



Alumna Recognized for Service to Presbyterian Church

The James I. McCord Award for Outstanding Service to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was presented to **Mary Elva Deloteus Smith '66**, as only the 10th awardee since its creation in 1998.

As a lifelong student and educator, Mary Elva has been a public school teacher, Director of Christian Education in several Presbyterian congregations, Hunger Coordinator for the Synod of the Rocky Mountains, Presbytery staff in San Diego, and Director of Women's Ministries in the National offices for the PCUSA—a position which enabled her to serve as an example and mentor to many Austin College students and alumni. She currently serves as Director of Spiritual Ministries at Faith Presbyterian Church in San Diego, California. She is shown here with Board Chair Scott Austin '83 and President Steven P. O'Day at the Board of Trustees dinner on Friday, February 16.



Mark your calendars—**Austin College Giving Day 2024** is almost here! On March 5, 'RooNation unites for 24 hours to impact every corner of the campus. This year, you can schedule your gift early, offer a match or challenge, or become an advocate to share what you love about the College. Thank you for making a difference!

[SCHEDULE YOUR GIFT HERE](#)

Historian Sheds Light on Stephen F. Austin



Austin College welcomed **Dr. Andrew Torget**, University Distinguished Teaching Professor for the Department of History at University of North Texas, as he presented his lecture titled “Who was the REAL Stephen F. Austin?”. The presentation, sponsored by the Austin College Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) program, took place February 21, 2024, in Wright Campus Center’s Mabee Hall.

Dr. Light Cummins, Austin College Professor Emeritus of History and former Texas State Historian, introduced Torget saying, “He is, without a doubt, one of the most respected, admired, and acclaimed historians in Texas today. And, who better to speak about the person for whom this college is named, than Dr. Andrew Torget? He is the leading historical authority regarding the anglo-American settlement of Texas.”

[READ MORE](#)



Celebrate the 175th Milestone with Service to Others

'Roos everywhere can join in Austin College's **175th Year Celebration** by serving others in your community and reporting your hours. We trust that alumni, parents, students, staff, and faculty already make a difference every day—and you can help us celebrate an ambitious, collective service-hour goal during the 2023-2024 academic year. Follow the link below today to share your information!

[REPORT YOUR SERVICE HOURS](#)

GreenServe, a project sponsored by Austin College Service Station and Thinking Green, is the *ultimate* Make a Difference Day on Saturday, **April 20, 2024**. This campus-wide opportunity for service is focused on environmental responsibility and sustainability. In celebration of the 175th Year of Austin College, this event is expanded to include all members of the Austin College community. ***Details coming soon.***

AUSTIN COLLEGE

Monday, April 8, 2024
Biggest solar event of our lifetime

Event: Noon to 3 p.m.
Max Eclipse at 1:44 p.m.

Eclipse glasses will be available at several locations across campus.

Tafolla Earns Two Prestigious Writing Awards

Author [Carmen Tafolla '72 MAT '73](#) has been named the winner of the **Texas Institute of Letters' prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award**. This is the highest honor given by the TIL, which was established in 1936 to recognize distinctive literary achievement.

Also, her novel for young readers, *Warrior Girl*, has won the **2024 Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award**. *Warrior Girl* is the story of a young person using her voice as a vehicle for private reflection and for calling attention to social injustices.



Tafolla has worked and published in the fields of Mexican-American studies, women's studies, bilingual education, and history, but it is in the field of creative writing that she has become most renowned. The prolific author has received many distinctions including Texas Poet Laureate, San Antonio City Poet Laureate, and first Latina president of Texas Institute of Letters. She received an honorary doctorate from Austin College in 2017.

[READ MORE](#)

2024

AUSTIN COLLEGE
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Distinguished Alumni Nominations Now Open

Each year, Austin College recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions and their communities, who exemplify leadership and ethical standards in their work, and provide support and advocacy for the College and its mission. **Nominations are now open through April 12, 2024.** Awards are presented at the Annual Distinguished Alumni and Volunteer Awards Dinner during Homecoming Weekend. For nomination criteria and access to the forms, follow the link below. For more information, email alumni@austincollege.edu.

[Learn More & Submit Nominations](#)

Join Us!

Head to the Hill Country with AC Alumni

The Austin College Alumni Board and Office of Alumni Engagement have organized two great opportunities that are sure to bring 'Roos together to enjoy some Hill Country fun. For more information, send an email to Kristi Lucchese at klucchese@austincollege.edu or call

903.813.2196.



Fredericksburg Weekend

March 22-23

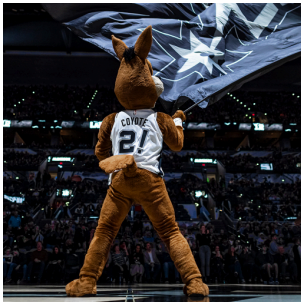
Register by March 15

Come to the charming town of Fredericksburg, Texas, to relax and refresh with fellow 'Roos. We'll enjoy some of the best wines and cuisine in the region and take in the stunning views of the Hill Country. Get ready to uncork the magic of

Fredericksburg with us— it's an experience you won't want to miss!

*Hosted by: Jana Harrison '89, Carl Money '88, Montie Krumnow '89,
Betsy Walling Furler '89, Richard Walden '89*

[Learn More & Register](#)



Austin College Alumni Night

Spurs vs. New York Knicks

March 29, 2024, 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$28.90 - \$58.90 (purchase by 5 p.m. on gameday)

Frost Bank Center - Spurs

1 ATT Center Parkway, San Antonio, Texas 78219

Bring your family and friends and join us at a San Antonio Spurs game when they take on the New York Knicks. Use the link below for discounted tickets—including food vouchers and special pre-game experience where you enter before the general public and watch both teams warm up from the first 13 rows of the arena.

[Get Your Tickets Here!](#)

A graphic for the Austin College Posey Leadership Award Convocation. On the left, the Austin College logo is shown. In the center, the Posey Leadership Award logo features a stylized green and yellow figure with arms raised, surrounded by the words 'AUSTIN COLLEGE'. Below this, it says 'POSEY LEADERSHIP AWARD' and 'Leader-in-Residence'. Further down, it reads 'Posey Leadership Award Convocation' and 'April 4, 2024 | 11 a.m. Wynne Chapel | Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary'. On the right, a circular portrait of Rick Lowe is shown, with the text 'Rick Lowe 2024 Recipient' below it.

AUSTIN COLLEGE
POSEY LEADERSHIP AWARD
Leader-in-Residence
Posey Leadership Award Convocation
April 4, 2024 | 11 a.m.
Wynne Chapel | Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary

Rick Lowe
2024 Recipient

Students Receive Engineering Scholarships

Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) Northeast Chapter has announced Austin College students **Brady Dygert '25** (pictured right) and **Madison Manning '26** (center) are recipients of



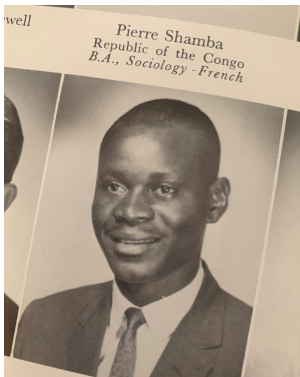
\$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships were awarded during TSPE Engineering Week.

At the TSPE Engineering Week luncheon, representatives of Austin College shared information about the ongoing development of a new Bachelor of Science degree in engineering to be offered by the College. Currently, the College offers an engineering physics major within the Physics Department. The College is hiring a founding director for the new program, which will serve students like Dygert and Manning who have career aspirations in engineering fields, and address regional needs for degree holders in this area.

[READ MORE](#)



Hop into History



Pierre Manenga Shamba '64, was the first non-white student to attend Austin College full-time. Shamba grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo and was educated in Presbyterian mission schools. He traveled to the United States to attend Stillman College in Alabama, but the Ku Klux Klan blocked his enrollment.

Shamba enrolled at Austin College in 1961 and majored in sociology and French, was a member of Pi Chi Epsilon fraternity, and participated in Model United Nations. In a November 2005 *Austin College Magazine* article that detailed racial integration at the College, Shamba said he did not consider himself a pioneer, and he just wanted an education. His daughter Cecile said her father had told his children that he suffered discouragement and discrimination at times, but his peers and professors at Austin College were good people and gave him the courage to complete his education.

Shamba graduated from Austin College in 1964—the same year the Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress—and earned a master's degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C., before returning to the Congo. He worked as a school principal and as an administrator at the Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai, a Presbyterian hospital in Tshikaji, Congo. Shamba died August 27, 2009, at 73 years old. Source: *Austin College Magazine* Winter Edition 2010

MY STORY: EXPLORE. BELONG. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The 175th milestone theme *Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.* is the story arc of most students who call themselves 'Roos. They arrive here and begin their exploration; find belonging with like-minded peers; and answer the call to make a difference. Here are their stories—in their own words.



Ayelia Ali '16

*New Teacher Developer
Chelsea Public Schools
Chelsea, Massachusetts*

I am the New Teacher Developer for Chelsea Public Schools, a school district just outside the Boston area. I support a specific niche of first year teachers - those who did not go through a traditional teacher preparation program and are changing their careers into education.

My goal is to retain the highest-of-need teachers by providing direct one-on-one support to them through coaching, mentoring, and engaging with a cohort of others like them in the New Teacher Academy program that I launched. Although it is the pilot year of this program, I have about 30 educators who I support. One way I connect with my cohort of educators is reminding them that I was also a career changer. My education at Austin College gave me a holistic view of the world and pushed me to think about what it takes to be a good educator. I was given the privilege of working with great mentors at Austin College—Don Rodgers, Bernice Melvin, Patrick Duffey to name a few. Through their support, I was able to graduate cum laude in international relations and public health and teach in Malaysia for a year with a Fulbright Scholarship. My Fulbright was my first experience being a classroom teacher, and what ultimately influenced me to teach for the next coming years as a sexual health educator and a classroom teacher.

Because I built authentic relationships with my professors, they encouraged me to apply to graduate school, and I moved to the Boston area to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Education. My professors at Austin College modeled to me what it takes to be a good mentor, teacher, and global citizen. I am forever indebted to Austin College and its amazing professors for shaping me in my most formative years.



Joe T. Sanders '00

*Attorney
Sanders Bajwa, LLP
Austin, Texas*

I am a founding partner of Sanders Bajwa, LLP, a boutique law firm in Austin, Texas. There, I handle a wide variety of energy-related lawsuits and transactions.

I have served on several volunteer boards over the years and have devoted a significant amount of time to pro bono matters, including one that was accepted by the United States Supreme Court.

At Austin College, I learned to think, analyze, write, cultivate relationships, and have confidence in myself and my abilities. Each of those things has allowed me to enjoy a successful professional career and very fulfilled life. Austin College gave me so much, which is why I do what I can to give

back at every opportunity, whether by contributing to the College's various initiatives or volunteering to serve on the Board of Trustees.

PARENTS

ALUMNI



900 North Grand Avenue
Sherman, Texas 75090
(903) 813-2000

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