

Fundamentals

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOLIDAY UPDATE



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President, Amarillo College

Tracy Dougherty
Co-Executive Director

Kathy Dowdy
Co-Executive Director

*Member, Amarillo College Board of Regents

Notes from the Chairman

Dear Friends of the AC Foundation:

This has been a big year for Amarillo College and the Foundation. Major gifts from the Ware Family, The Oeschger Family and the Buckthal Family have allowed the College to improve the student gathering and studying environment on campus. The Oeschger Family Mall leads to the Ware Student Commons which houses several student services, including the Natalie Buckthal Tutoring Center and The Billie Bee Flescher Advocacy and Resource Center. These gifts are fantastic improvements to Amarillo College that have been graciously given by these wonderful community leaders.



Amarillo College made a major organizational move in naming Mark White as the Executive Vice President of Institutional Advancement and General Counsel. Mark has been a friend of AC since attending as a student and has long supported the Foundation, serving as my predecessor as Chairman. One of Mark's main roles is to coordinate the funding needs for the entire College with fundraising efforts. Mark is the College's liaison with the Foundation and works closely with our directors, Kathy Dowdy and Tracy Dougherty. Their coordinated efforts are going to bring great benefit to the students our Foundation supports.

It is my honor to be serving as Chairman of the AC Foundation and working with an astounding board; the support they give to the staff is inspiring. In my time with the Foundation, I have had the pleasure of getting to know and becoming friends with Gregg Jordan. Gregg and I came on the board about the same time and I have seen how much his presence and support have meant; they have meant a lot. Gregg's sudden passing has left a big hole in our team. I know many of you knew and respected Gregg and share in our loss. I am sorry for those of you who didn't know him, we who did have lost a great friend and supporter of Amarillo College.

You should have received our Annual Campaign letter. Large gifts, like those received from the Wares, Oeschgers and Buckthals, have improved our students' learning experience and are very necessary, but every dollar you and I give helps keep students in school through scholarships and financial aid. Please join me in making a gift to the Foundation; you truly will make a difference in the education and future of a student at Amarillo College. Have a very Happy New Year!!

Thank you for your support,

Paul A. Clark
Amarillo College Foundation Board Chairman



AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION 53RD ANNUAL MEETING

Honoring Jim Marcum | Foundation Board Member Since 2010

The 53rd annual Amarillo College Foundation meeting was held September 15th on the 31st floor of the Amarillo Club. The special Amarillo College Foundation Honor Role recipient this year was Jim Marcum.

Paul Clark, the Amarillo College Foundation board chairman, opened the meeting. He introduced Amarillo College President Russell Lowery-Hart, who welcomed everyone and spoke about the relationship between the Foundation and AC. Trevor Caviness gave the 2016-2017 nominating report and thanked the nominating committee for all of their hard work. He introduced the incoming board members; James Austin, Dan Ferguson, Wes Reeves, Steve Smith, Wendi Swope, Jason Velky and Mark White. He also announced the 2016-2017 Executive Committee members; Chairman Paul Clark, Vice Chairman Trevor Caviness, Secretary Mark Logsdon, Treasurer Steve Smith and AC President Russell Lowery-Hart. The board members rotating off were also recognized for their outstanding service to the board. They are Jim Marcum, Beth Marsh and Kyle Sparkman.

Clark then introduced this year's honoree, Jim Marcum. Jim has been on the AC Foundation Board since 2010 and just wrapped up his second three-year term. During his tenure on the Board he served on the Finance and Investment Committee and Audit Committee. He has been the Chairman of the F&I Committee for the past five years. Jim was an integral part in the investment strategy of the Foundation and worked closely with both Angeles Investments and Columbia/Threadneedle, the Foundation's investment advisors. Jim was always prepared and led the F&I committee through five of its most successful years. He and his wife Lynell have been longtime supporters of the Foundation and he will be sorely missed on the board of directors.

Chairman Clark closed the meeting, thanked the Blue Blazers service organization for their assistance during the evening and reminded everyone to support the AC Foundation.



Jim and Lynell Marcum



Sharon Oeschger and Peggy Bruckner



Lyndy Forrester, Steve Smith and Nancy Brent



Wales Madden and Virginia Maynard



Jim and Lynell Marcum with Tracy Dougherty and Mark White



Betsy Kelley, Jason Velky and Kathy Dowdy



A CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION

Honoring Shanna Peeples | 2016 Amarillo College Distinguished Alumna

Over \$74,000 was raised to benefit Amarillo College student success initiatives and scholarships at the first annual **A Celebration of Education**, chaired by Michele Agostini with assistance from the AC Foundation special event committee.

Over 200 people attended the event held on the Oeschger Family Mall on AC's Washington Street Campus, October 13th. The event, which featured a wide range of Amarillo College programs including everything from Presidential Scholars, Suzuki Strings and Jazz musicians to Fire Fighting and Aviation Maintenance programs, highlighted the wonderful opportunities that Amarillo College offers its students and the community. Those attending could record their thoughts at the FM90 radio booth, have their caricatures drawn by talented art students and experience the training that AC provides its students in a truck driving simulator.

A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of Shanna Peeples, the 2015 National Teacher of the Year, as the Amarillo College 2016 Distinguished Alumna. In his remarks, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart noted that Peeples was a perfect example of the hope that community colleges offer all students. Peeples spoke to the crowd of her time at Amarillo College, where she completed her associate degree in 1995 before transferring to West Texas A&M University to obtain her bachelor's degree. Following a career in journalism, Peeples decided to become a teacher, at which time she completed a master's degree program at The University of Texas at Arlington. She began her second career teaching at Palo Duro High School. In 2014, Peeples became the third ever AISD teacher to garner a state Teacher of the Year title when she was named Texas' Secondary Teacher of the Year. Six months later, she became the very first Texas teacher to be named National Teacher of the Year. Although her term as Teacher of the Year expired earlier this year, she was named a Global Learning Fellow by the National Education Association and spent the summer visiting schools throughout China and Peru. In her remarks, she spoke of the deeply compassionate professors she had at AC and how they transformed her life. Foundation Chairman Paul Clark presented Peeples with a commemorative bowl from Amarillo College and the Amarillo College Foundation.



Shanna Peeples, 2016 AC Distinguished Alumna





Amarillo College Foundation Receives \$660,000 Gift

A fund has been established as one of the provisions of the will of Oliver Lee Russell, in memory of his wife Natalie Flescher Russell. Natalie was a professor at Amarillo College in the Physical Education Department from 1947 until her retirement in 1982. She was named the Women’s Physical Education department chairman and received the prestigious Professor Emeritus award in 1996. Russell Hall on the Amarillo College Washington Street campus is named for her. Natalie passed away in September 2013 and Oliver followed her in September 2015.

The generous \$660,000 gift is given to the Amarillo College Foundation to establish the *Dr. Natalie and Oliver Lee Russell Fund* to benefit female students in financial need so that they can further their education.

The Foundation thanks Bill Countiss and Jimmy Lackey for their assistance with this gift.

KRISTER DIESEL PROGRAM

Established on East Campus

John Kritser, lifelong resident of Amarillo and president of Yellowhouse Machinery, the John Deere Construction equipment dealer with dealerships in West Texas and Oklahoma, believes in the value of a first rate industrial technology program and understands the need to create a well-trained workforce for the Panhandle area. To that end, he presented a check for \$250,000 to Amarillo College to support the newly expanded Kritser Diesel Program on Amarillo College’s East Campus. This gift will enable Amarillo College to add fundamental hydraulic training to the advanced diesel mechanics program.

“Finding good, home-grown diesel technicians is one of our biggest industry challenges, but especially those with specific knowledge of hydraulics,” Mr. Kritser said. “It’s all about hydraulics and electrical components these days, systems that are becoming more sophisticated every year. I saw this as an opportunity to help a good diesel program become great,” he said. “AC has a solid foundation, a good program worth enhancing. Helping step it up a notch is why I made this gift.”

As many as 36 students will be able to receive the Kritser Diesel Technology – Advanced Mechanics Certificate every 12 to 18 months. This certification makes our students valuable employees for area heavy equipment operators and dealers, as well as making it possible for them to earn a solid living wage.



Mark White, John Kritser and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart



Meet the new Amarillo College Foundation Board Members

The Foundation is excited to have such accomplished new board members and we welcome them to the AC Foundation Board.

JAMES B, AUSTIN

James grew up in Amarillo and returned to the city following law school. He is the Vice President and General Counsel of Panhandle Presort Services, Ltd. He is married to Lauren and has two children: Parker and Sydney. James has a long family history with the AC Foundation. His grandfather, James Franklin, and his father, Jim Austin, have both served as Chairman of the AC Foundation board. James is active on the Presbyterian Children's Home Board where he has served as treasurer and president. He is also a member of the Amarillo Bar Association and Amarillo Young Lawyers Association.

DAN FERGUSON

Dan is a Professor of English at Amarillo College and has worked at AC since 2002. Dan comes on the AC board as a faculty member representative. He is active in the community and currently serves on the United Way Financial Stability Council and is a member of the Texas Community College Teachers Association. Dan is married to Jennifer, a teacher, and has two children, Troy, 23 years old, and Benjamin, 5 years old.

WES REEVES

Wes came on to the AC Foundation Board in 2015 to fulfill an unexpired term of another board member. He agreed to stay on the board for a three-year term beginning September 2016. Wes is the Senior Communications Consultant for Xcel Energy. He is active in several organizations and boards, including: Center City of Amarillo, Downtown Women's Center, Windows on a Wider World with the Globe News Center, The Amarillo Zoological Society and Kiwanis Club of Amarillo. He has also been active in the Amarillo Historical Preservation Foundation, NAACP and the State Board of Review for the Texas Historical Commission. Wes is married to Kim and they have two children: Anna Kay, 17 and John, 14.

STEVE SMITH

Steve comes on the board as a permanent member and will serve as board treasurer. He is the Vice President of Business Affairs for Amarillo College and has been with the College since April 1, 2016. Steve came to Amarillo College from Summit Truck Center. He is married to Selena, a teacher at Ridgecrest Elementary. They have three children, Jake, 21, Jordan, 14 and Sienna, 7. Steve is active in the Ridgecrest PTA and has served as the board president.

WENDI SWOPE

Wendi, an Amarillo native, is the President and Creative Director of Double U Marketing in Amarillo. She has served on the Don Harrington Discovery Center Board, Panhandle Plains Museum, Crime stoppers, Texas Panhandle Law Enforcement Academy Board and the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce.

JASON VELKY

Jason is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. He has been active on the Opportunity School Board for three terms, The High Plains Food Bank since 2009 and is currently on the St. Andrew's School Board. He is married to Maggie and they have two children: Grace, 6, and Griffin, 3.

MARK WHITE

Mark returns to the AC Foundation Board as both a member of the board and a new employee of Amarillo College. Mark is the Executive Vice President of Institutional Advancement and General Counsel. Mark served on the Foundation Board from 2009 to 2015 and served as Chairman from 2013 to 2015. He has served as President of both the Amarillo Symphony, and the Boy Scouts of America, Golden Spread Council. He also served as the Chair of the Texas Commission for Lawyer Discipline, President of the Amarillo Area Bar Association and served on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. Mark is married to Terry, an attorney, and has two daughters, Hillary and Courtney. Mark is also an alumnus of Amarillo College.



Sharon Oeschger and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart light the holiday trees on Oeschger Family Mall

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*May you have
The gladness of Christmas
Which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas
Which is peace;
The heart of Christmas
Which is love*

The Amarillo College Foundation Board and Staff

The Amarillo College Foundation Office will be closed for the holidays from December 19 through January 2.

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