

ARCHITECT OF CHANGE,

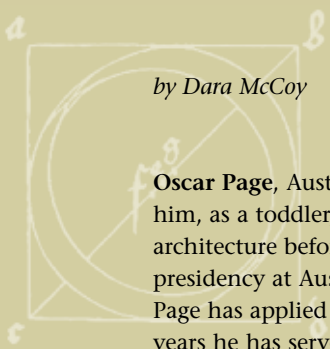


When Oscar Page steps down as Austin College president in June 2009, the College community also will say goodbye to Anna Laura Page. In the September issue of Austin College Magazine expect a closer look at the first lady of Austin College.

BUILDER OF CHARACTER



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



by Dara McCoy

Oscar Page, Austin College's 14th president, has been building since his father took him, as a toddler, along on construction jobs in Kentucky. He considered a career in architecture before building a successful academic career into his first college presidency at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee at age 48. A self-made man, Page has applied the same formula of personal growth and achievement to the 14 years he has served as president of Austin College.

Those around Page say his 'roll-up-your-sleeves' approach is bolstered by an enduring optimism. "He's tireless," said **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs. "He doesn't give in to personal things like tiredness or frustration." Such energy and outlook allow Page to set goals and create a vision that is difficult, lofty even, but never impossible. "When there's a vision to follow, he doesn't waiver," said **Robert M. Johnson '53**, chair of the College's Board of Trustees. "When there's a goal to be reached, it is never unattainable."

To find a segment of the campus community — students, staff, faculty, parents, alumni, friends, or trustees — that doesn't respect or admire what Page has done in his years on campus is difficult. "I don't think it's possible to find anyone who is more persistent or works harder than Oscar Page," Imhoff said. "He has committed himself body and soul to the College. He lives and breathes Austin College."

Page's dedication to Austin College and his commitment to leadership through service and example have been the main drivers of his success. "Dr. Page is the first in line for a day's work for Great Day of Service," Johnson said. "He is a perfect example of servant leadership."

That leadership was evident when Page joined a group of Austin College students in New Orleans in 2006 to help with Katrina cleanup, and has been seen each fall as he carried boxes for freshmen moving into campus residence halls. "Austin College has had a tradition of service as a core value," Page said. "I saw this connection between a philosophy that was embedded in me and the concept of service that had been prominent on the campus for many years before I ever heard of Austin College."

More Than Numbers

Like any good builder, Page realized the need to collect the boards and hammer before the first nail could be driven. Johnson said one of the most important aspects of the legacy Page will leave is his leadership in fundraising.

The success of the \$120 million Campaign for the New Era, the largest fundraising effort in Austin College history, is a milestone in Page's tenure. "The success of the New Era

Editor's Note: In celebration of Oscar C. Page's 10th anniversary as president of Austin College, the November 2004 President's Report profiled him. Writer Brian Builta captured the essence of the man, telling the story of a boy weaned on hard work and pride in the labor of one's own hands. Readers learned of a young man overcoming his teacher's doubts and discouragement to become a first-generation college graduate, eventually earn a Ph.D., and begin a career in higher education. That article chronicled a man coming into his own as a leader, guided by faith and a commitment to serve others. Some elements of this article are based on that profile.

campaign was clear validation that we were making excellent progress and that people were really committed to investing in Austin College," Page said. "The campaign was a benchmark event that gave us great confidence in the future of the College." Page went on to increase the endowment 78 percent, from \$83 million to \$148 million, and to raise the number of \$1 million donors from 11 to 46, with several donors above the \$5 million mark.

The numbers are impressive, but to Page the work has never been about just the numbers. He used dollar signs and percentages as a means to an end, and the end has always been education. "Although Dr. Page dramatically increased the endowment, he didn't focus on financial needs only," said **Susan DeLee Cuellar '69**, a senior trustee who served on the Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2006 and served on the search committee that selected Page as president. "Dr. Page has encouraged students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends of the College, and trustees to focus on the learning experience and what is needed to support those efforts," she said. "In every situation, he challenges the College community to place the highest value on the education of students."

Page's focus on students is a trademark of his tenure. He is on first-name basis with a large number of students and stops to speak with them as he makes his way across campus, in the dining hall,

or at the many student events he makes time to attend. "Beyond my tenure here, the thing I'll carry with me as much as anything will be reflecting on the success of students and the contributions they're making to society," Page said. "That is what gives me a sense of accomplishment."

The House That Page Built

By 2009, assuming success in fundraising for the proposed science building, Page will have orchestrated more than \$100 million in capital improvement projects on campus, creating better facilities and a beautiful campus environment in which students, alumni, and the entire College community can take pride.

Those projects include construction of Jordan Family Language House, Jerry E. Apple Stadium, the Robert J. and Mary Wright Campus Center, the Robert M. and Joyce A. Johnson 'Roo Suites, and the Betsy Dennis Forster Art Studio Complex. Page also has overseen renovation of the David E. and Cassie L. Temple Center for Teaching and Learning at Thompson House and of Wortham Center, as well as creation of the John A. and Katherine G. Jackson Technology Center; the Margaret Binkley Collins and William W. Collins, Jr., Alumni Center; and the College Green in honor of John D. and Sara Bernice Moseley and Distinguished Faculty. In establishing the Robert T.

Search for the Successor

Oscar C. Page announced in March his intention to step down as president of Austin College in June 2009. The Presidential Search Committee tasked with finding the 15th president in Austin College history met formally for the first time in early April. "Dr. Page has brought Austin College to an enviable position given the many and significant accomplishment of his 15 years," said **Robert M. Johnson '53**, chair of the College's Board of Trustees. "We are well positioned to attract a pool of top candidates for this position.

Page announced his decision more than a year in advance to give the College ample time to find his successor. Page will focus his remaining time at the College in fundraising for the new \$40 million science building, supporting the College reaccreditation process, and assuring that the College runs smoothly until his departure in 2009.

As always, he is looking to the future and he wants to leave his house in order as a strong foundation for success for a new president. "Now is the time for excitement to build about new leadership and what that new leadership can bring to the College," Page said. "There will be some reflection on what I've done here, but the more important thing is the level of anticipation and excitement that can be connected to a change in leadership."

The search committee will be assisted by Academic Search of Washington, D.C., a consulting firm that has worked exclusively in searches for presidents and senior higher education administrators for more than 30 years. Thomas B. Courtice is the firm's senior consultant to Austin College and will provide counsel for the committee's work throughout the search process.

Mason Athletic-Recreation Complex, all the athletic facilities within were renovated and the Verde Dickey Fitness Pavilion added. Since then, baseball's Baker Field and stadium have been refurbished and Russell Tennis Stadium has been relocated and updated. Plus, landscaping and other projects have significantly enhanced the entire campus, particularly the addition of the Margaret Binkley Collins Fountain, the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court, and the Sandra J. Williams Founders Plaza.

Page said he hopes that the programmatic changes implemented during his tenure to enrich the curriculum, like adding four majors and eight minors to the academic program, will be remembered as just as important as new buildings and beautiful landscaping projects.

Page has led the effort to make some 300 new scholarships available to students, add 20 new tenure-track faculty positions, and increase enrollment while maintaining a climbing SAT average. The College now shelters a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, has an increasingly diverse student body, and continues to see a large number of students — seven out of 10 — study internationally.

Under Page's direction, the College created four new academic centers, including the Posey Leadership Institute, which has done much to garner national exposure for the College by bringing well-known figures to campus as speakers, such as Madeleine Albright,

Colin Powell, Oscar Arias, and George H. W. Bush. "Through the Posey Leadership Institute, the Austin College Leadership Award, and other notable efforts, Austin College has gained visibility on the national and international stage," Johnson said.

A Lasting Legacy

Page's 10th anniversary profile included the reflection, "Perhaps, Oscar Page became an architect after all — his legacy not a house, but a campus that many students, faculty, staff, and alumni call home." As Page completes his final blueprint for Austin College and steps away from the drawing board, "perhaps" no longer is applicable. "Oscar not only made a difference at Austin College, he made the difference between being average and being excellent," said **Richard Agnich**, Board of Trustees member for 12 years and chair of the current Presidential Search Committee. "Austin College is on the verge of becoming one of the very best liberal arts colleges in the United States."

Page has drawn up many plans and seen those concepts through to completion. By evidence of his many accomplishments, he has been the architect of a strong future for Austin College. Equally, through his philosophy of servant leadership and daily example of integrity, he has been a builder of character in the lives of countless students and other members of the Austin College community. 🐾

Presidential Search Committee

Richard J. Agnich, Chair

Linus D. Wright '49, Vice Chair

Robert M. Johnson '53, Board Chair

Robert J. Wright, Past Board Chair

Lee Dean Ardell '74, Trustee

Jacqueline R. Cooper '73, Trustee

Jesse R. Thomas '74, Trustee

Linda Plummer Ward '78, Trustee

Todd A. Williams '82, Trustee

Monica F. Martinez '09, Student Body President

Michael T. Nurre '67, Alumni Association President

John Williams '84, Chaplain and Director of Church Relations

Lisa M. Brown, Associate Professor of Psychology

George M. Diggs, Professor of Biology

Todd C. Penner, Associate Professor of Religion

Alternate trustee members:

Davis B. Price '67

Steven M. Mobley

“Oscar Page
will be remembered
as one of the
best representatives
in the College's history.
He is
one of the most
well-rounded
presidents
we ever have had.”

— Robert C. Wright, chair of the Austin College Board of Trustees from 1997 to June 2007

SUPPORT THE TRADITION



Gifts to the Annual Fund allow Austin College to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery; to extend the financial aid program to every student who needs it; and to help meet emerging needs and challenges.

Annual Giving has been a vital source of institutional momentum for Austin College, and the primary way for all alumni, parents, and friends to help sustain the special features that set Austin College apart.

The power of participation can do amazing things for Austin College. Please make your gift by June 30, 2008, and help us continue the momentum.

THE AUSTIN COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND

For more information please contact **Paula Jonse '02**, director of Annual Giving at (903) 813-2389 or email pjonse@austincollege.edu

Gifts also can be made online at:

<https://secure.austincollege.edu/giving>

Thank you in advance for your support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2008

19-21 Legends Weekend

August 2008

29 New Student Orientation Begins

September 2008

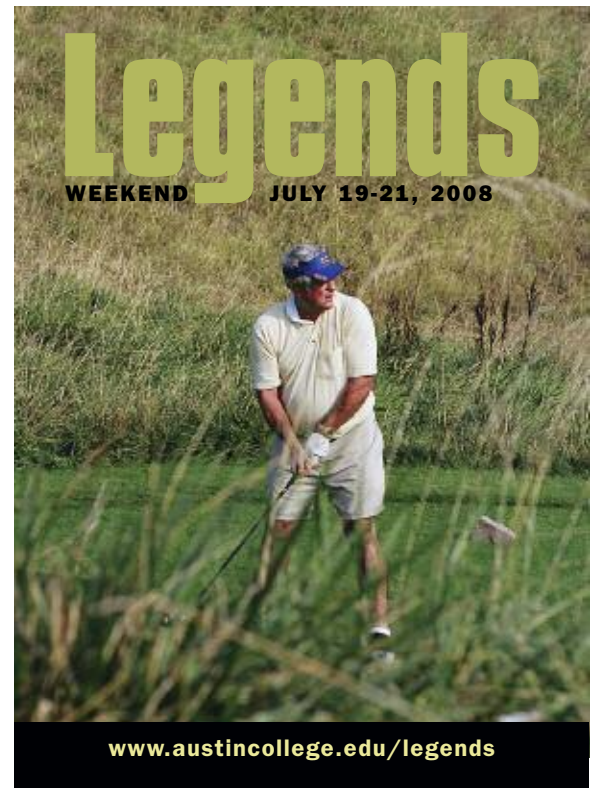
1 Opening Convocation with Henry Winkler

2 Fall Term 2008 Classes Begin

27-28 Parent and Family Weekend

See the Austin College Master Calendar for a full schedule of campus happenings and updates to these events.

austincollege.edu/MasterCalendar.asp?2057





▲ EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Academic regalia makes the faculty in this photo look much like the faculty participating in the Commencement of the 159th year of the College. A closer look will reveal faculty from an earlier era. Recognize the faces? Share your stories at the address below.

Alumni: Share YOUR Austin College photos for possible inclusion in Every Picture Tells A Story. Send to Editor, Austin College, 900 N. Grand Ave., Suite 6H, Sherman, Texas 75090 or editor@austincollege.edu.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO



Leah Clemmons Lane '83 and **Jeffrey Ward '83** recognized the photo taken in front of Thompson House in 1980 when it first served as the Language House, with German as the language of the term. The two recognized the trio of dancers as **Dale Johnson '83**, **Gina Holland '83**, and **Jeffrey Ward '83**, doing a dance taught them by German language house assistant **Roswitha Reifferscheid**. Jeffrey identified **Steve Pounders '83** in the background and through some investigation asserts that the legs with Pounders belong to **Linda Taggart '82**.

Marilya Veteto Reese '78 also wrote and said that she recognized everyone, but most names escaped her memory. She said she had helped organize these events with the German Club and German faculty **Truett Cates** and David Stout. Now a professor of German at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Reese still organizes Oktoberfest events and still wears the dirndl she wore at Austin College!

Leah Clemmons Lane also recognized the previous issue's photo of the China trip led by **Jim Ware**, professor *emeritus* of philosophy and religion, and added identifications of herself, **Harry Huffman '83**, and **Sheila Pound Jennings '83**.



PHOTO FROM THE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

ALL BLUE SKIES AND SMILES



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. KIRBY

Senior speaker Axel Nze Akoue of Libreville, Gabon

FOR COMMENCEMENT 2008

learning|leadership|lasting values

Austin College

Office of College Relations
900 North Grand Avenue, Suite 6H
Sherman, Texas 75090-4400

**NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 110**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED