

## Henry Winkler Presents Opening of School Address

**H**enry Winkler presented the Opening of School address September 1 to begin the 160th year of Austin College. The well-known television icon spoke in Wynne Chapel to a full house — some 900 members of the Austin College community including the entering Class of 2012, the Class of 2009 processing in cap and gown for the first time, faculty, staff, and guests.

Combining humor, wit, inspiration, and poignancy, Winkler discussed his life experiences, beginning with troubling years in school, battling undiagnosed dyslexia, low self-esteem, and a lack of emotional support from his parents. His years in higher education were a bit more promising — he was accepted into Emerson College and then earned a spot at the Yale School of Drama to begin the career in acting, directing, and producing that has made Winkler a well-known face in homes across the United States and beyond. His early years were challenging ones, but Winkler recalls them with a positive outlook. “I realize maybe I would never have been able to achieve what I achieved if I didn’t have the battle, the hill I constantly had to climb,” he said.

Winkler hopes his experiences will bring inspiration to other children who may suffer from learning disabilities or other problems. He has now completed 15 books in a children’s series, *Hank Zipzer, The World’s Greatest Underachiever*, in which the title character, based on Winkler, finds ways to overcome his daily difficulties.

Speaking particularly to the students present, Winkler encouraged them to make the most of themselves, stressing that each person has only one lifetime to live; that living to their potential will equip them to serve others; and that their very best selves are needed to assist the most vulnerable in society. “There are

things to be done, needs to be met, and hurts to be healed, and if you do not do your part, something very important will remain undone forever,” Winkler said.

Winkler remains best known as the television icon “The Fonz” on the 1970s sitcom *Happy Days*, though he has since added many television, film, and Broadway acting and directing projects to his credits. He also is recognized as a distinguished speaker, humanitarian, author, and advocate of young people and education. Austin College awarded Winkler an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 2002.

PHOTOS BY VICKIE S. KIRBY



Henry Winkler



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Additional Opening of School Photos

## Campus Programs Commemorate Charles Darwin Anniversaries

**A**ustin College will sponsor the event series “Darwin 200” throughout this academic year in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth February 12, 1809, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his widely influential book *The Origin of Species* (1859).

The events include a lecture series, “Darwin 200: Contributions/Controversies.” The series examines Darwin’s influence not only in the sciences but also in the social sciences and humanities, through disciplines such as psychology, economics, literature, philosophy, and religion. Lectures also will address some of the misunderstandings and controversies surrounding evolution. “Almost no one has had more scientific influence and broader cultural impact than Darwin,” said **George Diggs**, professor of biology, who has helped organize the events. “Few areas of thought remain untouched by Darwin’s contributions.”

Fall term speakers for “Darwin 200: Contributions/Controversies” include **George Diggs**, Austin College professor of biology, September 11 at 11 a.m.; Piers Hale, University of Oklahoma assistant professor of the history of science, September 25 at 11 a.m.; and **Steven Goldsmith**, Austin College professor of biology, October 30 at 11 a.m. These lectures are scheduled for Ida Green Theatre in the Ida Green Communication Center.

David Quammen, author of *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*, will speak February 10, 2009, at 7 p.m. in Ida Green Theatre. Philip Gingerich, University of Michigan Case Collegiate Professor of Paleontology, will speak in March 2009, and David Buss, professor of psychology at the University of Texas, will speak April 24, but other details of these lectures are still to be determined. Additional speakers may be added to the schedule.

The lecture series coordinates with two major campus programs: the summer read – *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* – and the April 24–25, 2009, annual undergraduate research conference – “Darwin 200: Bridging Disciplines/Breaking Boundaries.” The undergraduate research conference, the sixth hosted by Austin College, will focus broadly on Darwin’s impact on academic disciplines and popular culture and will cover a diverse range of evolution-related topics spanning the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. David Buss, professor of psychology at the University of Texas, will provide the keynote address for the conference April 24, 2009.

Faculty organizers for the Darwin celebration include **George Diggs**, professor of biology; **Steven Goldsmith**, professor of biology; **Max Grober**, associate professor of history; **Jerry Lincecum**, professor emeritus of English; **Peggy Redshaw**, professor of biology, who is coordinating the lecture series; and **Carol Daeley**, professor of English, who is coordinating the undergraduate research conference in April 2009.

Event details are available online: [www.austincollege.edu/darwin](http://www.austincollege.edu/darwin).

### The Reluctant Mr. Darwin

Students in Austin College’s Class of 2012 had homework months before arriving on campus. Joining many colleges and universities around the nation, Austin College has instituted a “common read” program, in which all freshmen are assigned a particular book to read prior to the beginning of the fall term. President **Oscar C. Page** initiated the addition of the program a few years ago and sends the selected book to all freshmen each June along with a letter asking that they read the book.

The 2008 selection was David Quammen’s *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin: An Intimate Portrait of Charles Darwin and the Making of His Theory of Evolution*.

“The common read sets a tone for students and gives them an opportunity to start to focus on college,” said **Mike Imhoff**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty. “The common read book gives them something that stimulates them intellectually while providing all students a common experience.” When faculty members use the book in various aspects of their courses, students can begin to see how the book relates to various disciplines and how they can learn from a closer reading, Imhoff said.

How faculty members incorporate the common read book is up to individual faculty. Since several faculty members are involved in organizing “Darwin 200” events, many opportunities to include the book in class discussions may arise.

Past Austin College common read assignments include *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind, and Tracy Kidder’s *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer*. Suskind delivered the Opening of School address the year freshmen read his book and Paul Farmer was the 2007 speaker.

# Out of the Congo

**T**he Austin College community will get a glimpse of the Congo and the culture of the Bakubas people this fall through an African art exhibit that will kick off the College's annual Africa Symposium. Alumnae **Elizabeth Poole Shepherd '58** and **Amelia Poole Sudderth '59** were born into that culture as the daughters of Presbyterian medical missionaries Mark and Sara Poole. Amelia, her husband **Joe Sudderth '59**, and her late sister's husband, **Don Shepherd '58**, generously made a temporary loan of Bakubas artifacts from the Belgian Congo period for the exhibit.

Ceremonial masks, royal ceremonial garments, wood and stone statues, a carved ivory tusk, and ceremonial swords and spears from the Bakubas tribe will be displayed October 24 – November 26 at the exhibit, housed in the Archives and Special Collections Suite of the College's George T. and Gladys H. Abell Library Center. **Justin Banks**, College archivist, said that individuals usually would have to travel to the Smithsonian or catch a traveling art exhibit from the Metropolitan Museum to see the type of artifacts that will be displayed on campus. "The willingness of the families to loan these artifacts creates a unique educational opportunity that would otherwise be impossible for Austin College to offer," Banks said.

Mark Poole and his wife, Sara Day, served as medical missionaries in the Belgian Congo from 1936 to 1962, providing medical care, surgical operations, and hygiene instruction to the Bakubas tribe. Over time, the Pooles acquired several tribal artifacts and brought them back to the United States, where they have long served as mementos of their lives and work in the African Congo.

The Poole sisters finished high school in the Congo before attending Austin College. "The transition from living in Africa to living in the United States was difficult," Amelia said. "Austin College was very supportive, and it was small enough that we could become an integral part pretty easily." Both women met their husbands at Austin College, and in 1961, the College awarded their father an honorary degree for service to humanity. "We've always had a warm spot for Austin College," she said.

Amelia, who majored in art at Austin College, loaned the artifacts to the College for an exhibit in 1959 and was excited to share the artifacts again. "It seems a very appropriate thing to do and something I know my sister would have done if she were still living," Amelia said.

"We are loaning these things to honor both the culture of the Bakubas people and the dedication and service of my parents among them during those years," Amelia said. "They went to express the love of God through their medical and surgical work. As my dad expressed it so many times, they did it so that the people could be free from fear, superstition, and witchcraft and have peace in their hearts through the love of God."

## Art of the Kuba

**October 24 – November 26**

Abell Library, Archives and  
Special Collections Suite  
Curated by Austin College  
Archivist Justin Banks

Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, Fridays;  
8:30 – 11:50 a.m. and 1 – 3:50 p.m.  
Thursdays; 8:30 – 11 a.m.  
*Homecoming Only:* Friday until 6 p.m.;  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Africa Symposium

**November 18 – 20**

Keynote Speaker: David Binkley  
[www.austincollege.edu/news](http://www.austincollege.edu/news)





### Faculty Member Shares Significance of Poole Collection

**Peter Anderson** joined Austin College's faculty as an associate professor of English in 2006. A South African writer, sculptor, and academic, he wrote the script for the slide catalogue of the Standard Bank African Art Collection housed at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in the mid-1980s. He teaches postcolonial literature and creative writing, and this fall is offering a course on Anglophone Nigerian literature, "Palm-Wine and Purple Hibiscus." His comments follow.

African art was never meant to be put on display – hung on a wall, sealed in a glass box, isolated as an object of contemplation, a mute museum piece. In fact, even the concept of "art" is little short of a Eurocentric imposition. African art (continuing to use the term for convenience sake), always was dynamically integrated as a signifying cultural practice, productive of the meanings by which different communities comprehended and connected with the world around them. Masks, for instance, were often inspirited, filled with the overflowing presence of the numinous, the sacred, and therefore as capable of striking terror into the heart of the people as they might be of uplifting them, filling them with power, with love.

The Poole collection is among the few such collections to have been made in a way that can today be endorsed as ethically acceptable. In gratitude for being cured, people would bestow gifts upon the good doctor – "art" works, which we now acknowledge as priceless, but that in early 20th century Europe and America simply were considered as "primitive," "bizarre," "barbaric," and so on.

It is no small achievement to have an ethically sound collection of indigenous art from Congo of the early 20th century. And what a collection. Kuba art is among the most spectacular ever to emerge from central Africa, one of the most powerful founts of great art in world history. Kuba masks, figurative sculptures, carvings in and on ivory, raffia work, to name only those items that come first to mind, are exemplary of the vitality and awe-inspiring profundity of African art. It is no secret today that the impact of African art, its incomparably powerful sculpture in particular, perhaps, on European high modernism, was decisive. We could point to Picasso and the development of cubism, Brancusi and the turn away from "beefsteak" realism, Modigliani and the elongation and simplification of form, for the ramifications are almost endless. Austin College is truly honored, even blessed, to place on exhibition a range of pieces from the Poole collection.

The Africa Symposium will feature the keynote address "Stop the Sun: The Art of Masquerade in Southern Kuba Culture" by David Binkley at 11 a.m. November 20 in Hoxie Thompson Auditorium of Sherman Hall. Binkley's lecture will include a discussion of Kuba history as well as the system of titleholding and the relationship of art making to the political hierarchy, including textile production and masquerade performance.

Binkley is an art historian who has lived in the Congo among the Kuba, and according to Anderson, is "perhaps the foremost U.S. expert on Kuba art." Binkley was the senior curator for research and interpretation at the National Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution and has been involved in many exhibitions and art programs. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in art history before completing a Ph.D. in African art history in 1987.

A student panel discussion, "Active Participants: Volunteer Insights into Development and Humanitarian Efforts in Africa," on November 19 features students who spent the summer as Global Outreach Fellows, working with children in Ghana and Ethiopia. Student panelists are **Cara Barnes '09**, **Holly Boerner '09**, **Rebeca Kim '10**, **Anne Engelhart '10**, and **Monica Martinez '09**.

## Washington, D.C., Becomes Summer Classroom

**Rachel Dodd '11** and **Erin Bailey '10** spent most of the summer in Washington, D.C., but it wasn't for sightseeing. The two completed an intensive four-week program in Arabic, meeting four hours each weekday in July. The introductory Arabic course emphasized development of speaking and listening skills through intensive drills, exposure to basic structural patterns of the language, and functional vocabulary. The course — led by Yasmine Hasnaoui who taught Arabic in a one-year program at Austin College in 2004–2005 — included introduction to cultural components in the Middle East and North Africa.

In August, Bailey attended the Summer Symposium on U.S. Foreign Policy, joining students from around the world in Washington, D.C., to hear economists, analysts, journalists, government officials, and educators provide insight on the state of politics around the globe. The students also visited the embassies of China, Israel, and Egypt during the conference. Other Austin College participants were **Laura Gallardo '10**, **Wes Johnston '10**, **Adnan Merchant '11**, **Kerry Van Zant '08**, and **Nathan Withers '09**.

Both events, offered through the Osgood Center for International Studies, were directed by **Shelly Williams**, president of the Osgood Center and Austin College professor *emeritus* of political science. **Alvaro Escorcía '10** and **Wes Johnston '10** were Osgood Center interns for the summer. Escorcía worked with a non-governmental agency on sustainable development and Johnston was assigned to TASH, an international association working in disability advocacy.



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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### A Summer of Two-Way Learning

A group of students at Jefferson Elementary School in Sherman experienced international learning this summer — from right in their own classrooms. Approximately 45 first through fourth grade students learned about the land, people, and culture of India through the sixth annual summer enrichment program offered by students and faculty of Austin College's Austin Teacher Program (ATP). The two-week session, 8:30 a.m. to noon daily, was funded by the ATP.

The collaborative camp was coordinated by **Julia Shahid**, associate professor of education in the Austin Teacher Program. She and Jefferson School staff realized several years ago that such a camp could meet the need for a summer program for children as well as offer teaching opportunities for students in the ATP's summer course on science and social studies teaching methodologies.

The College students prepared the summer curriculum, collected resources, and coordinated each day's lessons. Shahid and select Jefferson teachers provided feedback to the student teachers each day. Shahid participated in a month-long

Fulbright-Hays Program that included travel to India in 2007 and gathered materials there used in the classes. **Jaisy Joseph '09** visited the camp one morning to demonstrate and teach traditional Indian dances to the children.

#### Summer Institute for Foreign Language Teachers

Texas high school teachers of French, Latin, and Spanish arrived on campus in July to participate in a one-week residential language immersion program designed to enhance teaching skills. The teachers stayed in Jordan Family Language House and spoke their target languages at all times.

Members of the College's Classical and Modern Languages Department led a number of sessions each day that allowed the teachers to refresh language skills and develop new cultural and technological resources to advance teaching in their own classrooms.

All costs for the teachers, including room and board, were funded by a grant from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation. The summer program has been offered for several years.

#### High School Students Experience College Life

Twelve students participated in the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies (CSMS) Summer Institute for Talented High School Students in 2008. The program allows high school rising juniors and seniors to attend, tuition-free, two full-credit Austin College summer courses relating to the interests of the center. All students selected for the institute take the same two courses, which also may include regularly enrolled Austin College students.

Course offering in 2008 were "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" and beginning or intermediate Spanish. **Terry Hoops**, associate professor of anthropology, and **Patrick Duffey**, professor of Spanish, taught the courses. **Light Cummins**, Guy M. Bryan professor of history, is director of the CSMS.

The program is open to high school students who live in Grayson, Fannin, Collin, or Cooke counties in Texas or in Bryan County in Oklahoma and have completed two full years of high school.

## Five Join College Board of Trustees

Five individuals recently joined the Austin College Board of Trustees:

- ❖ **John M. Andersen** '66 of Dallas, professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric gastroenterology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Children's Medical Center in Dallas
- ❖ **Laura Dies Campbell** '73 of Austin, community volunteer active in Lay Missionaries of Charity and Mobile Loaves and Fishes
- ❖ **Kelly Hiser** of Sherman, owner of Kelly Oil Company
- ❖ **Wes Moffett** '82 of Dallas, chief operating officer of Avelo Mortgage in Irving, a subsidiary of Archon Group
- ❖ **John Serhant** of Denison, Texas, and Steamboat Springs, Colorado, retired vice chair of State Street Global Advisors and advisor to Goldentree Asset Management.

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John M. Andersen



Laura Campbell



Kelly Hiser



Wes Moffett



John Serhant

### Davis Provides Professional Leadership

**Nan Davis**, vice president for Institutional Enrollment, will serve as co-director for the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Chief Enrollment Officers Forum in September in Seattle, Washington. She serves on the Program Planning Committee and is co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the National College Board Forum 2008, to be held in Houston this November. Davis again served as a resident faculty member for the College Board/Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) Summer Institute held in San Antonio, Texas, in July. She continues service on the College Board National College Scholarship Service Assembly Council and the Southwestern College Board Regional Council.

### Summer Days Are Busy Ones at Austin College

Each summer, several thousand individuals visit Austin College as participants in various summer conferences. Many are youth camps of church and school groups, as well as the annual Young Leaders Conference of the National Hispanic Institute.

### Japan/U.S. Educators Compare Notes

Back-to-school time took on new meaning in August for a group of educators from Japan visiting the U.S. to compare the educational system to that of their own nation. Their agenda included an afternoon of discussion with the faculty of the Austin Teacher Program and a local school administrator.

The trip for the 13 high school and college teachers, principals, and administrators from Japan was arranged through the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program, sponsored by the government of Japan, and designed to increase understanding between the people of Japan and the United States.

The Japanese visitors' educational specialties range from homemaking to physics. Their homes and schools are in Aichi, Osaka, Hokkaido, and Hiroshima, Japan. **Brandon McInnis** '09 served as language interpreter for the gathering.

### Wheaton Selected for Research Panel

**Judy Wheaton**, director of Institutional Research and Assessment, was one of fewer than 15 institutional

research directors from across the nation invited to serve on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Technical Review Panel (TRP) for the Department of Education. The TRP met in Washington, D.C., July 9-10 to review possible changes to the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey.

### French Teachers, Students Learn Together

French students and teachers from Keller High School, Klein Oak High School, Sherman High School, and James Bowie High School in Arlington, Texas, were selected by Austin College French faculty to participate in a campus program in July. The group spent three days in the College's Jordan Family Language House, and Austin College French Department faculty led sessions designed to develop students' listening and speaking fluency through an immersion program.

*News Briefs photos available in the online magazine.*

## Austin College Is a Great Place to Work

Austin College was named one of the “2008 Great Colleges to Work For” in the July 18 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, scoring in the top five in 17 of 27 categories.

“I am proud of the faculty and staff of Austin College who make this a great place to work,” said **Oscar C. Page**, Austin College president. “Each person contributes to a positive environment characterized by respect and support for one another.”

ModernThink, a human resources consulting firm, administered surveys to 15,000 randomly selected employees of 89 public and private colleges and universities.

Austin College was included in the “small” category, for institutions with 499 or fewer employees and ranked among the top five institutions in categories including healthy faculty-administration relations, collaborative governance, professional/career development, teaching environment, confidence in senior leadership, connections to institution and pride, respect and appreciation, and post-retirement benefits.

“Independent surveys are important because responses are generally honest and sincere,” said **Heidi Ellis**, vice president for Business Affairs at Austin College. “I believe this is a terrific place to work, and this survey confirms that many others feel that way as well.”

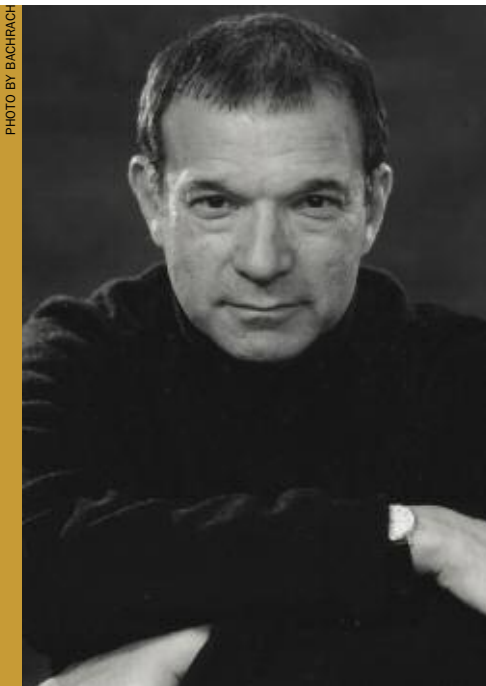
## Renowned Shakespearean Scholar to Visit Campus for Lecture

**W**orld-renowned Shakespearean and English literature scholar Stephen Greenblatt will visit Austin College October 20 to present a lecture on Shakespeare and Cervantes, “The Strange Case of *Cardenio*.” The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in Hoxie Thompson Auditorium of Sherman Hall. A reception and booksigning will follow.

“Stephen Greenblatt’s visit to Austin College is a major event for us,” said **Carol Daeley**, professor of English and chair of the English Department. “He is a groundbreaking figure in literary studies who has recently launched two truly unique projects born out of his interest in ‘what happens when things cross borders.’ His Harvard course on global exchange along ocean routes in the 17th century has, like much of his work, profound relevance to today’s world. His play, *Cardenio*, co-written with Charles Mee and inspired by Shakespeare and Cervantes, has been adapted for performance in Japan and India. Who better to bring here as the faculty begins its ‘Global Learning for Cultural Awareness’ Quality Enhancement Plan?”

Greenblatt is the John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University, one of 19 Harvard University Professors, the school’s highest professorial distinction.

Before joining the Harvard faculty in 1997, Greenblatt was a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught for 28 years. He has been a visiting professor and lecturer at universities around the world, including the universities of Oxford, London, Kyoto, Bologna, Florence, Berlin, and Peking. He is the author of dozens of scholarly articles and of 10 books, including *Hamlet in Purgatory*. He also has served as editor of 10 major volumes, including the seventh edition of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the recipient of many honors and awards.



Stephen Greenblatt

PHOTO BY BACHRACH

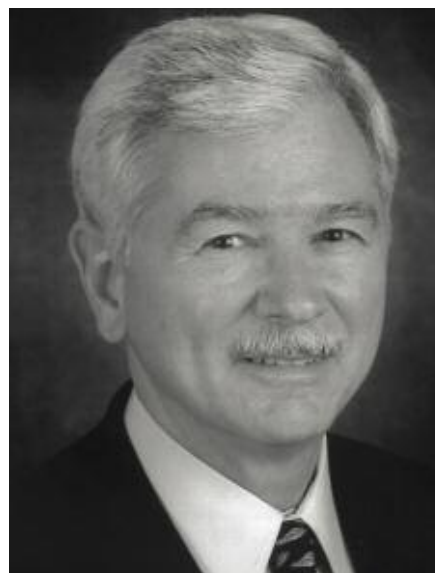
## Leadership Forum Scheduled for November 7

Austin College's Posey Leadership Institute will host its annual Leadership Forum November 7, featuring Howard Prince, director of the LBJ School's Center for Ethical Leadership and retired Brigadier General of the U.S. Army. Prince will offer a 9:30 a.m. session and speak at a luncheon after the morning session.

From 1990 to 1996, Prince served as founding dean and professor in the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies, where he was responsible for development of the first undergraduate leadership degree program in the world. From 1978 to 1990, Prince was professor and head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

An honor graduate of West Point, Prince holds a master's degree in international relations from American University, studied at the University of Bonn in Germany as an Olmsted Scholar, and earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. A clinical psychologist, he is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

For information about the event, contact the Posey Leadership Institute staff at (903) 813-2015 or see [www.austincollege.edu/news](http://www.austincollege.edu/news).



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Howard Prince

## Page Signs Climate Commitment

Austin College President **Oscar C. Page** signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment July 24, pledging to eliminate campus greenhouse gas emissions over time. The commitment will require Austin College to complete an emissions inventory, set a target date and milestones to become "climate neutral," reduce greenhouse gas emissions, integrate sustainability into the curriculum and into the College's education experience, and make an action plan, inventory, and progress reports publicly available, according to the Presidents Climate Commitment Web site.

"The college has been serious about various aspects of environmental issues in the past, but I'm delighted to see the highest level administrative support for a more comprehensive approach," said **Peter Schulze**, professor of biology and environmental science and director of Austin College's Center for Environmental Studies. "Joining the Presidents Climate Commitment is a recognition that these sorts of efforts are in the best interest of the College and larger community in the long run and are compatible with the mission of the College."

One of the first steps Austin College will take during Fall Term 2008 is to form a committee that will evaluate how to best meet the goals of the commitment. In signing the commitment, Austin College joined more than 560 colleges and universities committed to address the issue of global warming through reducing campus impact on the environment.

## Addendum: Spring 2008 Music Recitals

A listing of senior recitals performed by Austin College music majors that was included in the June magazine inadvertently omitted **Michael Brahce**, vocalist. Since graduation he has been involved with the Berkshire Theatre Festival (BTF) in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

As one of five Artists in Residence, Brahce performs once a week in a touring production, *A Tour of Mount Olympus*, written by BTF's E. Gray Simons III and Tara M. Franklin. He also teaches children at area schools about various aspects of theatre and will perform in the company's annual holiday production of *A Christmas Carol*.

## Fall Theatre Season

**Chapter Two** by Neil Simon

September 25–27, 7:30 p.m.; and 2:30 p.m., September 27

Directed by Greg Hernandez '09

Beardsley Arena Theatre

**Hamlet** by William Shakespeare

October 23–25, 7 p.m.

Directed by **Kathleen Campbell**, professor of communication studies

Ida Green Theatre

## Festival of One-Act Plays

November 21–22, 7 p.m.

Directed by students of **Kirk Everist**, assistant professor of communication studies

Ida Green Theatre

All performances in Ida Green Communication Center. Tickets are \$8, but free to all Austin College students. See [www.austincollege.edu](http://www.austincollege.edu) for updates.

## Art Exhibit

October 20–November 14

Artist: Susie Fowler

Ida Green Gallery, Ida Green Communication Center

## Fall Music Season

### October

- 25 **Sherman Symphony Orchestra**  
7:30 p.m., Kidd Key Auditorium, Sherman
- 26 **Faculty Trio Recital**  
3 p.m., Craig Recital Hall

### November

- 13 **Choral Concert**  
7:30 p.m., Wynne Chapel
- 19 **Concert Band Performance**  
7:30 p.m., Wynne Chapel
- 20 **Student Recital**  
7:30 p.m., Wynne Chapel
- 24 **Chamber Music and Jazz Concert**  
7:30 p.m., Wynne Chapel
- 25 **Student Recital**  
7:30 p.m., Craig Recital Hall

### December

- 4 **Service of Lessons and Carols featuring Austin College Choirs**  
7 p.m., Wynne Chapel
- 6 **Christmas Pops with the Sherman Symphony Orchestra**  
7:30 p.m., Mason Complex, Sid Richardson Center
- 7 **Christmas Pops with the Sherman Symphony Orchestra**  
3 p.m., Mason Complex, Sid Richardson Center

See [www.austincollege.edu](http://www.austincollege.edu) for details, updates, and ticket information.

# Grant Enhances Computer Science Study through Robotics

“Implementing robotics into computer science and other sciences makes the curriculum more interesting and interactive,” said **Shellene Kelley**, Austin College associate professor of computer science.

Austin College was one of 28 high schools, colleges, and universities in the nation to receive a grant this summer to enhance computer science curriculum with robotics technology. The grant was provided by the Institute for Personal Robots in Education (IPRE) and a gift from Microsoft Research. The schools share \$250,000 and received book-sized robots, called Scribblers, enhanced with special hardware technology and software. “IPRE’s efforts in developing this technology over the past two years make it possible to put a robot in the hands of every student in the class for about the same price as a textbook,” said Kelley. “This is key to encouraging experimentation and learning, both in and out of the classroom environment.”

Kelley is implementing the technology this fall during her Communication/Inquiry (C/I) course, “Computing with Robots: It’s all a BOT science,” with each student exploring ways to automate robot behavior through computer programming using their own personal robot. Kelley also will use the robotic technology in 2009 January and spring term courses.

*Freshmen Kristyn Weaver and Andrew Jaremski work on programming as faculty member Shellene Kelley, center, examines one of the book-sized robots used by her C/I class.*

“It’s much more fun to teach a robot to navigate around obstacles, perform a dance, or travel the halls taking pictures than to write a program to solve a mathematical equation or search for information in a file,” Kelley said. “But the same logic and problem solving skills are needed to accomplish all these tasks. Students learn not only to program robots but also to program computers to solve real-world problems.” 🐾



PHOTO BY VICKIE S. MIRBY