



Honoring a Life Well Lived



An Austin College legend was lost September 26 with the sudden death of Dr. Jack Pierce, a beloved member of the College faculty since 1967.

"Jack's contributions to Austin College are without measure," said President Marjorie Hass. "We send condolences, love, and support to his family and to all who mourn his loss."

In addition to helping hundreds of students prepare for medical school and other health professions in his role as McGaw Chair of Health Sciences, Jack taught courses in Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy and Developmental Biology. In recent years, he has spent his summers conducting research at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center and writing countless letters of recommendation for students.

His support of students was not just to those in the sciences. He was the long-time advisor for the Pre-Medical Society (now Pre-Health) and for Kappa Gamma Chi sorority. He also was a devoted fan of Kangaroo athletics. He served as the NCAA faculty advisor, and could easily have been Austin College's #1 fan, seen in the stands for nearly every home competition in every sport.

As word of Jack's death spread to alumni, social media posts repeated again and again: "I wouldn't be where I am today without Jack's support." Rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that **donations** be made to Austin College in Jack's memory.

See the obituary and offer condolences.

Alumna to Lead Fundraising Efforts

Austin College welcomed a new associate vice president of Institutional Advancement this month. **Gillian (Grissom) Locke '07** is pleased to return to the College to take on major gift fundraising and management responsibilities.

She came to the College from Communities Foundation of Texas, where she served as community philanthropy officer. Prior to that role, Gillian had been a consultant at Public Impact, an education research and policy consulting firm dedicated to improving learning outcomes for all children in the U.S., especially those who are not well-served. She began her career as an analyst at Goldman Sachs. In the meantime, she earned a master's degree in public policy from Duke University.



She and her husband, Thomas (a Class of 2004 'Roo), live in McKinney with their dog, Scout.

TEDxAustinCollege is Big Success



Buzz around Austin College's inaugural TEDxAustinCollege event September 22 was all good. Around the theme, "Adding Value to a Changing World," four Austin College faculty presented their "Ideas Worth Spreading."

"This was a tremendous testament to the ideas that percolate at Austin College and our ability to host a meaningful and important community event," Austin College President Marjorie Hass said following the event. "This brings attention to what's happening here at Austin College and this region on a global scale." The theme for the talks is a reference to the College's strategic plan and has been a recurring theme for the past several years, Dr. Hass said.

The event attracted more than 200 to the main stage with others viewing the event from a simulcast room on campus. A team of 40 student volunteers worked with staff in coordinating the event that is expected to become a recurring one on campus.

Stay tuned in the next 60 days for the release of the videos on the [TED.com](https://www.ted.com) global website. We will let you know on Facebook!

Speakers and Their Topics:

David Baker:

"The Most Extreme Life Form in Our Solar System"

Throughout the ages, humans have stared at the night sky and likely wondered, "What is out there?" Recent scientific discoveries shed light on this ancient question and unearth surprising possibilities in the search for the most extreme life form in our solar system.



Lisa Brown:

"Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt? And Who Shouldn't?"

The "post-racial America" supposedly evidenced by the election of Barack Obama continues to produce incidents of violence against unarmed Black people. These incidents and others beg the question-in the criminal justice system and in U.S. society generally-who gets the benefit of the doubt?

George Diggs:

"Real Food Diets for Lions, Zebras, People, and Beyond"

Healthy diets for animals as diverse as lions, zebras, and humans share some basic principles. Scientific evidence and clinical practice show that these can make a major difference in human health and quality of life. How can these ideas actually be used to improve our lives?

Mark Hebert:

"Happiness vs. Meaning?"

Everyone wants to lead a happy and meaningful life, but does the pursuit of one affect the other? Bluntly put, could seeking happiness compromise meaningfulness, or vice versa?

See follow-up coverage from the [Herald Democrat](https://www.herald-democrat.com).

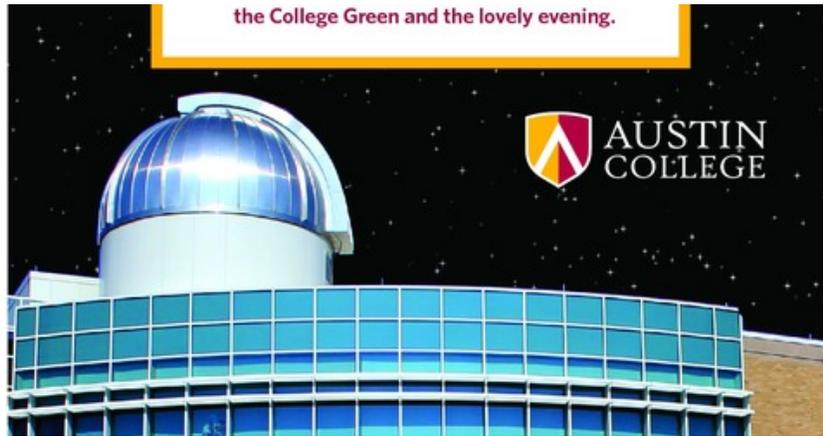
Austin College Homecoming and Family Weekend!



Join us October 14-16 as alumni, parents, friends, and students gather on campus for the combined Homecoming and Family Weekend. Activities from coffee with the faculty to 'Roo football, **Alumni College** to parent information sessions, a magic show to a music student recital, offer something for everyone. We'll cap it all of with an all-alumni and parent celebration Saturday night at the Hilton Garden Inn!

A poster for 'AlumNights' at Austin College. The background is black with white stars. At the top is the Austin College logo and the word 'AlumNights' in a large, bold, yellow font. Below that, it says 'Texoma Alumni - Please join us for a Star Party!' and 'Open to the Public'. The date and time are 'October 12, 2016' and '8 p.m. to 10 p.m.' at the 'Austin College IDEA CENTER'. It notes 'Online registration required' and provides the URL 'https://www.austincollege.edu/adams-observatory-events/'. A paragraph describes picking up tickets in the Page Atrium and enjoying star gazing on the College Green. At the bottom, it says '*Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy'.

the College Green and the lovely evening.



Happening on Campus

- **Columbus Day Preview** - October 10
- **Texoma AlumNight & Public Star Party** - October 12, 2016, 8-10 p.m.
- **Research & Pedagogy Talk: Jeremy Posadas** - October 13
- **Fall Choral Concert** - October 13
- **Family Weekend/Homecoming 2016** - October 14-16
- **Evening of Chamber and Jazz** - October 14, 7:30 p.m.
- **Football vs. Texas Lutheran** - October 15
- **Wind Symphony** - October 16, 7:30 p.m.
- **Homecoming Worship: Tanya Eustace '01** - October 16, 10 a.m.
- ***Metamorphoses*, directed by Elizabeth Parks** - October 16-18
- **Sabbatical Series Lecture: Frank Rohmer** - October 19
- **Football vs. Trinity** - October 22
- ***The Liberators* Screening** - October 25, 6:30 p.m.
- **'Roo Boo** - October 26, 2016, 6-8 p.m.
- **Jerry & Joy Apple Day** - October 29
- **Football vs. Southwestern** - October 29

For more information on news and events of Austin College, follow

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