Austin College welcomes Shigeru Ban to Texas as recipient of the Austin College 2015 Posey Leadership Award. The Japanese architect continues to receive worldwide praise and awards for his creative works, which often rely on easily transportable, recycled, and sustainable materials. TIME magazine has identified him as an innovative architect for the 21st Century. Thousands of victims of wars, floods, earthquakes and other disasters have Ban, the humanitarian, to thank for his dedication to easing their plight—by designing simple-to-install, temporary structures they can call home.

Shigeru Ban, a Tokyo-born architect, enrolled in architecture school in the United States in 1977. In the course of his studies in California and New York, Ban found himself amidst many of America’s leading architects of the 20th century—Frank Gehry, Thom Mayne, and John Hedjuk, among others—who were pioneers in socially-conscious design. After graduating from Cooper Union School of Architecture in 1984, Ban established a practice in Tokyo. His first commissions in 1985 involved designing houses made of wood, glass, and stone. However, building with paper intrigued him. His interest simply came from a “respect for materials” and a desire not to waste them, but that soon would be translated to an environmental solution for building design.

Life-Saving Design for Disaster Relief

In 1994, Ban learned of the Rwandan Civil War aftermath—and two million refugees forced to live in challenging conditions. The architect contacted the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva to share his vision for unconventional paper tubing structures. The UN accepted his offer to help build—with paper tubing—disaster shelters. Then, in 1995, natural disaster befell his own countrymen in Kobe, Japan.

The Kobe earthquake prompted Ban to establish a non-profit Voluntary Architects’ Network (VAN) to address disaster relief efforts. Subsequently, VAN built temporary housing in Turkey (1999 earthquake), western India (2001 earthquake), and in Sri Lanka (2004 earthquake/tsunami). In response to the 2011 New Zealand earthquake in Christchurch, Ban created the “Cardboard Cathedral” to temporarily replace the city’s damaged Anglican church. As requests for new buildings—art museums, pavilions, corporate offices—grow in the New York, Paris, and Tokyo offices of Shigeru Ban, the architect’s humanitarian spirit shows no signs of faltering. When he was awarded the 2014 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the prize’s citation stated: “Where others may see insurmountable challenges, Ban sees a call to action.”

Sheltering a World in Crisis

1994 - Civil War Aftermath in Rwanda
1995 - Earthquake in Kobe, Japan
1999 - Earthquake in Turkey
2001 - Earthquake in Western India
2004 - Earthquake/Tsunami in Sri Lanka
2005 - Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans
2011 - Earthquake in New Zealand
It began in 2006. Austin College stepped forward to honor an education innovator determined to aid America’s children from low income families. That innovator was Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach For America. With great enthusiasm—and gratitude—Austin College bestowed on Kopp its first servant leadership award, now known as the Austin College Posey Leadership Award.

Today Kopp serves as CEO for Teach For America, overseeing a nationwide corps of teachers. The organization continues to grow and now includes a Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Teach For America initiative, launched five years ago to combat high dropout rates. Over 450 young men and women now work for TFA in the metroplex, impacting the lives of some 26,000 students.

Since 2006, Austin College has recognized nine other individuals whose actions have had significant and lasting impact upon the lives of others. The Posey Leadership Award recipients have represented diverse fields, such as education, health, and even the financial world. However, each individual has led efforts to aid disadvantaged or at-risk populations. Their efforts have not only inspired students but a much wider audience.

In 2015, the Posey Leadership Award will honor Shigeru Ban of Japan—known to many as the “humanitarian architect.” Around the world Ban has aided victims of war, floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, by providing temporary shelters that utilize sustainable materials.
The Austin College (GO!) Forum is building on a decade of experiential global learning that impacts our students and benefits our world.

Each year the GO! Forum provides our students and North Texas neighbors the face-to-face opportunity to meet and learn more about globally recognized leaders and the impact they make in the world.

**REGIONAL AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

- Expert Faculty Talks
  Business professionals/public

- Innovative Teaching and Discovery
  Faculty/Students

- Live Broadcast Distance Learning with Posey Leadership Award Recipient
  300+ Middle/High School Students

- Introducing North Texas Region to Award Recipient
  - KERA Radio “Think” Broadcast—15,000 Listeners
  - The Dallas Morning News—Repeat coverage
  - Herald Democrat—Repeat coverage

- Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex Educators Reception

- Convocation Address by Posey Leadership Recipient on Austin College Campus
  600 Attendees—Students, Faculty, Staff, Regional Leaders

- Campus Classroom Conversation with Recipient
  100 Students

- Campus Luncheon with Local Leaders and Special Guests
  200 Students, Faculty, Sherman guests

**GO! FORUM EVENING AT THE PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE IN DALLAS**

- Keynote Address and Award Presentation by Posey Leadership Recipient
  350+ Guests from Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex

“An Austin College education challenges its students to ‘be ready to offer perspectives, skills, and knowledge that add authentic value to a changing world.’ This vision is very much embodied in the Posey Leadership Award.”

—Bob Mong, editor, The Dallas Morning News

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2015 GO! Forum Partnership Opportunities

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