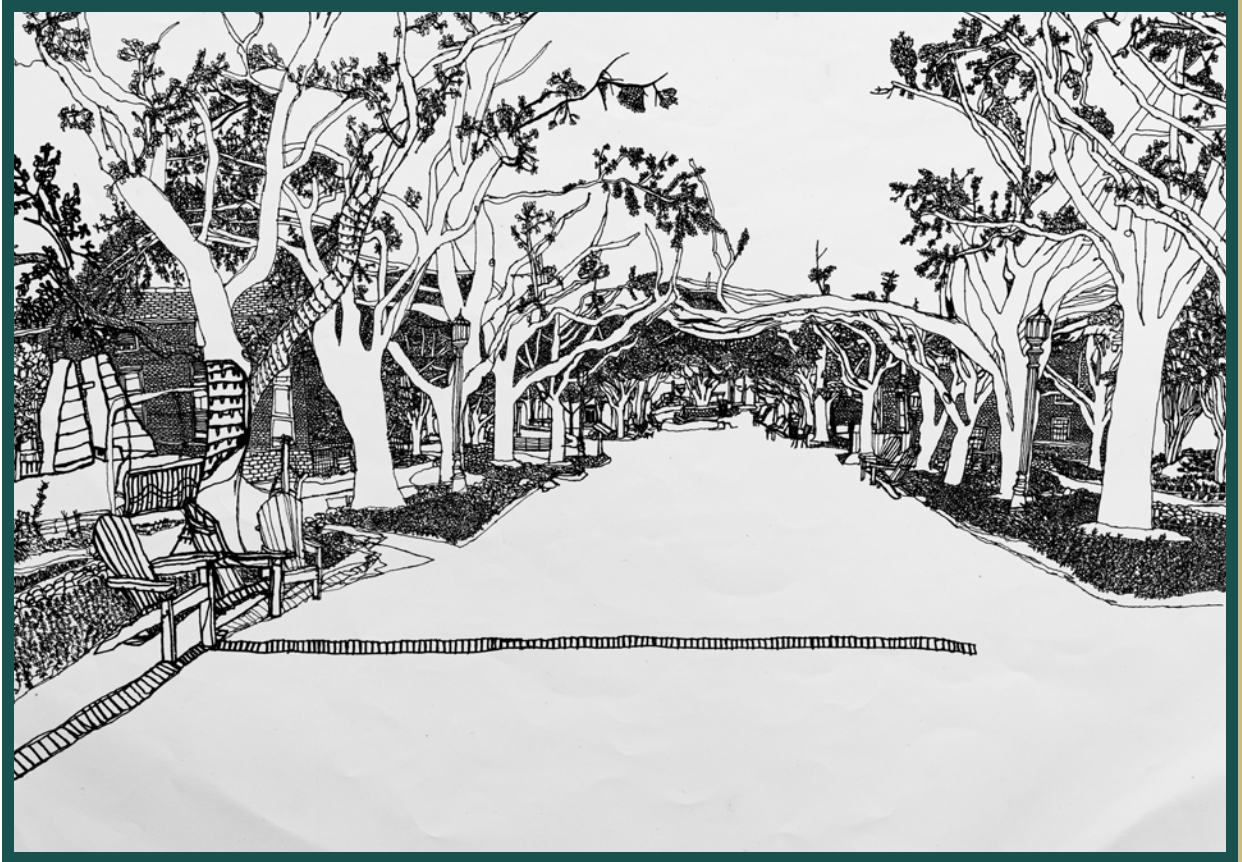
Caroline Clure '24 arrived to a quiet Austin College campus four years ago. COVID-19 safety protocols had rendered the walkway traffic and classroom attendance sparse.

Although the campus was quiet, many facility updates, renovations, and even new buildings were either in progress or in line to begin, including Jerry E. Apple Stadium, Hughey Gym, Hannah Natatorium, Caruth Hall, Wynne Chapel, Ida Green Communication Center, and North Flats. Most recently, major landscaping has transformed Windsor Mall, the main artery through campus. Caroline saw this happen firsthand, and she wanted to capture the beautiful campus in a unique way, with large-scale line drawings comprising her senior art project.

Caroline, who will graduate with double majors in Business Administration and Communication and a minor in Art, first learned about line drawings

in middle school. It's an art defined as the creation of illustrations using evenly weighted straight or curved lines against a background. What makes Caroline's skill and line drawings unique is that she is able to draw continually, without lifting her pen. "I find it fascinating to draw this way, as it reflects an imperfect world, yet it is beautiful," she says. It involves keen hand-eye coordination, but not necessarily the need for perceived perfection that she says once stressed her out and made her think that art might not be for her. Line drawings can range from objective to abstract, leaving room for artistic expression with nothing more than a Sharpie®.

Per academic policy, the minimum time commitment for a full credit of independent study is 11 hours per week. When Caroline sets aside time to work on the drawings, she tries to make it for as long as she can—up to a whole day. "It works

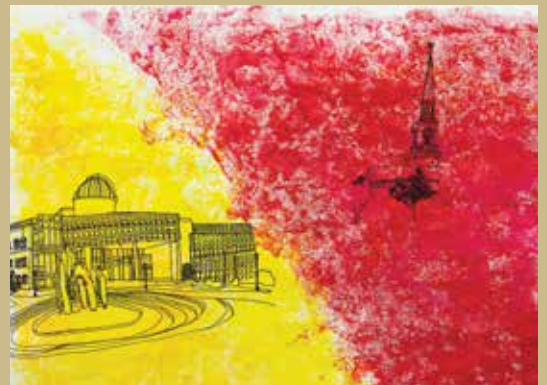


Windsor Mall

best if you can get into a ‘zone,’” she explains. “It’s not something you can work on here and there.” In fact, Caroline says time management is what she’s learned most from the project. In addition to Windsor Mall, other campus scenes for the final installation include the interior of the ceramics building, a view of North Flats, Wynne Chapel, and IDEA Center. The art shown here is in progress; her finished work was exhibited on campus.

Caroline says the support she’s received pulled her through and kept her on task. Fellow students have offered to carry supplies or get her something to eat. Kayla Brooks, from the Center for Student Success and Access Services (CSSAS,) has held her accountable when she needed an extra push. Caroline says the freedom her faculty advisor, Associate Professor of Art Mark Monroe ’81, has helped her rediscover her love of art, and the project overall has made her appreciate art again. “When art is an assignment, or too directed, it can take the joy out of it,” she says.

Caroline’s senior art project could be considered a homage to how, much like herself, the campus on which she has grown in skills and confidence has blossomed in the past four years—and she has captured it.



Wynne Chapel and IDEA Center



Mark’s Miscellaneous Items



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMMERT

Beauty is in the Details

The thoughtfulness with which the new landscaping along Windsor Mall has been planned ensures it will remain beautiful for years to come. The recent landscape upgrades and creation of Austin College Commons were designed by Chris Tronzano of Studio Green Spot Inc. in Allen, Texas, and completed by Williams Landscape Inc. of Melissa, Texas. Work began May 30, 2023, and was completed August 15, 2023.

The scope of work included tree pruning to allow unobstructed views of the distinctive architecture and improved long-term health of the trees. Patchy, uneven lawns around Caruth Administration Building were replaced with **84,800 square feet of turf sod**—enough to cover 1 ½ football fields.

4,675 square feet of synthetic turf under the large pecan tree north of Wright Campus Center allow year-round usage in all types of weather.

516,800 lbs. of river rock—equivalent to about 13 dump truck loads—was spread into new dry streambed features to improve drainage and prevent erosion around Windsor Mall.

Due to their hardiness and low maintenance requirements, **22,420 Asian jasmine plants** and **29,620 mondo grass plants** were added as contrasting ground coverage. ■



PHOTO BY CARY S. WACKER

Duhaime Retires After 45 Years

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

► **Dr. Ricky Duhaime**, music faculty member since 1978 and Mildred S. Mosher Professor of Music, retired from a distinguished career in May 2023 as one of the College's longest-serving professors. Although that step has granted him time to pursue some special projects, Duhaime is still present and influential in Craig Hall, where he teaches applied music lessons.

"One of the reasons I've been here for these 45 years is that Austin College encourages faculty, as well as students, to explore new venues, new topics, and new goals," Duhaime said. Exploring music started early for him, as he learned to play his grandmother's piano as a child and has mastered many other instruments since, including cello, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, and others. He says his favorite is whichever one he is holding at the time.

Reflecting on his career, Duhaime says he is one of the few faculty members who has taught in all three divisions of Austin College: music courses in Humanities, JanTerm SCUBA classes in Social Sciences, and JanTerm collaborative acoustics courses with the late **Dr. E. Larry Robinson** in Science. He was founding director of the Chamber Orchestra and the Jazz Ensemble and has taught a variety of classroom courses. Duhaime has also served as chair of the Academic Integrity Council and continues in an advisory role. In 2023, he received the Homer P. Rainey Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service to Austin College.

Since 1992, Duhaime has also been a faculty member and orchestral principal of the Eisenstädter Sommerakademie held each August in Austria. The program, in which he has involved many AC students and community members, brings together performers and scholars from across North America, Europe, and Asia.

Duhaime holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of New Hampshire, a master's degree from the University of Illinois, and the first Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Multiple Woodwinds ever granted from the University of North Texas. Since his retirement, he has completed modern performing editions of 18th-Century clarinet trios by A. Stadler and a bassoon/cello sonata by J. F. Kleinknecht, with two more sonatas to follow—all while refreshing his reading and writing skills in German and French. His research has led to historical and performance practice articles in national and international journals. He also conducted the commercial CD, *Facets*, Crystal Records CD 762, and numerous collaborative musicals with the AC theatre department. Duhaime continues to direct the Greater Texoma Jazz Ensemble and looks forward to the upcoming spring and summer concert series.

Retirement brings Duhaime more of what he enjoys—performance and conducting, teaching, arranging and editing, and traveling and writing, but now all on his own schedule. ■





In perhaps a first in Austin College history, three Austin College alumni were key figures in a non-'Roos Athletics baseball game. **Al Hockaday Jr. '76** umpired the game where **Harrison Baldwin '19** and **Wes Tarbox '90** were coaching opposing teams. The trio represented 12 years of Austin College Baseball, spanning 46 years between them. Hockaday recently completed his term on the Austin College Alumni Board.



Retired Illinois florist **Jean Beck Carlson '82** (*on the right*) was selected to help transform the White House into a holiday wonderland for 2023. She worked alongside hundreds of volunteers on the outdoor main entrance, the Candy Room, the Library, the Palm Room, and the Oval Office. She says the opportunity was a highlight of her 45-year career as a designer and florist.



Will Heron '11 is the artist liaison and a participating artist for the new Grapevine, Texas, location of the immersive art experience Meow Wolf. This exhibition displays a surreal, interactive setting that mixes nostalgia with thought-provoking visuals. In February, Heron created a mural to support the LGBTQ+ community in Texas. Standing at 7,000 square feet, his mural titled "Intergalactic" can be found at 3203 McKinney Avenue in Dallas.

- Page 56 **ALUMNI BOOKSHELF**
- Page 57 **'ROO-MATES**
Recent Weddings
- Page 58 **JOEYS**
Additions to the 'Roo Family
- Page 60 **'ROO LEGACIES**
- Page 62 **IN MEMORIAM**



A History Snapshot

Professor Emeritus Dr. Light Cummins returned to campus for 2023 Homecoming Weekend to weave a tale of Austin College's unique history, with a focus on the years that John D. Moseley served as President. Cummins' deep knowledge of all things Austin College developed during his 40-year career in the History department. His talk at the Golden 'Roo brunch was a special treat for those 'Roos who knew "John D."

'ROONOTES

1963

Jan Bennett writes that approaching age 82, she is now living in the Pacific Northwest where her kids and their families live, after years in Latin America and in a cabin in Montana. She recalls that while a student at Austin College, she and a roommate, Kay, were in a group of 18 women who lived in and managed Thompson House after the House 'Mother' became ill and retired.



Roger and Florence Spragins Quillin celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. They met in their sophomore year while standing next to each other in Bruce Lunkley's choir and graduated together. Roger was a Presbyterian minister for 43 years, and Florence was a school teacher and then a clinical social worker. They have two children (one is an alumna, Laura Olivo '89), six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild so far.

1965

Paul Pearce was recognized by the Club Management Association of America for his 30 years of continuous membership in the organization. Pearce

spent more than 40 years in the private club industry in various roles with three of the largest corporations in the business, ClubCorp, Kemper Sports Management, and post-retirement, with Tennis Corporation of America. He held several senior management positions in clubs across seven states. He also served on the Midwest Board of Directors for the National Club Association. Since retiring, Pearce has served in CMAA's Interim Management Program at clubs in Chicago, Peoria, and Woodstock, Illinois. He and his wife Susan live in Lake Barrington, Illinois, where he was on the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Insurance Commission of Lake Barrington Shores, a 1,300-home resort and club development 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

1966

Mike Nelson was inducted into the Arlington (Texas) Athletic Hall of Honor in May 2023 in recognition of his distinguished career as head coach for track and cross country and assistant football coach at Arlington Lamar High School. While at Austin College, Nelson lettered four years in basketball and served as captain his senior year. He also was a graduate assistant coach in football and basketball.

1967

In July 2023, **Gary Parker's** quartet Dealer's Choice celebrated its 50th anniversary and was named international champions at the Barbershop Harmony Society's conventions in Louisville, Kentucky. They also won the championship in their first international contest in 1973, the last quartet to do so in a first attempt. They are credited with changing the direction and future of the barbershop sound, a story told in Parker's book, *One and Done - Dealer's Choice Quartet Overnight Success Story*.

1974

David Reed has been named CEO of Vedanta's semiconductor division, where he is responsible for setting up a state-of-the-art semiconductor fab unit and semiconductor assembling and testing unit. Reed was formerly with NXP Semiconductors, where he was Executive Vice President and General Manager of global operations. He moved to NXP as part of the merger with Freescale Semiconductor, where he had served as Senior Vice President for manufacturing operations.

1975

Darlene Hopkins (MA '76) became an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran

Church of America. She is currently serving at Shepherd King Lutheran Church in Lubbock, Texas. After retiring from a long career in technology that included entrepreneurship, web development, application programming, and data analysis, Hopkins decided to pursue ordination and earned a Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary, launching her new career in the ministry.

Larry Tidwell joined the coaching staff of the women's basketball team



at Tarleton State University in April. He has a 47-year coaching resume, 28 spent in NCAA Division I level, including stints at Lamar University, UT Rio Grande Valley, Texas Christian University, Baylor, Texas Tech, and University of Louisiana-Monroe. He also has coached at the preparatory level. Tidwell is a three-time Austin College athletic alumni honoree: Hall of Famer (2004), Kedric Couch Coach of the Year (2010), and Coach Joe Spencer Service Awardee (2014); and inducted to five other Texas Halls of Fame.

OUTSTANDING 'ROOS INDUCTED TO PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMY



Two Austin College graduates, **Malcolm M. Feeley '64** and **Ronald Kirk '76**, were inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in September 2022. Feeley was elected in 2020 and Kirk in 2021, but due to COVID-related postponements, they were not inducted until 2022. The honorary society and policy organization, founded in 1870, elects exceptionally accomplished individuals and engages them in furthering the public good. Feeley, who is a professor at UC Berkeley School of Law, was acknowledged as being one of the three leading scholars from political science to make major contributions on the study of courts in the legal process, writing major books on the reality of lower courts. He is also an expert on criminal law and crime policy. Ron Kirk is Senior Of Counsel in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Dallas and Washington, D.C. offices. He is Co-Chair of the International Trade Practice Group and a member of the Sports Law, Public Policy, Crisis Management and Private Equity Practice Groups. Ambassador Kirk served as the 16th United States Trade Representative (USTR) and was a member of President Barack Obama's Cabinet. Kirk also served as Texas Secretary of State from 1994 to 1995 and as Mayor of Dallas from 1995 to 2001.

1977

Martha Bace retired in March 2020 after 42 years as an



academic librarian and archivist. She has since stayed busy with church activities

and traveling, including trips to see family in North Carolina and Wisconsin, and an "incredible trip" to Egypt in October 2022.

1978

Dr. Paul Putman was recently elevated to Fellow of The American College of Psychiatrists. Putman



received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

and completed his internship and residency in General Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where he was Chief Resident.

1980

Martha Stephens retired from teaching English and art in Sherman and moved to South Chatham, Massachusetts. She had spent many summers there, and has, over the years, pursued her love of painting both in the seaside community and in her hometown of Sherman. Her work appears periodically in local art shows.

1981

Sarah Gunderson was published in the spring 2023 issue of *American Ancestors* magazine. Her full-page article, "A Passion for Family History," describes her journey into genealogy and involvement with the New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the oldest genealogy society in the United States.



Terry Taylor retired from Shoreline Community College in Shoreline, Washington, after 26 years of teaching history and political science. The Faculty Senate promoted him to Faculty Emeritus and he has recently relocated to Salem, Oregon, to be closer to his granddaughter, Willa Joy.

1982

James W. "Jim" Walker was elected to the Coppell City



Council, Place 1, for a three-year term and was sworn into office in May 2023.

He is an attorney at Cole Schotz P.C. in Dallas.

1984

Rodney Moore joined Winston & Strawn LLP as a partner in the firm's Dallas office, as a member of the

Transactions Department's Private Equity Transactions Practice. The firm states that he represents private equity firms and public and private companies in merger and acquisition, joint venture, financing, and other commercial transactions across the energy spectrum, including renewables. He also advises clients on corporate governance matters, transactional and corporate matters in and out of court, and Chapter 11 restructurings.

1985



Doug Goldenberg-Hart was promoted in February 2023 to Associate Vice President for Content Strategy & Development at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). AGB has more than 2,000 member systems and institutions representing more than 40,000 college and

university trustees, including the Board of Trustees of Austin College.



Blyth Hazen was named to the Board of Trustees at Montserrat College of

Art in Beverly, Massachusetts. She earned her B.A. in art and philosophy from Austin College prior to earning her M.F.A. from Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. Hazen is currently the Coordinator of the Animation + Interactive Media Program at Montserrat.

Dr. Bill Streilein recently took a position as Chief Technology Officer for the Chief Digital and AI Office within the United States Department of Defense. His new role will support the adoption of artificial intelligence across the U.S. Department of Defense. Prior to government service, Streilein spent 23 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory serving in multiple senior roles,

including Principal Staff of Biotechnology and Human Systems Division and Leader of Cyber Analytics and Decision Systems Group.

1986



Janet Broadhead Imhoff and husband **Dr. Mike Imhoff**, Austin College Emeritus Professor, have seven grandchildren, including **Cole Imhoff**, a junior at Austin College. He is pictured here, top left, with his triplet brothers **Ethan** and **Alex**. Their parents are **Josh Imhoff '93** and **Molly Carter Imhoff '93**. Pictured on the front row are grandsons **Daniel** and **Bryce Imhoff**; not pictured are **Caroline** and **Nick** who live in Denver, Colorado.

1987

Squire J. Booker was awarded the 2023 Percy L. Julian Award from the

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. His commitment and contributions to the STEM community have been recognized and celebrated throughout his career.

1990

Sandra Fambrough is the Operations Manager for the law firm of **Chermol & Fishman LLC**, which specializes in handling Social Security disability claims. She has worked in a number of positions for 30 years exclusively in the disability field and has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Disability Representatives.

Alexander J. Lazar, M.D., Ph.D. was announced as the winner of the prestigious Certificate in Risk Governance award by the DCRO Institute, the world's leading source of risk governance training. Lazar wears many hats: he is a Professor of Pathology, Genomic Medicine, Translational Molecular Pathology, and Dermatology at The University of Texas

REGIONAL MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES 'ROADHOUSE' WITH AC TIES



The idea for **Claude "Spider" Webb '77 (MA '79)** and friends to open **The Gar Hole** in 2020 was rooted in Webb's freshman year at Austin College. In 2023, **The Gar Hole**, the downtown watering hole in tiny Westminister, Texas, has been named as one of North Texas' "Best Little Roadhouses" by *D Magazine*. The write-up notes a resemblance to a "frontier Cheers" with a "cast of regulars." That ethos evolved from Webb's fondness



of the small local bars he knew in East Dallas, and from one especially influential trip involving a late-night drive from Sherman to Dallas to Luckenbach. Years later, **The Gar Hole** has notched a place in the hearts of Texans and Lone Star lore.

1990 (continued)

MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where he practices diagnostic surgical and molecular pathology for rare cancers and heads a research lab focused on immunotherapy, genomic bioinformatics, and the microbiome. He is also a partner at Gothams, an emergency response and homeland security advisory firm, and he served as the Biosecurity Director for inaugural ceremonies for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. He uses his expertise as a scientist advisor for several security organizations and also serves his community on nonprofit boards.

1991

Dr. Thomas W. Newsom, President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, began his four-year term in September 2023 on the Division II Membership Committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Newsom is the lone college president on the committee and is one of two representatives from the Great American Conference.

1992

Vanessa Uriegas Johnson was elected Vice President of the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Association of Realtors for 2023, and served on the Board of Governors and as State Director of the Oklahoma Association of Realtors for 2022 and 2023. She graduated with majors in Political Science and Social Work. After meeting her husband, NFL player Leon

Johnson, she traveled with him before they settled in the Oklahoma City area, where she has built a successful real estate business.

1993

Todd Canon retired in June 2023 as a family physician at South Austin Medical Clinic and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is looking forward to hiking, high altitude vegetable gardening, and refreshing his Spanish skills.

Colin Dunnigan moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in June 2023 to begin his tenure as Director of College Counseling at Montgomery Bell Academy.

John Jagou won a Sports Emmy Award in the Lone Star region for producing "*Martín Pérez en su idioma*," a short feature film for Bally Sports Southwest. The award represents his fifth nomination and fourth win.

1994

Audra Morris is now a partner/principal in KAD Dental Staffing in Austin, Texas. After Austin College, she earned her MBA in Organizational Development at University of Texas–Dallas.



Nicole Aratingi Lehmann (MAT '95) recently retired after a 29-year teaching career. She spent the first 27

years teaching all levels of Latin and, periodically, beginning French at Alamo Heights High School and Alamo Heights Junior School in San Antonio. She will continue to volunteer with the Texas Classical Association to assist Latin educators across Texas and with the League of Women Voters to register and educate voters in Bexar County. She looks forward to spending more time with her family, traveling, and reading.

1995

Carlos Zeisel accepted the position of Senior Sociology Instructor at Scott Community College, Bettendorf, Iowa, beginning in fall of 2023.

1996

Stephanie Sanford, leasing executive with AE Industrial



Partners, was named Senior Vice President to support the AE

Industrial Partners Aerospace Opportunities Fund. The firm, in Boca Raton, Florida, is a private equity firm specializing in aerospace, defense and government services, space, power and utility services, and specialty industrial markets.

1997

Steven Barnes and his wife, Dency, moved to Monroe, Georgia, in March 2023, upon his appointment as Pastor and Head of Staff for Oconee Presbyterian Church in Watkinsville, Georgia.



Prior to this, he served several years as an interim pastor for multiple congregations in Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia. Steven is joined on staff by another 'Roo, **Kailey Stephens '17**, who serves as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries.

Michael Rosas has been Owner/President of South Texas Auto Parts Company, with his wife, Mona, since 2017. They also own and operate two NAPA Auto Parts franchises in the suburbs of San Antonio, Texas.

1998

Mark Kellogg was named West Virginia University's women's head basketball coach in April 2023. Kellogg had held the same position at Stephen F. Austin State University, where he led the Ladyjacks to two conference tournament titles and two NCAA Tournament appearances. His career also included stints at West Texas A&M, Northwest Missouri State, and Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Graham Painter has expanded his James Beard award-nominated restaurant, Street to Kitchen, to a location that will seat up to 100 guests—triple the space of the 10-table gas station where he originally opened. His wife,

Benchawan Jabthong “G” Painter, won the 2023 James Beard Award for Best Chef: Texas Category. The couple opened their restaurant together in 2020 and it has since been known as one of the best restaurants in Houston.

Camille LeBron Powell earned her Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership degree from Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia) in May 2023. She previously earned her Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia) in 2002. She continues to serve as pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker, Georgia.

2000

Court LeMaistre is now serving as Chief Executive Officer of Methodist Children’s Hospital and Women’s Services in San Antonio. He earned a Master of Hospital Administration degree from Trinity University.



Rev. Dr. Josh Robinson received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Seminary in 2019. He currently serves as Pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas.

2001



Dr. Sharon Beth Larson has been appointed as surgical director for heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She practices adult cardiac surgery and specializes in the surgical treatment of advanced heart failure. In addition to her clinical and operative pursuits, Dr. Larson is active in research and her work has been published in the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, and the *American Society for Artificial Internal Organs Journal*. She also serves as an invited speaker for the American Heart Association and reviewer for the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation. Dr. Larson has been elected as the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery discipline chair of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Roby Nunn was appointed Principal of Sunset Valley Elementary, Keller, Texas. Nunn earned a master’s degree in educational leadership from Lamar University, and has 22 years of experience working in public education.

2002

Shannon Slate Matson relocated to the Washington, D.C., area and is now working for the Department of Defense.

2004

E.A. Hoppe was named Assistant City Manager for the City of Frisco, Texas. He has more



than 18 years of experience in municipal government, and has held a variety of positions in city management around the state, most recently in Kerrville, where he served as a Deputy City Manager for nearly five years before being appointed as City Manager in 2021. He earned his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas.



Heidi Rushing earned a master’s degree in Strategic Communication from Texas Tech University in May 2022. In January 2023, she was named Chief Marketing and Communication Officer at Austin College, moving into this senior role after working in several other positions at the College. Among her duties, she oversees many

signature events at the College, including TEDxAustinCollege and the Posey Leadership Award.

2005

Ana Guzmán received her Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor license and also became a Registered Play Therapy Supervisor. She is working on becoming an EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) consultant. She currently works in private practice after many years in the nonprofit sector. Ana continues to provide trauma-informed care to the children and adults she sees in her Dallas office.

In July 2023, **Josh Manck** was named Executive Director of Communications and Special Assistant to Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Dr. Thomas W. Newsom ’91.

2006

Whitney Dove, Ph.D. has been named CEO of Ellipsis Education, a computer science curriculum provider. Dove was most recently Vice President of Product at Ellipsis. She has led Ellipsis Education’s product development and growth as the company strives to give educators the tools needed to teach computer science. In addition to her bachelor’s degree in psychology, she holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Tech University and a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Texas–Arlington.

2007

Jason Burton was named University of North Texas' head women's basketball coach. He is the ninth coach in the program's history. Burton previously held the head coaching position at Texas A&M-Commerce, where he was the all-time winningest coach in that program's history.



2008

Bucky Brannen joined the Dallas office of Bracewell LLP as a partner in the firm's tax practice. He previously had practiced law at Baker Botts. Brannen earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

2009

Matt Burton was named Durango (Colorado) High School's football coach in April 2023. He previously had coached football and baseball at Lindale High School in East Texas; he coached in a number of other Texas school districts as well. He also has been teaching history and physical education. Burton's wife and two daughters join him in the move to Colorado; the couple first met in the mountains of the Rocky Mountain state.

Dr. Lloyd Jones has joined CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic practice in Longview, Texas,

part of the CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System. He brings extensive training in plastic and reconstructive surgery to the clinic. Jones attended medical school at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport School of Medicine, where he also completed his general surgery residency and then moved to Massachusetts for further training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center. Jones also has training in craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery, completing a fellowship at Texas Children's Hospital through Baylor College of Medicine.



Dr. Rathna Nuti was named in *D Magazine's* directory for Best Doctors in Collin



County 2023 (as well as in the four years prior). Nuti gained early acceptance to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and pursued a fellowship in Sports Medicine after graduating from Austin College. She is known for providing "innovative, compassionate care" to all her patients.

2012

Anne-Alise (Ali) Fritsche Hinckley was chosen for The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America 2024®. Hinckley was recognized for Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury

Litigation – Defendants, and Product Liability Litigation – Defendants. She has been included on The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® list since 2022. She practices law with Kessler Collins in Dallas and is a member of the firm's litigation group, which represents clients in a variety of sophisticated commercial, business, securities, consumer, labor and employment, real estate, oil and gas, construction, and insurance disputes.

Chanel Rafie has started her own law firm in Dallas with law school colleagues from Texas A&M School of Law. The new firm is Titans Legal-Rafie.Douglas.Abney Law.

2014

Nathan Packard is completing a law degree at SMU Dedman School of Law. He and his wife, Sophie, have two children, Emma and Austin.



James Taylor was recently promoted to Senior Event Manager for American Airlines Center in Dallas. He works directly with the Mavericks basketball and Stars hockey teams for games and special events.

2016

Santos Botello uses his 'Roo student experiences to help guide the next

generation at Rowlett High School in Texas. In addition to teaching U.S. and World History, Santos draws on the one-on-one mentorship model he received at Austin College to work individually with students and guide their success.

2017

Shannon McKelvie Glasscock has spent two years at globally recognized law firm Akin Gump, and temporarily departed in August 2023 for the special opportunity to spend a year as a law clerk for the District Court in the Northern District of Texas.

Magan Kubena was named 2023 Teacher of the Year at Travis Middle School, Calhoun County ISD in Port Lavaca, Texas.

Kailey Stephens is serving as Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Oconee Presbyterian Church in Watkinsville, Georgia. The pastor and head of staff at the church is fellow 'Roo Steven Barnes '97.

2018



Former Aussie **Asusena Coto** helped found an HBCU-style majorette dance team, the Wizardettes, at the Houston school where she worked, coaching the new team to perform at pep rallies, sporting events, and local parades. She since has accepted a position at the University of Houston as

an Associate Spanish Immersion Teacher in their Children's Learning Center.

2019

Chad Head recently returned to Tarleton State as Recruiting Coordinator for the football program. After playing football and student assistant coaching at Austin College, he has held coaching and football operations roles at Tarleton and a coaching position at Midland High School.

2020

Madison Galvan is working as a Contract Developer V for the State of Texas, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Statewide Procurement. She also is head men's soccer coach and college advisor at Pflugerville FC, a youth soccer development program in Pflugerville, Texas.

Phoebe Angaye was selected to Black Creatives Mentorship, a program to introduce aspiring Black



authors to the intricacies of the publishing industry through

one-on-one mentorship and programming with other industry professionals. Phoebe writes for the underrepresented, and is an alumna of Scholastic Arts & Writing, an alliance for young writers and artists. Additionally, she's been published in multiple literary journals and won several writing competitions. 🐾

ALUMNA INVENTS GAME-CHANGING MEDICAL DEVICE



Tara Melton '11 has founded a company, Mackey Mask, to manufacture a medical device for patients requiring nasogastric (NG) feeding tubes. The idea for the new product came from Tara's personal experience with her own child, beginning soon after she and husband **Dr. Christopher Melton '12** brought home their newborn son.

"Our son Maacoy was born in October 2021—a happy, healthy, nine-pound baby boy, and we left the hospital without any concerns," Tara says. But at around five months old, "it was like a switch flipped," she says, and Maacoy—or Mackey, as they call him— started rapidly dropping weight and refusing to eat. After a series of tests, he was diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis, a rare condition in children his age, and eventually was released from the hospital on a NG tube.

"It was the weeks and months that followed of caring for Mackey on his NG tube that made me realize what a huge problem placing and securing the NG tube is for patients and families," Tara explained, also noting that 24 million people worldwide are placed on NG tubes every year, and that one in three children develop a skin injury due to adhesive on the face to hold the tube in place, among other complications.

Tara began experimenting with a better way to secure the NG tube. Her invention, Mackey Mask, is the first and only non-adhesive, non-invasive NG tube securement device in the world. "Doctors, nurses, therapists, and medical device experts have called Mackey Mask a 'game changer' and we are just getting started," says Tara. "All of this is the result of a mom seeing a problem and sketching a solution after a particularly hard day of taking care of her sick child."

The Mackey Mask device is patent pending.





FALL 2023 ALUMNI SPEAKERS

Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.

As part of the year-long celebration of Austin College's 175th year, alumni speakers have headlined endowed lecture series and signature events.



• **A.J. Carlson Lecture**
September 20, 2023
RonAmber Deloney '03, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Humanities, Paul Quinn College, Dallas



• **Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecture**
October 10, 2023
Geoff Wescott '08, Partner at Brockett Street Capital, and **Jessica Wescott '09**, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer at Stellar Service Brands



• **Professionalism and the Humanities (PATH) Alumni Panel**
November 2, 2023
(L to R): **Karolina Cruz '20**, Partnership Analyst at FC Dallas; **Deepa Shridhar '09**, professional chef, writer, and media personality; **Brian Taylor-García '99**, author and Senior Therapeutic Area Manager, Genentech; **Rebecca Buell '08**, Chief Financial Officer, National Breast Cancer Foundation; **Ashwini Shridhar '05**, Product Manager, Trials Experience at Siemens Digital Industries Software



• **Posey Speaker Series: Women in Leadership**
November 9, 2023
Amanda Billings '92, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas; **Dr. Shannon Cornelison-Brown '08** (moderator, left), Associate Professor of Business Administration, Austin College



• **Cunningham Lecture**
November 15, 2023
Dr. Kola Alade '10
Licensed Psychologist, Cook Children's Healthcare System, Hurst, Texas



• **Public Administration Symposium**
November 16, 2023
"The Changing Landscape of American Education"
Panel I: (above) Nick Frederick '20, Frisco (Texas) Independent School District; *Kyla Prusak '05*, Principal, Minnett Elementary School (Frisco); *Clint Sadler '02*, Principal, Princeton High School (Princeton, Texas); *Ashley Gannon '06*, Principal, Calhoun Elementary School (Prosper, Texas) | *Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Eartha Linson '97*, Principal, Wakefield Elementary School (Sherman ISD) | *Panel II (left): Dr. Heather Carnes '96*, Superintendent, Winona (Texas) ISD; *Dr. Tyson Bennett '92*, Superintendent, Sherman ISD



8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE TEDx AustinCollege

The six speakers for TEDxAustinCollege included one student, four alumni, and one faculty member, offering “Ideas Worth Spreading” on September 30 in Sally and Jim Nation Theatre of Ida Green Communication Center.



Cody Dean '24
**Doubting your Doubts:
The Path to Possibility**



Victoria Gilbert '21
**Innovate, Don't Imitate: Fashion,
Technology, and Design**



Patty Manning-Courtney '87, M.D.
It's Going to be OK



Andra Petrean, Ph.D.
**Liberal Arts and Lifelong
Learning: Finding Direction in the
Face of Life's Uncertainties**



Casie Rivas '03, M.B.A., J.D.
**Perpetual Presence
and the Joy of Living
in the Moment**



Caryn Schenewerk '99, L.L.M., J.D.
**Space Based Solutions
for Our Greatest
Terrestrial Problems**

See all 2023 TEDxAustinCollege talks: www.austincollege.edu/tedx

HONORING OUR SPORTS LEGENDS

Legends 2023

Athletes returned to campus in July 2023 for the annual Legends event and celebrated the legends of their sports. The awards event on July 29 was highlighted by the presentation of the Athletic Hall of Honor inductions and the Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching.



The Legends honorees (L to R) are Paul Burns, Reed Heim, Gordon Eiland, Colleen Walsh, Scooter Means, Matt Finke, Dyke McMahan, and Kim Randolph.

Athletic Hall of Honor Inductees

- Paul Burns (*Honorary*) – soccer (coach)
- Gordon Eiland '79 – football/track
- Matt Finke '10 – football/baseball
- Reed Heim '00 – football
- Dyke McMahan '86 – football/track
- David “Scooter” Means '09 – football/baseball
- Colleen Walsh '07 – soccer

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

- Kim Randolph '75

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Four distinguished alumni were honored for exemplary careers and service during Homecoming 2023. These 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. A fifth alumnus and an Austin College faculty member were honored for service to the alumni community.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Anissa Coss Centers '93



Anissa Centers has had an award-winning career in broadcast journalism. She now works as a confidence coach, motivational speaker, and continues as a broadcast journalist in Tyler, Texas, at KLTN-TV. Centers has most recently served with the 1:3 Survivors Foundation, BeYouTiFul Girls Foundation and Longview Queens United.

Leigh Hiester '90



Leigh Hiester is the principal at Foster Elementary/Foster Dual Language campus in Jeffco, Colorado, where she has overseen daily activities for the last 20 years. She is admired in her field because of game-changing work in dual-language instruction such as creating a pre-K through 8th grade Option School for Dual Language Students. Prior to her work at Foster, Hiester spent 10 years as a dual-language teacher in the classroom, in Texas and Colorado.

Carol A. Wiley Toll '74



Carol Toll retired from a 40-year career in technology where she worked on the cutting edge as an innovator. She led teams to their goals by embracing the technological and cultural changes necessary for success. Toll serves at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas, and has volunteered for March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, and American Heart Association.

FIRST DECADE AWARD

Rizwan Rayaz Jagani '15



Rizwan Jagani was presented with the First Decade Award, given to an outstanding young alumnus/alumna who exemplifies the qualities of scholarship and service in their lives and work within 10 years of graduating from Austin College. Jagani is an American violist of Indian/Pakistani heritage with an eclectic career ranging from orchestral to solo performance. He also works as an arranger, orchestrator, producer, and educator. He is an advocate for arts education and the pursuit of arts careers by South Asian people.

HEYWOOD C. CLEMONS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

James T. Jarratt '67



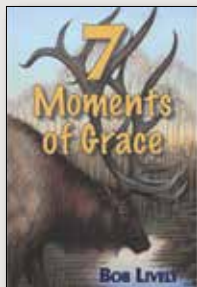
James Jarratt was presented the Heywood Clemons Volunteer Service Award, given to alumni or friends in honor of continued service and commitment to the College. Jarratt has served as an officer of the Austin College Alumni Association and is currently on the Board of Trustees. He is a proud Golden 'Roo and plays a significant role in keeping his class informed about College happenings. More than once, Jarratt has made cross-country trips to deliver Golden 'Roo medallions to those who could not come to campus for their celebrations. He also travels regularly statewide to be at alumni functions. Jarratt serves as mayor of Granbury, Texas.

CINDY CURTIS BEAN SERVICE TO ALUMNI AWARD

Patrick Duffey



Dr. Patrick Duffey was presented the Cindy Curtis Bean Service to Alumni Award, which honors a member of the faculty or staff who demonstrates extraordinary commitment to the support of alumni. Duffey joined the Spanish faculty in 1994 and has had significant influence on students in and out of the classroom. He has taught a wide variety of courses in Spanish language and Latin American literature. His nomination noted that he uplifts, encourages, and promotes the achievements of Austin College graduates long after they leave campus, following their victories and hurdles. The award is named for **Cindy Curtis Bean '75**, who served many years in the College's Alumni Office before retiring.

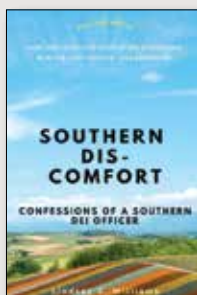


Bob Lively '68, honorably retired Presbyterian minister, has written another book, *7 Moments of Grace*. The book has a special mission. He says, "I wrote this book for my grandson so that he might come to recognize the Shepherd's rod and staff guiding him on the path he should follow in those seminal moments in his life that are sufficiently powerful to shape a life and to sculpt one's character into a form that is pleasing to God."



The latest mystery novel by **Deborah Crombie '77**, *A Killing of Innocents*, has been listed on the *Washington Post's* top five mystery novels worth staying up late to finish. According to the Post, her "ability to intertwine family drama with a gripping police procedural is once again on full display in the recent installment to her best-selling series." The book is another installment in Crombie's

tales featuring Scotland Yard detectives Duncan Kincaid and Gemma Jones. Set once again in Great Britain, the book's details are drawn from Crombie's many trips to the British Isles.



Lindsey Williams '02, President of Willambrown Consulting Solutions, launched the ResilEQO Equitable Ecosystems workshop wing of her firm's practice in 2022, to conduct assessment services in professional sectors including education, nonprofit, government, fortune, and industry—serving in what she terms "applied anthropology space." Williams was a speaker at

Dallas Startup Week in July 2023. Her first book, *Southern Discomfort: Confessions of a Southern DEI Officer—How Jim Crow and Plantation Economics Run the 21st-Century Organization*, was published that same month.



Dr. Holly Hull Miori '05 authored a book entitled *Millennial Philanthropy: Next Generation Fund Development for Professionals and Nonprofits*. Her insightful book discusses the importance of engaging the millennial generation in the nonprofit and academic sectors as a valuable source of people, power, and philanthropic

support. According to her research, nearly 75 million people make up the millennial generation in the United States, and the most significant transfer of wealth, known as the Great Transfer of Wealth, is shifting from older generations to Millennials and younger. Miori has developed a comprehensive guide that explores potential roles, including those of donors, board members, and volunteers. Her guide is designed to engage both academic and nonprofit/fundraising audiences, offering "insights and actionable strategies for unlocking the potential of this emerging group." The book presents six distinct findings and features a combination of case studies and a roadmap to help readers gain practical insights into engaging this demographic group.



Dr. Briana Hernandez '16 and **Dr. Sophia Hernandez '16**, both in the Pediatric Residency Program LSU Health-Shreveport, together wrote a children's book, *Samson & Ivy*, based on their real-life dogs. The "dynamic duo doctor sisters," as their residency program described them, are

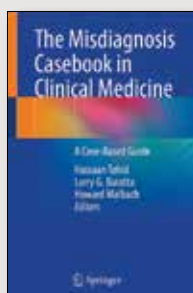
identical twins and best of friends—so they know what it is like to be similar, but also very different. The mission behind their book is to promote



accepting, kind, and indiscriminating behaviors in children and their families.

"One has spots and one is big and fluffy, can you guess the names of the two famous puppies? They wag and they run, one fast and one slow. One thrives in the heat and the other, in the snow. So how

can they be so distinct, but also the same? Their accepting hearts and open minds are what we must blame."



Akshay K. Shetty '16 published a chapter in the book *The Misdiagnosis Casebook in Clinical Medicine*. He serves on the St. Martinus University Faculty of Medicine, Willemstad, Curaçao.

1986

Heather McLaughlin Bedics, now retired from working for the State of Maryland, married Francis M. "Skip" Bedics on January 9, 2023. (not pictured)

2018

Emily MacDonald and **Alex Lux '17** were married April 22, 2023, in Dripping Springs, Texas. The couple now lives in Waco, where Alex is a nurse care manager and Emily is the Museum Engagement Coordinator for the Mayborn Museum on Baylor University's campus. The bridal party had several 'Roo's: Sara Krusekopf '17 (MAT '18), Marissa Wilkinson, Rebecca McDonald, Bailey Clark '19 (MAT '20), and Jessica Mitchell. Many Austin College alumni attended the wedding as well.

2019

Chad Head married Emma Ricard on June 4, 2022, at Emma's family ranch in Palestine, Texas. **Trey Carr '20** was in the wedding,

and several 'Roo alumni attended. Chad has returned to Tarleton State University as Director of Recruiting and Player Development, having previously coached there for two years after graduation. He also coached football at Midland High School.

2020

Lt. Joshua Boring and **Sophie Garriga** were married November 25, 2022, in Las Vegas. They reside in Houston where Sophie is a registered nurse and Josh attends UT McGovern Medical School while also serving in the Army. They met in freshman biology class at Austin College.

Rikki Lam and **Thomas Cheung** were married April 29, 2023, at River Road Chateau in Anna, Texas. 'Roo bridesmaids were Jenny Lee and Cecilia Yip. Rikki is a health policy consultant and Thomas is a medical student at Texas A&M.



Alex Lux '17 and Emily MacDonald '18



Emma and Chad Head '19



Thomas Cheung and Rikki Lam '20



Sophie Garriga and Lt. Joshua Boring (both '20)

2005

Josh Manck and his wife Allison welcomed Genevieve Elizabeth on August 16, 2022. Their daughter also happens to be the granddaughter of Katy Massingill Manck '78.

2008

Katie Hampton Rightler and husband Kurt welcomed their first daughter, Claire Morgan, on September 1, 2023.

Kaitlin Liston Shores and husband Dustin finalized the adoption of daughter Ryann Grace on July 14, 2022, after fostering her for 1,085 days. She joins Audrey, Levi, and Rowan. The Shores live in West Tawakoni, Texas, and both teach and coach for Quinlan (Texas) Independent School District.

2009

Dallas Key and wife **Karen Ann Edwards-Key** welcomed their second daughter, Summer Rae, on December 1, 2022. Her sibling, Lily, is the proud older sister.

2010

Dana Crites Boswell adopted a daughter, Paislee Rose, on October 18, 2022. Paislee was born January 19, 2022.

Emily Webb Kelly (MAT '11) and husband **Dennis Kelly '06** welcomed Sophia Thérèse Kelly on September 13, 2022. She joins siblings John, Claire, and Joey at home in Denison, Texas. Dennis is the athletic director and P.E. coach for St. Paul Catholic Classical School in Richardson and Emily is a stay-at-home mom.

2011

Gabriela Trevino and her husband Jacob Manlove welcomed their daughter Lucia Olivia Trevino Manlove on June 2, 2023. The baby was delivered by Dr. Jerry Anderson '94 in Seattle, Washington. Gabriela met Anderson while both were working at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. She now works at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, as Director of Business Operations.

2012

Dr. Astrid Grouls and **Dr. Paul Derry '11** are excited to share the birth of their daughter and future 'Roo, Hazel Marie. Hazel was born in August of 2022, weighing 8 pounds and 5 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long.

2016

Susie Fox Marshall and **Jean-Paul Marshall '13** welcomed Ezra Fox Marshall on February 14, 2023.

2017

Tori Campbell Slowinski and **Shawn Slowinski** welcomed their son, Beau William, on May 2, 2023.

2019

Emma Thornburg-Suresh and **Michael Thornburg-Suresh** welcomed their son, Avi Alexander, on May 10, 2023. Emma is finishing her Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Iowa and teaching at Coe College. Michael is also finishing his Ph.D. in counseling at the University of Iowa.



Genevieve Elizabeth (Manck '05)



Ryann Grace (Shores '08)



Claire Morgan (Rightler '08)



Summer Rae (Key '09)



Paislee Rose (Boswell '10)



*Sophia Thérèse
(Kelly '10)*



*Lucia Olivia
(Trevino Manlove '11)*



*Hazel Marie
(Grouls '12)*



Dr. Jerry Anderson '94 delivered Lucia Olivia. He is pictured with Lucia's mother, Gabriela Trevino '11.



*Ezra Fox
(Marshall '16)*



*Beau William
(Slowinski '17)*



*Avi Alexander
(Thornburg-Suresh '19)*



Legacy Families Recognized Across the Decades

During Homecoming & Family Weekend, alumni and current students with family connections to Austin College were invited to a special photo shoot. The groups represented up to three generations and included grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Rebecca Moseley Gafford '73 with son David Gafford '00 and daughter-in-law Giselle Finne Gafford '00



Katy Massingill Manck '78 with son Josh Manck '05



Martha Wright '80, not pictured brother John Wright '84 and uncle Charlie Robertson attended around 1915 (deceased)



Melinda Low Pampallona '88 with portrait of her father Dr. Myron Low, faculty member (deceased)



Becky Walling Furler '89 with portrait of grandfather Jacob Walling, class year unknown (deceased)



Thomas Locke '04 with mother Laurie Benold Locke '73 and wife Gillian Grissom Locke '07



Jane Lee '11 and mother Ann Prud'homme Jennings '73

STUDENT CONNECTIONS



Paul Purcell '88 with wife **Joan Saunders Purcell '86**, son **Hunter Fulton '24**, and father **John Purcell '61**; not pictured mother **Nita Purcell '63**



Emma Nelson '24 with mother **Julie Nelson Camacho '94**



Elizabeth Simpson '24 with mother **Carrie Simpson Henry '04**



Mike Imhoff (faculty 1970-2000, Vice President for Academic Affairs 2000-2013, Interim President July-October 2017) with grandson **Cole Imhoff '25** and wife **Janet Imhoff '86 (MA '87)**, not pictured son **Joshua Imhoff '93** and daughter-in-law **Molly Ann Carter Imhoff '93**



Gretchen Thompson Wild '86 with son **Luke Wild '25** and sister **Liesl Thompson Jones '92**



Scott Schafer '88 with daughter **Lola Barcus-Schafer '26**



Eric Clark '99 with daughter **Allison Clark '26**



Lily Dashner '26 with father **Abe Dashner '95**



Baron Romm '23 with sister **Erica Romm '26**, not pictured aunt **Diane Clark '82 (MA '83)** and great-aunt **Margaret Clark Carson '45 (deceased)**



Tracey Campbell '96 with son **Joshua Campbell '27**



Brooklyn Bruner Clasby '06 with daughter **Kaitlin Clasby '27**



Danielle Hargrove '27 with great uncle **Rick Mask '83**

ALUMNI

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1948 Helen Landolt Lancaster February 22, 2023 | 1967 Kerry Lewis November 25, 2023 |
| 1949 Betty Henderson Turnipseed February 23, 2023 | 1968 George Cox October 2, 2023 |
| 1951 Stanley Clayton March 23, 2023 | 1968 Charles “Roger” McReynolds July 27, 2023 |
| 1951 Thomas Horne July 17, 2023 | 1969 Donald “Don” Antoniello September 8, 2023 |
| 1952 Dorothy Hullet Brown January 25, 2023 | 1969 Charles Jetton April 4, 2023 |
| 1952 Shirley Williams Flechtner July 23, 2023 | 1969 John Wayman July 2, 2023 |
| 1952 Irma “Louise” Sullivan Yancey January 5, 2023 | 1970 David Hall August 19, 2023 |
| 1953 Robert Hyatt February 12, 2023 | 1970 Eleanor Johnson August 23, 2023 |
| 1954 George Hurst December 10, 2023 | 1970 Camille Allen Ruddick July 19, 2023 |
| 1956 Martha Kincaid Christian September 12, 2023 | 1971 Jane Estes Bylander November 28, 2023 |
| 1956 H.P. Hosey October 10, 2023 | 1973 Thommye Jackson March 14, 2023 |
| 1956 Nancy Sizer Oelfke December 5, 2023 | 1973 William “Bill” Rushing July 7, 2023 |
| 1956 James Powell March 22, 2023 | 1973 Norman “Brad” Sanders January 15, 2023 |
| 1957 Donald Gloff January 25, 2023 | 1974 Robbie Fienning Blystone November 17, 2023 |
| 1959 Phillip Edward “Ted” Hudson August 9, 2023 | 1974 Barbara Woolf Devereux February 8, 2023 |
| 1959 Frank Seaman September 1, 2023 | 1974 Robert Kincaid June 19, 2023 |
| 1959 Carl Stone January 12, 2023 | 1975 Richard Beggs January 17, 2023 |
| 1959 Chester Story June 4, 2023 | 1975 Tamara Chauncey September 25, 2023 |
| 1960 Frances “Fran” Redburn Jacobs May 16, 2023 | 1975 Allen Crenshaw November 17, 2023 |
| 1960 Kemp Moore September 16, 2023 | 1977 Cynthia Hestand April 18, 2023 |
| 1960 Earl “Gayno” Shelton March 19, 2023 | 1977 David Otwell December 11, 2023 |
| 1960 Sidney Brewer Stovall September 14, 2023 | 1977 Raymond Smith September 22, 2023 |
| 1961 Mack Broiles November 1, 2023 | 1978 William MacManus October 26, 2023 |
| 1961 Charles Hendricks December 25, 2023 | 1979 Margaret “Paige” Wheeldon Johnson . February 25, 2023 |
| 1961 Ronald “Ron” Murphy November 26, 2023 | 1980 Allan Poindexter October 26, 2023 |
| 1961 Daryl Preston March 12, 2023 | 1981 Brian Carpenter July 2, 2023 |
| 1961 Herman Scheiblich June 3, 2023 | 1982 Nancy Prachar Herbert April 5, 2023 |
| 1961 John Ed Withers III May 23, 2023 | 1983 Maria Rael Nelon May 2, 2023 |
| 1962 John Hitt February 20, 2023 | 1989 Maryanne Liggett Rath March 6, 2023 |
| 1963 Donald Jarvis April 20, 2023 | 1990 Linda Allison Little February 18, 2023 |
| 1964 Jean Schwiening Jacoby September 27, 2023 | 1991 Wendy Adams-Dominguez July 26, 2023 |
| 1964 Stuart “Stu” Taylor Kirgis October 4, 2023 | 1993 Chance Noble June 25, 2023 |
| 1964 Frederick “Fred” Lehmann November 13, 2023 | 1996 Overton Fullylove September 7, 2023 |
| 1964 Charles Scurry May 3, 2023 | 1996 Linda Lines January 13, 2023 |
| 1965 Mary “Merrinell” Jimen Phillips September 23, 2023 | 2002 Reagan Noble April 17, 2023 |
| 1966 John Jernigan August 31, 2023 | 2006 Christopher Parsons February 6, 2023 |
| 1966 Judy Money Lee August 10, 2023 | 2011 Kenan Ince June 13, 2023 |
| 1966 Robert “Bob” Martin December 29, 2023 | 2011 Philip Rawlings December 4, 2023 |
| 1966 Paul Redman August 18, 2023 | 2012 Andrew Jaremski March 14, 2023 |
| 1966 Robert Reitz May 19, 2023 | 2013 Matthew “Mateo” Ervin August 4, 2023 |
| 1966 Charles Rudolph August 14, 2023 | |

Austin College Board of Trustees

These generous and faithful members of the College's Board of Trustees died during the past year. Find full obituaries on the College website.



Senior Trustee **John Ed Withers III '61** died May 23, 2023. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1987 to 2001 and remained a senior trustee until his death.

John Ed and his wife of nearly 62 years, Jean, are both members of the Class of 1961. He went on to earn his Master of Divinity

degree from Austin Theological Seminary and dedicated his life to Presbyterian ministry. John Ed and Jean's daughters are also Austin College graduates—Rebecca Withers '88 and Katherine Cobbs '91. John Ed represented Austin College throughout several years of service on the Texas Presbyterian Foundation Board and occasionally returned to campus for special events. He also served on Boards of Trustees for Presbyterian Hospital Oklahoma City, Mo Ranch Conference Center, and was active in leadership roles and on committees of the Indian Nations Presbytery. In 2000, he was awarded the Austin Seminary Association's Distinguished Service Award.



Senior Trustee **Phillip Edward "Ted" Hudson '59, Ph.D.** died August 9, 2023. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2001, during which he chaired the Board's Academic Affairs Committee. Ted remained a faithful supporter of the College throughout the years following his Board service. He was a recipient of Austin

College's Distinguished Alumnus award in 1975.

After graduating from Austin College, he earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Baylor University. Ted worked at Tracor before joining the founding team of the successful technical services and products company Radian International LLC which grew to have offices worldwide. He served the company with pride and dedication from its inception in 1969 until his retirement in 1995.



Senior Trustee **Rev. Dr. Charles Hendricks '61** died December 25, 2023. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2014. Following graduation from Austin College, Charles earned a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1965, a Master of Theology degree from Pittsburgh Theological

Seminary in 1970, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1998. He was the founding pastor of Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church and served as its pastor for 23 years.

Charles and his wife, Peggy, met at Austin College Homecoming in 1964 and were married for 57 years. They share three sons, one of whom, Cary '98, is also an alumnus.

Austin College Faculty



Catherine Joan Gilmore died May 25, 2023. Gilmore served as an Assistant Professor of Business Administration from 1995 until 2001. She spent her retirement years traveling, spending time with her extended family, and volunteering.



Friends We Will Miss

Dorothy "Scottie" Pryor Bartel, wife of Senior Trustee Harry Bartel, died March 25, 2023. She was a dedicated educator, lover of travel and music, and supporter of many community organizations.

Philip Hall, son of Professor Emeritus Dr. Clyde Hall '46, died June 6, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois. A graduate of Georgetown University Law, he practiced law for two decades before working as a professor at the John Marshall Law School.

John Edwin Hunt Sr. died December 31, 2023. The seven years John spent as a patrolman for the Austin College Campus Police, between 1995 and 2002, were part of 23 years dedicated to law enforcement, which followed a highly decorated 22-year career in the U.S. Army.

Evelyn Low, widow of former faculty member Dr. Myron Low, died May 25, 2023. Evelyn worked as a traveling school counselor, serving several towns near Sherman, before settling into the Sherman Independent School District in 1973. She finished her career as a vice-principal of Sherman High School.

Patti Olmstead, widow of Senior Trustee Ellis Olmstead, died January 4, 2023, just four months after Ellis. Patti and Ellis had enjoyed 65 years of marriage, during which they took pleasure in watching horse races, fishing in Canada, and spending time at their ranch.

Charlene Rowland, wife of retired Vice President of Business Affairs George Rowland, died December 17, 2023. Charlene retired in 2013 from her position as Austin College's Director of Financial Aid after more than 20 years of service.

Lois Elaine Tappa, the widow of Dr. Richard Tappa, died on April 5, 2023, in Sherman. Lois was an elementary school teacher and taught private music lessons in her home. She also played cello with the Sherman Symphony for many years.

Janita Wells died November 21, 2023. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas for 94 years, and served as president of the Dallas Chapter of Executive Women International. Janita and her husband Rollin G. Wells both served as administrative staff at Austin College from 1948 until 1956.

A Short History of a Special Place

By Marc Parrish '92

Austin College celebrates its 175th year in 2023-2024. AC's longevity is one that few Texas institutions of higher learning can match. Indeed, the average age of all Texas colleges is barely half of the 175 years Austin College has witnessed since its 1849 founding by Reverend Daniel Baker.

Two hundred years ago, Baker was a national pastor in Washington, D.C., at the Second Presbyterian Church. His flock in 1824 included two Americans who would compete for the U.S. Presidency that year: John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. Adams became "one of the best friends [Baker] ever had;" Jackson spoke admirably of Baker's "piety and zeal."

That zeal brought Baker to Texas, where he established Austin College in Huntsville, Texas, in 1849. The charter approved that year by the Texas Legislature remains in use today, making Austin College the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under its original name and charter.

Civil War, stagnation, and pandemics took a toll on the school in the first 25 years. The Board of Trustees met in 1874 during somber 25th anniversary celebrations and "determined that the best interest of the college required its removal" to a more prosperous location. Sherman, Texas, was selected two years later.

Gilded Age prosperity combined with relocation to Sherman finally brought the stability AC had long sought. *The Chromascope* yearbook celebrated the school's "semi-centennial" in 1899, noting that, "Austin College feels that the pioneer days of struggle are passed. With cheerful hope, the face is turned to the future."

By 1924, that hope had transformed to elation as the College celebrated its 75th birthday with a Diamond Jubilee. As the country basked in the "Roaring Twenties," President Thomas Clyce remarked that "the future is exceedingly bright."

The women of Kappa Gamma Chi gifted a fountain to close the festivities.

The lively AC Centennial in 1949 took place with Depression and World War in America's rearview mirror. House Speaker Sam Rayburn delivered remarks during the three-day celebration. Thousands of Presbyterian ministers chose Sherman for their annual conference to honor the first Presbyterian school in Texas.

Austin College Trustee Ginger Rogers led the 125th Anniversary festivities in 1974. As the country endured the aftermath of Vietnam and Watergate, the American dancer and entertainer inaugurated new AC sporting venues and attended Ida Green anniversary performances.

In 1999, AC celebrated a milestone 150th birthday. With prosperity at home and Cold War peace abroad, the future never looked brighter. *Austin College: A Sesquicentennial History* was written by Dr. Light Cummins to mark the occasion. This column relies heavily on this seminal AC work by Dr. Cummins.

Henderson Yoakum, an original AC trustee alongside Sam Houston, wished at the school's founding in 1849 that as the years progressed "our children, and children's children will have cause to rejoice over this noble institution." The 175 years since those remarks surely confirm Yoakum's belief in the noble status of Austin College. ■

Marc Parrish is a 1992 graduate of Austin College, where he majored in International Studies and won the award for most valuable tennis player. Marc is an



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistant Director of Information Technology at The University of Texas System in Austin, where he and his wife Dianne raised two children, Alex & Malia.

Marc has written four Roo Tale books about Austin College, devoted to the topics of football, athletics, rival AC schools, legends in the Hall of Honor, and perhaps not surprisingly to readers of this column—AC history. He is proud to call himself an alumnus of one of the most historical colleges in the state of Texas.



Our history has created their future

For 175 years and beyond, we've been building bridges to a better world through education that shapes the leaders of tomorrow. We're committed to providing students the very best opportunities to explore, grow, learn, and serve.

What makes this possible? Gifts to the Annual Fund are the foundation for future success. With your support, 'Roos can pursue their dreams and step confidently into a world that is waiting for their talents. Make your gift today!



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