

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### HUMANITIES

**Daniel Dominick**, associate professor of music, became president of the South Central Division of the College Orchestra Directors Association at the annual national meeting. The presidency is a two-year position.

**Jerry Lincecum**, professor *emeritus* of English, presented a paper, "The Hoxsey Cancer Treatment: From Dallas to Tijuana," at the Texas State Historical Association meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, in March. He is writing a biographical article on Harry Hoxsey for the *Handbook of Texas*, and *Texoma Living! Magazine* has accepted two articles written by Lincecum. One of those, "Tom Nuckols: Growing Up in a Wild West Show," which highlights Professor *Emeritus* of Religion **Tom Nuckols'** early years, appears in the June issue.

**Marsha McCoy**, visiting instructor in classics, attended the American Philological meeting in Chicago, Illinois, and presented the paper "The Cult of Priapus and Queer Identities in Petronius' *Satyrca*" as part of the Lambda Classical Caucus panel "Cults and Queer Identities in Classical Antiquity." In March, McCoy attended the 10th Annual University of South Carolina Comparative Literature Conference, focused in 2008 on "Plato and Platonisms: The Constitution of a Tradition," and presented the paper "Reading Plato in Gatsby: *The Great Gatsby*, Trimalchio, and Platonic Origins" as part of the session "Plato Today."

**Laura Spear**, assistant professor of French, attended the national conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2007. She presented "Beyond Borders: French and Francophone Crime Narratives of the Orient Express" at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 in Louisville, Kentucky, in February and "In the Middle of Conflict: Women in the Fictions of the Orient Express" at the Women in French International Conference in Dallas in April.

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Tom Baker**, professor of education, presented a paper, "If I Knew Then What I Know Now': Intern Teachers' Advice to Next Year's Cohort," at the annual conference of the Association of Teacher Educators in New Orleans in February. He accepted an appointment to a term as an advisory director of *Global Education*, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal.

**Jeff Czajkowski**, assistant professor of economics, has written the paper "Modeling Shifts in Willingness-To-Pay From A Bayesian Updating Perspective," which has been accepted for publication in *Land Economics*.

**Karen Nelson**, associate vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and professor of psychology, presented "The Changing Role of Personal Autonomy in Emerging Adulthood" at the meetings of the Southwest Psychological Association in April. The paper addresses some of the data from the Teagle Project on "study away" in which several Austin College faculty participated. That project was part of a larger study, "Value-Added Assessment of Student Learning in the Liberal Arts: Assessing the Impact of Engaged Learning," completed by Austin College, Furman University, Juniata College, and Washington and Lee University with a grant from the Teagle Foundation of New York.

**Karen Roper**, adjunct assistant professor of psychology, presented an invited address as part of the introduction of speakers during the 30th Brown Symposium at Southwestern University in April.

**Kevin Simmons**, associate professor of economics, and colleague Dan Sutter wrote "Tornado Warnings, Lead Times, and Tornado Casualties: An Empirical Investigation," published in *Weather and Forecasting* in April 2008. The two had prepared articles on tornado shelters and manufactured home parks, and on the housing market, for publication in *Construction Management and Economics* in November 2007 and in *Natural Hazards* in December 2007. Simmons and Sutter also wrote "The Groundhog Day Florida Tornadoes: A Case Study of High Vulnerability Tornadoes" for *Quick Response Research Report #193* for the University of Colorado Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center. Simmons also made presentations at faculty seminars at Northern Illinois University in January and at Dallas Baptist University in April.

### SCIENCES

**Andra Troncalli**, assistant professor of physics, contributed the talk "Investigation of Vortex Pinning Anisotropy in the High Temperature Superconductor YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7-d</sub>" at the Division of Condensed Matter Physics meeting of the American Physical Society in New Orleans in March. She also gave the presentation "Extreme Physics: Superconductors, Nanotubes, and Beyond" to the Lindsay High School Science Club that visited Austin College in November 2007. Troncalli was nominated for and accepted a position as a board member of ALPhA — the Advanced Laboratory Physics Association.

## Carr Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

**Andrew J. Carr**, associate professor of chemistry and a member of the Austin College faculty since 2000, received the 2008 Austin College Excellence in Teaching Award at Honors Convocation in April. The award recognizes the fundamental importance of the quality of teaching in the educational process and seeks to honor an individual who has made a distinct difference in the teaching climate.

Carr expressed shock and honor at receiving the award, wondering initially if there could be a second Andrew Carr on the faculty. "I never thought that a chemistry professor, much less an organic chemistry professor, could win this award," Carr said. "My sophomore-level organic chemistry course has crushed many a pre-med dream, so I never thought that students would ever put me forward for this type of award."

Though Carr does not consider himself a master educator with the latest implementation of pedagogical practices, he said he is willing to try almost anything to facilitate learning for his students, whether that means dancing, jumping on a table, meeting with students outside office hours, or listening with a compassionate heart to his students' troubles. "The only thing I will not do," he said, "is compromise my high standards. I expect my students to meet and overcome the challenges my courses present."

Carr said he treats his students with respect and encourages them to do their best, recognizing that students without hope of success will drop the course or bring down the entire class. He typically structures classes to offer "a chance at redemption" by allowing the final exam grade to replace one test grade. This, Carr said, gives students opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to perform better, adding that if students drop his course or take on adversarial positions, he can't teach them — and teaching is his goal. "I hope to continue teaching and helping our students here at Austin College for many years to come," he said.

Carr earned a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in chemistry from Illinois Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He served as a visiting research assistant in chemistry and a post-doctoral research associate at Yale University before taking the teaching position at Austin College.



Andrew J. Carr

PHOTO BY JASON JONES

## Teaching Is Priority for Austin College Faculty

Austin College nominees for two external teaching awards are announced each spring during Honors Convocation. Nominees for these awards receive Austin College teaching awards for this important honor. A committee of faculty and students reviews nominations and makes selections.

**Don Rodgers**, assistant professor of political science, was announced as the College's CASE Professor of the Year nominee. The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) program recognizes extraordinary undergraduate teaching by selecting one professor of the year in each state.

Rodgers joined the Austin College faculty in 2003. He is an expert in Asian politics, and his teaching and research interests include international politics, international human rights, and political psychology. Rogers has taken 22 Austin College students to Taiwan during summer trips and JanTerm courses, and organized a Taiwan symposium during Austin College's 2007 Asia Week.

A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in international studies, Rodgers earned master's

and doctoral degrees in political science at the University of Georgia and completed programs in Chinese language and political psychology. Before joining the Austin College faculty, he was co-director of research at the Southern Center for International Studies, research fellow at the Center for the Study of Global Issues, and taught at the University of Georgia and at Oglethorpe University.

**E. Don Williams**, professor of mathematics and Chadwick Chair in Mathematics, is the Austin College Minnie Stevens Piper Professor nominee for 2008. The contest honors 15 faculty members throughout Texas for teaching excellence.

Williams, who joined the faculty at Austin College in 1970, teaches courses in real and applied analysis, probability theory, calculus, and statistics. Students report that Williams thrives on teaching and is dedicated to the individual learning experience.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry at Southwestern University and a doctorate in mathematics at Texas Tech University.



## Daeley Named to Professorship in English Literature

**Carol A. Daeley**, professor of English, was installed as the Henry L and Laura H. Shoap Professor of English Literature during Honors Convocation in April.

The Shoap Professorship was established in 1959 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Shoap of McKinney, Texas, to provide the students of Austin College with instruction of the highest quality in the composition, appreciation, and understanding of the literature of the English language as a part of the liberal arts tradition.

Daeley, chair of the English Department, joined the Austin College faculty in 1973. The 1999 recipient of the College's Excellence in Teaching Award, she specializes in British literature of the 18th and early

19th centuries and frequently works with East Asian, African, and post-colonial literature. Daeley also has interests in Asian studies, having taught and studied at Kobe-Gakuin University in Japan, and has coordinated the College's Africa Symposium for several years. She has explored her interests in theatre and drama through student trips and sabbatical visits to New York, London, and beyond.

Daeley completed her bachelor's degree in humanities at Rutgers University and her master's degree and doctorate in English at the University of California, Riverside.



## Remembering the Legacy of Monroe “Bud” Bryant

Present success often is built on the foundation of the past. This sentiment is the principle on which most institutions of higher education operate. The education provided builds a platform for future success in the lives of students who attend the institution. Those who study biology or other pre-medical preparation at Austin College owe the quality of the education and the reputation of the College’s program in part to the legacy of the late **Monroe “Bud” David Bryant ’27**, professor *emeritus* of biology.

Bryant graduated from Austin College in 1927, obtained his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, and pursued a broad spectrum of experiences — from playing minor league baseball to serving as a park ranger at Yosemite National Park — before returning to Sherman. “Once on the faculty, he quickly established a loyal following at Austin College among pre-medical students and biology majors that would make him one of the most respected science professors during a teaching career that lasted until the 1970s,” according to *Austin College: A Sesquicentennial History 1847–1999*, written by **Light Cummins**, Guy M. Bryan Professor of History.

Bryant taught at Austin College from 1947 to 1972, serving as professor of biology, chair of the Biology Department, and adviser to the pre-medical and pre-dental students during his tenure. His 25 years of dedication to Austin College spurred former academic dean **Dan Bedsole** to express his appreciation in response to Bryant’s letter announcing his intention to retire. “Based on remarks made by doctors and faculty in medical schools, it is evident that you are the one faculty member most responsible for the reputation Austin College has earned as an outstanding liberal arts college for preparing pre-med students,” Bedsole wrote.

*Austin College: A Sesquicentennial History 1847–1999* credits Bryant with a part in “developing one of the preeminent pre-medical curricula in the southwest.” **Vick Williams ’58** said he wasn’t interested in biology when he entered Austin College — until he took Bryant’s courses. “Dr. Bryant had a well-deserved reputation for giving lectures that covered topics thoroughly and captured students’ attention,” Williams said. “He knew the subject and could make it fascinating. In short, it was a very rich learning environment.” Williams is a professor of anatomy at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

The respect Bryant garnered from students and peers alike stemmed from not only his knowledge and teaching ability but also his sincere interest in his students’ success beyond the classroom, Williams said.

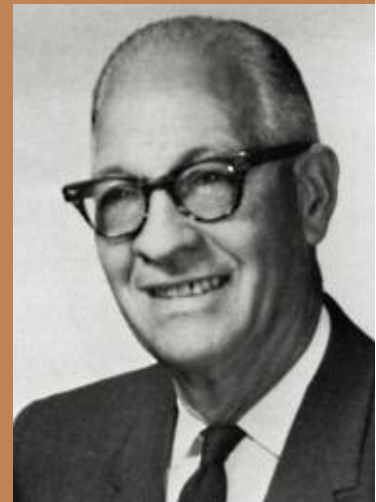
Bryant was well-noted for his recommendations to medical school, said **Don Shepherd ’58**, a retired physician in Tow, Texas. “Dr. Bryant was the best teacher I ever had, and I have had a lot of teachers over the years in medical school and post-graduate studies,” Shepherd said. “Because of Dr. Bryant’s great variety of experience, he helped students find their way into what they wanted to do in life.”

**Vick and Dorothy (Rodina) ’59 Williams, Don Shepherd, and Patricia “Pat” Myers ’59** hope to memorialize Bryant’s Austin College legacy through creating an endowed professorship in his name. Vick Williams said they hope to honor him with something of lasting value, much like the lasting impact Bryant had on Williams’ own life. “He showed me a life that I could not possibly have imagined,” said Williams, who entered Austin College with a small-school education and no real career plans. “The most important thing he did for me was believe in me. I will be grateful for that gift as long as I live.”

“An endowed professorship would recognize Bud Bryant’s many contributions to Austin College as a teacher and biologist, and would honor a faculty recipient who embodies the professional values exemplified by Bud’s career,” said **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty.

For information about helping these alumni to establish the Monroe “Bud” David Bryant Endowed Professorship Fund and memorialize this mentor whose work is part of the history of Austin College, contact **Josh Bowerman**, director of endowment and gift planning, at (903) 813-2423 or [jbowerman@austincollege.edu](mailto:jbowerman@austincollege.edu).

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M.D. “Bud” Bryant

# Adventures in Teaching

# M

ichael Fairley, associate professor and department chair of communication studies, never thought a stint as a lifeguard would be in his future when he came to Austin College in 2000. Yet, during a JanTerm trip to Chile, Michael had to fish his colleague **David Baker**, associate professor of physics, out of the Class 3 to 4 rapids of the Petrohué River during a rafting trip. “Dave rode the rapids *sans* raft through the worst part,” Fairley said. “The guides were genuinely scared after their failed attempts at throwing life-lines. As Dave floated, face-up and out of danger, to a calmer spot, I got in position to ‘pull him out of the drink.’ He owes me his life, and I often remind him.”

Rescuing capsized rafters is just one — thankfully, rare — adventure in the life of this Austin College faculty member. Fairley has taken advantage of JanTerm trips to China, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, and Australia, learning aspects of the cultures and communication styles of each locale. When not guiding students around the globe on JanTerm courses, Fairley also travels to present papers or teach at communication

workshops and conferences in England, Hawaii, China, and throughout the continental United States.

Though not nearly as risky as whitewater rafting, Fairley has stretched his students through his professional travel also. In 2000, he and several students attended the Southern States Communication Association annual convention in New Orleans, where students presented research papers they had prepared through work with him. “Working with the students and seeing them make presentations at the New Orleans conference with graduate students and professors was definitely a highlight of my teaching career,” he said.

Fairley, who teaches speech and social interaction courses, including interpersonal communication, public speaking, intercultural communication, nonverbal

communication, organizational communication, and persuasion, said he enjoys “uncovering the taken-for-granted ways we all communicate and getting students to value their thoughts about things.”

Whether saving colleagues from raging waters or unraveling the intricacies of communication, Fairley said he appreciates Austin College for making it all happen. “Professors are given great latitude in what courses they offer and how they teach them,” he said. “Austin College also is very supportive of projects that advance teaching and scholarship.” 🐾

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Michael Fairley