



Windsor Mall has a new focal point with the planting of a live evergreen tree between Wynne Chapel and Caruth Administration Building as the official Christmas tree for the 'Roos. Donned with traditional ornaments and old-style bulb lights, it was lit after the annual Lessons & Carols concert on Thursday, December 1. The tree, purchased by Student Assembly, is a Leyland Cypress evergreen expected to grow 1.5 to 2 feet per year.



Foster Ellis '24, Tobias Ward '24, and Kendall Johnson '23 worked together to develop and create a prototype of The Charger Hook, a small device designed to prevent the common breakage of chargers where the wire meets the plug.

## **Necessity Leads to Invention; Students Tackle Everyday Problems**

Students in Physics 281-Statics and Engineering Design presented their prototypes at the **Austin College Engineering Design Showcase** on December 7, in Wright Campus Center. Seven teams described their processes and demonstrated prototypes of new products that could solve common problems.

Need a hand with an umbrella? Umbrella Knight, a scabbard to conveniently carry an umbrella, is just the thing. Keep spilling your workout powder on the counter? Then give the Pro-Scoop a try. In addition to those products, teams developed products to end frayed phone charger cords, separate two drinks in one cup, easily pour from a jug, keep a hairbrush clean, and the less common application of measuring magnetic strength. Members of the class collected feedback from visitors to the Showcase using QR codes and a simple survey.





## **Baker Reports on UN Climate Summit & Climate Ambassadors**

On his recent return from the United Nations Climate Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, Physics professor **Dr. David Baker** shared his impressions of the conference and his hopes for Austin College as a catalyst for positive change in North Texas. Baker attended the Summit as an official Observer through an arrangement with Pomona College in Claremont, California.

To a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members, Baker reviewed the history of the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which formed in 1992, reminding listeners of key conventions in Kyoto, Paris, and Glasgow. His impressions after attending the 27th Convention: Negotiators from the 197 countries in the climate pact are well informed and earnestly want to make a difference; decisions are based on the best-available science; and things are getting better.

"Progress is happening—slowly—but it is happening," he said. "We are better off today than the projections from 30 years ago said we would be." **Austin College has applied to send official Observers to future UN Climate Conferences.** The expectation is that a cohort of students will attend the 28th Conference in United Arab Emirates in November 2023. On their return they will share their impressions and ideas with the community.

"I see the role of Austin College as a leader on this issue in this region," Baker said. "I can imagine Austin College Climate Ambassadors sponsoring events on campus, visiting city councils and high schools, and offering perspectives and examples that make sense for our communities. The goal is to communicate climate change issues and implement solutions that make a difference."



Happy Holidays! Your holiday gift shows students you believe in them.

Warm hearts this winter as you support Austin College today! End-of-year

giving is tax deductible.

## Join Us!

Join your fellow 'Roo alumni to cheer on the Dallas Mavericks as they take on the Los Angeles Clippers at American Airlines Center



Sunday, January 22, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

A block of 45 seats is reserved just for us now through December 22, 2022

To purchase your tickets visit www.mavsgroups.com/austincollege

This will be a fun night - you won't want to miss it! Email *klucchese@austincollege.edu* for more info.





## **Alumnus Returns to Campus for World AIDS Day Observance**

**Dr. Steven Pounders** '81 returned to campus for World AIDS Day on December 1. In a special Q&A session sponsored by student organization AC Cares, he discussed issues with students from the public health department and other disciplines.

A Dallas native, Pounders has provided adult primary care and comprehensive HIV treatment in the city for more than 30 years. He was named an Austin College Distinguished Alumnus at Homecoming last October.

"Students benefit from hearing from alumni with the same undergrad education—that establishes a baseline connection," says ACCares Vice President Divya Prakash '25. "**It is so inspiring and motivating to meet with and hear from alumni.**" AC Cares works to raise awareness of the impact of AIDS/HIV on the community and encourages students to be educated and compassionate.



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**ALUMNI** 

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