

Fundamentals

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION WINTER UPDATE



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NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends of the AC Foundation:

2017 was a great year for Amarillo and its College and we look forward to 2018. We have a firm foundation and a good road map for the future under the direction of the AC Regents, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart and the entire AC leadership team. Last year was very transformational in regards to it being the first full year of the new eight-week format for many courses. Data is showing that this new format has been very effective in enabling today's student to have a higher completion success rate. Furthermore, an increase in enrollment has been witnessed!

Growing impact that the Amarillo College system is making on our entire Panhandle Region:

Annual Enrollment for traditional course programs: 11,000

Seven Area Campuses: Four in Amarillo, One in Hereford, Two in Dumas

Continuing Education Division: 26,000 area residents participate in business and professional training

Scholarships/Financial Assistance: over 2,587 worthy students received assistance from the Foundation

Total Scholarship Funding Awarded: \$1,250,000

Total Additional Financial Assistance Awarded: \$52,220

The reality is that education, no matter how affordable, puts cost and other demands on the student. As many of you know, the AC Foundation exists solely to solicit and administer gifts and grants for the benefit of AC students, faculty and staff, its programs and facilities. It is our duty to help remove obstacles that may be in the way of students achieving their educational dreams and goals.

In regard to grant administration, the Foundation has always evaluated and awarded various grants for areas of need as they arose. However, due to the fact that over 50% of AC students fall below the poverty line, we know that more must be done.

The Foundation has decided to be more purposeful about this process and has added a formal Grants Committee. This committee will meet quarterly to review college-wide grant requests and make awards. We want to make sure that the non-traditional needs of the students are being met. The committee will evaluate college programs that help in areas such as financial counseling, food, clothing, childcare, incidental expenses, mental health, etc. All of these areas of need have a major influence in the ultimate staying power and/or success of many AC students. We are fortunate that we are in a financial position to be able to help with this in a more meaningful way going forward.

Rest assured that accountability is critical and at the core of the Foundation. We have numerous internal and external controls to ensure the financial integrity of the Foundation. Our goal is to be good stewards of your gifts and the assets we are entrusted with for the ultimate benefit of the student.

Please join us in supporting the Foundation this upcoming year through the Amarillo College Foundation Annual Campaign or as an underwriter for the SPRING FLING, Celebration of Education event on April 19th on the Oeschger Mall. Please watch your mail for underwriting opportunities and the Spring Fling *Save-the-Date* card. We hope to raise even more money to support our students and their dreams this year. Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Trevor Caviness
Amarillo College Foundation Board Chairman

MARCH 2018



AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION 54TH ANNUAL MEETING

HONORING THE BEN BRUCKNER FAMILY

The 54th annual Amarillo College Foundation meeting was held September 20th at the Amarillo Country Club. The Ben Bruckner Family were the special honorees this year.

Paul Clark, the Amarillo College Foundation board chairman, opened the meeting, by introducing AC President Russell Lowery-Hart. Lowery-Hart spoke on the many accomplishments of Amarillo College during the past year: the College was a recipient of the Bellwether Award for their No Excuses Poverty Initiative, AC is part of a national study on poverty in higher education led by Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. Amarillo College started eight-week classes and has seen a rise in enrollment from 9,941 to 10,136 for the fall 2017 semester, resulting in a 1% increase.

Jason Velky gave the 2017-2018 nominating report and thanked the nominating committee for all of their hard work. He introduced the incoming board members: Nicki Crump, Emily Hall, Whitt Holder, John T. McElyea and Alfonzo Zambrano. Chairman Clark then recognized the 2017-2018 Executive Committee members: Chairman Trevor Caviness; Vice Chairman Dusty Barrick; Secretary Mark Logsdon; Treasurer Steve Smith; Administrative Chairman Laresa Chesley; Fundraising Chairman Lorrain Wilhelm; Finance and Investment Chairman Mike Harris* and AC President Russell Lowery-Hart. The board members rotating off were also recognized for their outstanding service to the board: Michele Agostini, Derek Davis and Ben Whittenburg.

The 2017 Amarillo College Honor Roll recipients are the Ben Bruckner family. Introduced were: Peggy Bruckner and sons Brian, with his wife Carol, and Chris, with his wife Randi. Mrs. Patsy Walker, longtime friend of the family made the introductions. The Bruckner family have been staunch supporters of the AC Foundation and Amarillo College for over 40 years. Ben served as a Regent from 1980 until 1998 and on the AC Foundation Board of Directors from 1989 – 1994. Peggy has served on the Adult Students Advisory Board since inception and has remained very active with the Foundation. Brian and Chris have both worked closely with the Foundation. Brian served on the Foundation Board for two terms, from 2005 until 2010. The Bruckner Truck Company has been a major support to the East Campus Technical Program through donations of both equipment and funds. The Bruckner family has established two scholarship funds to assist students in the Industrial Technology Program. They have truly been an integral part of the Foundation in every way.

Chairman Clark then introduced the incoming 2017 AC Foundation Chairman Trevor Caviness. Chairman Caviness thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

*Harris moved to Oklahoma in December. The Finance and Investment Chairman is Paul Clark



Brian and Carol Bruckner, Peggy Bruckner, Randi and Chris Bruckner



Paul Clark



Alan Rhodes and Dusty Barrick



Paul Clark and Trevor Caviness



William Ware and Jason Velky



Cathey Phillips, Bonnie Siebenthal, LaNell Daniel, Clara Crump.
Back row: Reta Howard, Pam Berry, Marti Coleman



Garrett and Wes Condray-Wright
and Roxanne and Kevin Ball



JD SOUTHER

PERFORMS TO SOLD OUT CROWD

2017 AMARILLO COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Amarillo College and the Amarillo College Foundation hosted a concert featuring 2017 AC Distinguished Alumnus JD Souther on October 26th to a sold out crowd. Souther regaled the crowd with many of his memorable songs, including “New Kid in Town” and “Heartache Tonight” made famous by the Eagles.



Souther was born in Detroit but spent his formative years in Amarillo. A graduate of Tascosa High School, he attended AC in 1965-66. He arrived in Los Angeles in the late 1960's to become one of the most celebrated songwriters of his generation. He wrote ten classic hits for Linda Ronstadt and collaborated on songs with headliners like James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Jimmy Buffett and Roy Orbison. He is also an accomplished musical performer and actor, having released several solo albums and has appeared in such television shows as *Thirtysomething* and *Nashville*. Souther was inducted in 2013 into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.

Souther joins a noteworthy group of past recipients of the AC Distinguished Alumni Award, a roster that includes, among others, such luminaries as Ben Sargent, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, G. William Miller, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Mary Lou Robinson, a federal judge who in 1973 became the first female appellate judge in Texas.



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.



NICKI CRUMP

Nicki and her husband Dean have two children, Cali and Jordin along with new son-in-law, Milton. Dean works in Commercial Real Estate and Development. Nicki is involved with the Amarillo Area Foundation and currently serves on the Women's Philanthropy

Fund. She is a sustaining member of the Junior League and served on the Executive Board. She has also chaired the Symphony Ball. Nicki will serve on the ACF Special Events and Nominating Committees this year.



JOHN T. MCELYEA

John T. is a Senior Vice President at Amarillo National Bank. He is married to Amy and they have one daughter, Abbie, who is 21. John T. has been on the United Way of Amarillo & Canyon committee and active with the

Panhandle Independent Living Center. He is also active in several banking organizations. John is on the ACF Annual Campaign and Special Events Committees.



EMILY HALL

Emily moved to Amarillo in 2016 and is married to Brett Hall. Emily owns a Pilates studio and is a community volunteer. She was the Co-Chair of the AMOA 12x12, 2017. She has also served on the Christmas Roundup Committee, 2017 Race for the Cure

Committee and is currently on the Art Force Board. Emily and Brett welcomed their new daughter Bryson in January. Emily will serve on the ACF Special Events and the Student Scholarship Committees.



ALFONSO ZAMBRANO

Alfonso is an attorney with Brown & Fortunato. He is married to Britney who is Senior Accountant at Pantera Energy. Alfonso has served on the following boards and committee: Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Heal the City Board

and Junior Achievement of the High Plains. He is also active with the Amarillo real Estate Investors Group, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way and Amarillo Young Lawyers Association. Alfonso will serve on the Annual Campaign and Nominating Committees for the Foundation.



WHITT HOLDER

Whitt and his wife Samantha have three children ages 20-16. Whitt is the CEO of Amarillo Urology Associates. Whitt has been active on several other boards including CASA and Heal the City. Whitt will serve on the ACF Finance and Investment and Foundation Grants Committees.



MARY LOU STREET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ART FORCE

AWARDS FINE ART GRANTS TO AC PROGRAMS

The 2017 Cooking Schools raised over \$24,000 to support the fine arts programs at Amarillo College. The following grants, totalling \$20,350, were awarded from a portion of those proceeds:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Amarillo Museum of Art | Support for Exhibits | \$ 1,500.00 |
| AC Music Department | Support for Students to attend NATS Competition | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Choral Music Department | Choral Music Recorder | \$ 550.00 |
| Suzuki Program | Training for Suzuki Clinicians | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Visual Arts Department | Visiting Artist | \$ 3,500.00 |
| Photography Department | Robert Hirsch Exhibit & Workshop | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Art Department | Santa Fe Art Club Trip | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Art Department | WT/AC Student Art Show | \$ 800.00 |

Amarillo College is truly blessed to have a former faculty member give back to the program she loved.

Mary Lou (Lou) Gerady Street has made a \$100,000 gift to establish and endow The Mary Lou Street Scholarship within the AC Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to students enrolled in AC's Early Childhood Education program.

Here, in Lou Street's words, is why . . .

“My educational background includes an M.Ed. in Early Childhood with a minor in Special Ed. and advanced study for a Master’s Degree in Administration. My experiential background includes being a kindergarten teacher, an early childhood teacher of children with special needs and a teacher for homebound, terminally ill children.

“In addition to founding and operating a Christian Pre-School and Child Care Center, I co-managed an adult literacy program for business and taught reading and study skills at a Community College. I also directed the student Community Service Program under the auspices of the federal ACTION program. I ultimately became an Associate Professor at Amarillo College where I taught Early Childhood classes and oversaw the associated Lab School.

“All of the above was motivated by a love for children, which I inherited from my mother who kept children in our home. I am also motivated by the plight of caregivers who dedicate their lives to nurture children, providing appropriate environments for them to learn and grow. Funding the Mary Lou Street Scholarship Fund is just an extension of a lifelong passion, furthered by a high regard for Amarillo College.”

MARY E. BIVINS FOUNDATION

The Mary E. Bivins Foundation granted \$85,000 to furnish six classrooms in the Hagy Center for Young Children, Amarillo College's newest campus.



Mark White, Executive Vice President of Advancement and General Counsel; Susan Severn, Grants and Scholarship Officer, Mary E. Bivins Foundation; Kathy Dowdy, Co-Executive Director, AC Foundation; and Mary Clare Munger, AC Education/Child Development



MAXIMIZE YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING WITH THESE TAX SAVINGS IDEAS

This year, if you want to boost your tax savings beyond the new standard deduction, consider giving away some of your wealth.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts went into effect on January 4, 2018, bringing with it a slate of changes to the code. Those include an increase to the standard deduction (which nearly doubles to \$12,000 for singles and \$24,000 for married couples who file jointly), as well as the elimination of the personal exemptions.

About 49 million taxpayers or 28% currently itemize, according to the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Due to the higher standard deduction, fewer filers are expected to do so in the future. However, filers who plan their charitable gifts may be able to get themselves over the new standard deduction and itemize – if they use a strategy called “bunching”.

Here is what you should know about bunching your charitable gifts:

ACCELERATED GIVING – The tax overhaul took away many of the levers taxpayers could use to ramp up their deductions so that they could itemize on their taxes. For instance, filers could previously take an unlimited deduction every year for property and state income taxes. Now, they are only allowed to claim up to \$10,000 in these expenses each year. The charitable giving deduction remains for taxpayers who itemize. Under the new law, this break is limited to 60% of adjusted gross income for cash gifts, but you can carry forward by up to five years any amount that exceeds that. Single donors who fall short of the \$12,000 threshold (\$24,000 if married) can itemize on their taxes if they supercharge their giving in one year.

EVERY OTHER YEAR – Consider that a married couple is claiming the maximum property and state income tax deduction of \$10,000. This couple also paid \$6,000 in mortgage interest in a year. They will need at least \$8,000 of charitable gifts in order to hit – and surpass – the \$24,000 standard deduction threshold. If this couple normally gives \$4,000 to charity annually, they can accelerate the gift by cramming in two years of deductions into one tax year. This way, they itemize on their taxes one year and take the standard deduction the next.

Article Reprinted; Darla Mercado, CNBC.com

*Please note that the AC Foundation urges you to always consult with your CPA concerning any tax concerns or questions.

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EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information call (806) 371-5107

APRIL 19 • 6 - 8 PM

SPRING FLING, A Celebration of Education
Oeschger Mall, AC Washington Street Campus

APRIL 20 • 4:30 – 6 PM

Art Force Membership Event
Amarillo Museum of Art

MAY – AUGUST

Art Force Cooking Schools

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION MISSION | The Amarillo College Foundation, Inc. exists to solicit and administer gifts and grants for the benefit of Amarillo College, its students, faculty, staff and programs and facilities.

**PALACE
COFFEE CO**



-- IN THE --
**COLLEGE
UNION
BUILDING**



Palace Coffee Co. is now open on the Washington Street Campus in the Student Union Building. Come by and have a cup of coffee or a latte. All Amarillo College profits support mental health counseling at AC.



Follow us:

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. Box 447
Amarillo, TX 79178

THE
AMARILLO
COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

