

FOUNDATION

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION FALL UPDATE | 2019

FOCUS



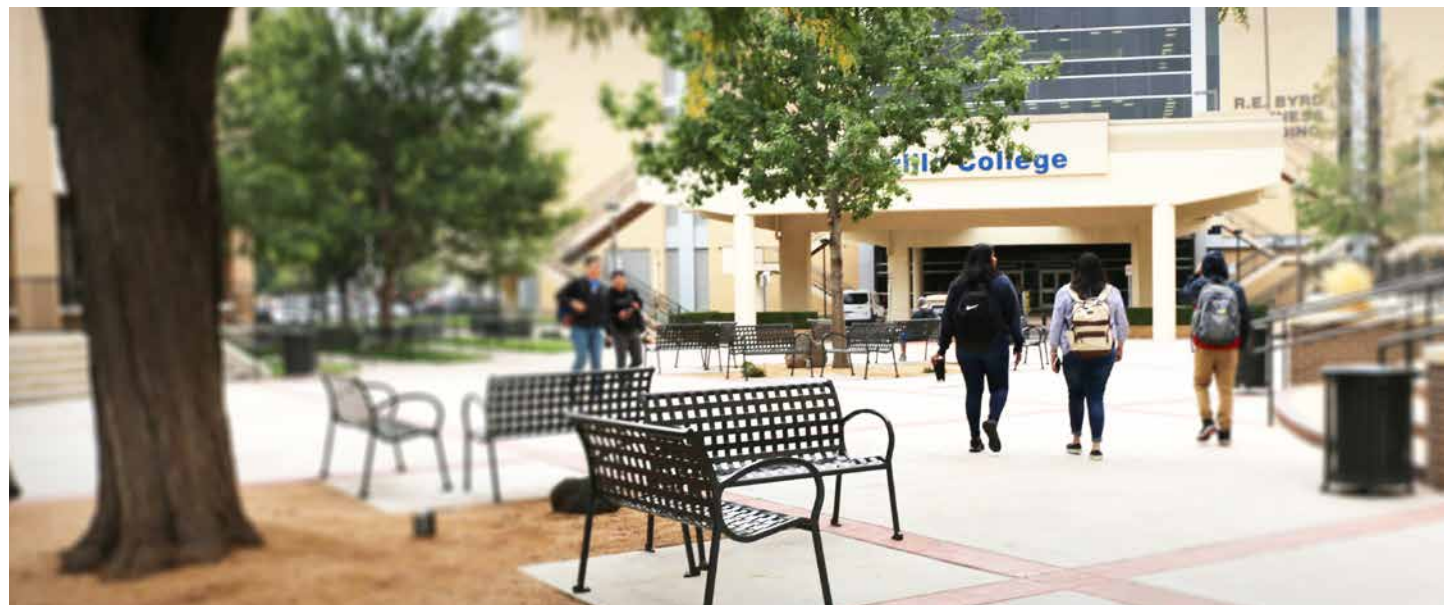
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College Foundation
Board Members

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Amarillo College Foundation Board of Directors

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President, Amarillo College

Tracy Dougherty
Co-Executive Director

Kathy Dowdy
Co-Executive Director

Tiffani Crosley
Director of Accounting and Finance, Amarillo College

**Member, Amarillo College Board of Regents*

The 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, programs and facilities.

COVER PICTURE: Students are already making themselves at home in The Underground, AC's new interactive learning center in the basement of the Ware Student Commons. The Underground was celebrated at a grand opening on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

New Board Members

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

DANIEL CRAMER

Daniel is the CEO of Austin Hose. He graduated from Texas A&M where he received a degree in Business, Management and Marketing. He is active on the Alex O'Brien Tennis Foundation. Daniel will serve on the Nominating Committee and the Foundation Grants Committee this year on the AC Foundation Board. Daniel is married to Jessie and they have two adorable children, Wasson (4) and Coraline (1 ½). Daniel and Jessie are both avid tennis players.

ERIC DARNELL

Eric is the Manager for Production Engineering and Production Control Logistics at Bell. Eric attended Amarillo College in 2003 and received a certificate in Aerospace Manufacturing. He received his bachelor's degree from DeVry University and his MBA from the University of Phoenix. Eric has been extremely involved in the community serving as an AISD Board Trustee from 2014-2017 and as an AISD delegate for the Texas Association of School Boards in 2014. He also led a team that partnered with AISD and CISD to develop a high school co-op program that offers the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to work part-time as composite technicians in Bell's Composite Cutting Center. Eric has also served on the Wesley Community Center Board and is involved with Los Barrios and No Limits No Excuses. Eric is married to Angelica and they have five children: Marissa (22), Ryan (20), Ava (16), Pauline (14) and Derek (12). Eric will serve on the Annual Campaign Committee and the Special Events Committee.

SHEILA SIMS

Sheila is an architect and principal at Lavin Architects. She has served on the Habitat for Humanity Board and is a member of the American Institute of Architects. Sheila is married to Richard and they have three children: Julia (18), Olivia (15) and Sophie (10). Sheila will serve on the Special Events Committee and Student Support Scholarship Committee.

COURTNEY VANDERHAM

Courtney is Operations Manager at ASCO Equipment in Amarillo. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in finance, received an MBA from West Texas A&M University and an MSA from Tulane University in Financial Analysis and Derivatives. Courtney is married to Zach Vanderham and they have two children, Matthew (5) and Parker (3). She is the chairman of the Sisters First Luncheon benefitting the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health. She has also been active in the Junior League. She will serve on the Finance and Investment Committee and Annual Campaign Committee.

AMARILLO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Honors Janie and Eddie Bradley

AT 56TH ANNUAL MEETING

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he 56th annual Amarillo College Foundation meeting was held September 25th on the second floor of the College Union Building at the Washington Street Campus. Janie and Eddie Bradley were the AC

Foundation Chairman's Award Recipients this year.

Trevor Caviness, the Amarillo College Foundation board chairman, opened the meeting. He introduced Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart who welcomed everyone. He also thanked the AC Board of Regents for their leadership and hard work. Lowery-Hart commented on the 90th anniversary celebration of Amarillo College and the \$90 million bond election that was approved this past May. He announced that AC improved its completion rate from 19% in 2004 to 53% in 2019 through course redesign and 8-week courses in over 90% of the courses offered at AC. AC was recognized as one of the top community colleges in the country and received the Leah Meyer Austin Award from the



Janie and Eddie Bradley

Achieving the Dream Network. The Leah Meyer Austin Award winners exemplify how radically an institution can transform itself when it truly understands the needs of its students. AC was also featured in an article in *The Atlantic*.

Jason Velky gave the 2019-2020 nominating report and thanked the nominating committee for all of their hard work. He introduced the incoming board members: Daniel Cramer, Eric Darnell, Sheila Sims and Courtney Vanderham. He also recognized the current board members who agreed to serve a second three-year term: James Austin, Dan Ferguson, Wendy Swope, Jason Velky and Mark White. He then recognized the 2019-2020 Executive Committee members: Chairman, Dusty Barrick, Vice Chairman, Emily Hall, Secretary, Kyle Lewis, Treasurer, Steve Smith and AC President, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, Administrative Chairman, Laresa Chesley, Fundraising Chairman, Lorraine Wilhelm, Finance and Investment Chairman, John T. McElyea and Senior Regent Representative, David Woodburn. The

board members rotating off were also recognized for their outstanding service to the board: Trevor Caviness, Stuart West and Steve Smith, who resigned his position as VP of Business Affairs at AC in the middle of October.

A video was then played which focused on the *No Excuses* program and profiled one of the students most impacted by the ARC. Dr. Lowery-Hart commented on the impact that the Bradleys had on *The Advocacy and Resource Center* and the *No Excuses* program. Due to the Bradley's support, all campuses are now equipped with food pantries; the ARC staff are able to holistically serve over 4,000 visits to the center. Chairman Caviness introduced Janie and Eddie Bradley along with their son Daniel and daughter-in-law Sharon. He spoke of Eddie's involvement in his own life and philanthropic pathway and highlighted the thoughtfulness that goes into their philanthropic giving. Eddie Bradley then spoke about how he discovered the work being done on the AC

Campus through the *No Excuses* program to assist the students in need. He commented that over 70% of students attending AC suffer from at least one insecurity in their basic needs (food, housing, transportation). Bradley commented that he and his wife Janie have made a commitment to the *No Excuses* Program. He spoke of AC as an integral asset to Amarillo, which is often undervalued. Chairman Caviness presented the Bradleys with a small token of the AC Foundation Board's appreciation.

On behalf of James Austin, Chairman of the Bud Joyner Fellows program, Chairman Caviness announced the new Bud Joyner Fellows for the past year. The 2018-2019 Bud Joyner Fellows are: Mary Clare Munger, Denese Skinner, Yvonne J. Franklin, Carroll Mack Forrester and Sandra Dale. He urged all present to participate in the program and use it as an avenue to recognize a friend, family member or loved one.

Kathy Dowdy and Tracy Dougherty, AC Foundation Co-Executive Directors, directed attention to the Lifetime Philanthropists for 2018-19. Those who have made cumulative gifts of \$2,500 or more become Lifetime



Cliff Bickerstaff, Terry Caviness, Richard Ware, John Kritser



Glen Parkey, Brent Caviness, Tom Bivins



Emily and Brett Hall



Sarah and Trevor Caviness



Laresa and Larry Chesley



Tracy Dougherty and Kathy Dowdy



Paul Clark, John T. McElyea, William Ware, Trevor Caviness, Mike Connor



Sharon and Daniel Bradley

Philanthropists, one of the highest forms of recognition AC and the AC Foundation can bestow. **Founders:** AutoInc, Janie and Eddie Bradley, Dunham Family Charitable Trust, Estate of Stephan J. Ference, Paul & Pan Eimon Revocable Trust, **Colleagues:** Suzanne & Mark Anderson, Dana H. Bagot, Cryogenics Research & Development, Dr. Hollis H. Hands, United Way of Amarillo and Canyon, **Partners:** Karen & John Abbott, Michele & Anthony Agostini, Dr. Matthew Brzostowski, Dr. Kent Roberts & Ilene Roberts Baillet Foundation, Education Credit Union, Eliza Ann Hagy Estate, J.B. Lane, Tina & Chase Findley, Sandra & Bill Gilliland, Tara & Russell Lowery-Hart, Tiffany & Reg Martin, Raenell McDonough, Abraham Nussbaum, John & Mary O'Brien Foundation, The Kimble Foundation Trust, Tyson Foods, **Associates:** Darby & Brendan Albracht, Sharon & Daniel Bradley, Cherie A. Clifton, Tamara Clunis, Connor McMillon Mitchell & Shennum, Alice & Robbin Dawson, Ilona & Philip Filsouf, Sally & Matt Forrester, Robin Gilliland, Emily & Brett Hall,

George Hendrick, Marlene & Jack Hudgins, Nancy & Kyle Lewis, Marty & John Marmaduke, Diana S. Martindale, Shannon L. Massey, Debra & Joe Bob McCartt, Jill & Johnny Mize, George W. Morris Jr., Scott C. Nickson, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Katie & Ben Oppliger, Physicians Surgical Hospitals, Janis & Bryan H. Poff, Kelly & Blaine Roberts, Melissa Taylor, Marilyn J. Van Petten, Maggie & Jason Velky, XF Enterprises.

Chairman Caviness also announced the names of the Lifetime Philanthropists who passed away this past year: Frances Bauman, Hollis H. Hands, Carl D. Hare, Wales H. Madden, Mary Ruth McCulley, Arlene Pool and Marian Snyder.

Chairman Caviness thanked the Blue Blazers for their service at the meeting and thanked the AC Foundation donors for their attendance. Caviness then introduced the incoming 2019 AC Foundation Chairman, Dusty Barrick. Chairman Barrick thanked the board and everyone for their attendance. He closed the meeting.

AC names Sharon Oeschger and Captain Matthew Davenport 2019 Distinguished Alumni



hat Sharon Oeschger likes most about the thank-you notes she gets from students on the receiving end of scholarships she

has established at Amarillo College are the heartfelt assertions they contain about one day emulating her kindness.

“Most of the people say they hope someday to be able to give something back to students,” said Oeschger, a highly successful businesswoman and a past member of both the AC Board of Regents and the AC Foundation Board.

“That’s what I’ve been blessed to be able to do, give something back, and to have so many expressing a desire to also be able to give to others is what makes those notes so special.”

Oeschger, whose decades-long civic generosity has been widely chronicled—she was named Amarillo

Globe-News Woman of the Year in 2012—joins the late Navy Capt. Matthew Davenport as AC’s Distinguished Alumni for 2019.



Sharon Oeschger

“The accomplishments of these amazing leaders are beyond extraordinary, and we are extremely proud and truly privileged to

honor them both,” said Amarillo College President Russell Lowery-Hart.

Davenport, who passed away in 2018, graduated from Amarillo High School in 1977 and attended AC from 1977-1979.

He was named Mr. Amarillo College in his sophomore year. He went on to graduate twice from the University of Texas, earning a bachelor’s degree in geological sciences and a master’s in finance. Davenport joined the Navy in 1988 and served as a Naval Intelligence Officer in each war subsequent to his induction. For his service he received countless awards.

The capstone was the Legion of Merit,

a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding

services and achievements.

In retirement, Davenport made his home in New Braunfels.

Oeschger

attended AC part time from 1964-1968, while also working at her family’s Amarillo-based trucking firm. Today she is president of

Specialty Trailer Leasing, Inc., and CEO of Cryogenics Research and Development, Inc.

She was elected in 1990 to the first of three consecutive six-year terms on the AC Board of Regents, and she served on the AC Foundation Board from 1993-2015, chairing the Board from 2011-2013.

Oeschger, a graduate of Tascosa High School, presently serves on the Harrington Cancer Foundation and the Women’s Philanthropy Fund board, and she is past president of the Amarillo Museum of Art and the Amarillo Symphony Guild. She has also held

leadership posts with Texas Tech University School of Health Sciences, Amarillo Area Foundation Women’s Philanthropy Fund, Amarillo Little Theater, and more.

She financially supports 16 nursing students annually through her

nursing scholarship at the College, along with several scholarships for students in the truck driving and dental hygiene programs.

Her generous gift in 2015 helped establish the Oeschger Family Mall, an open-air meeting point for students in the center of AC’s Washington Street Campus.

“That area of the campus had the worst sidewalk I’d ever seen,” Oeschger said. “I saw it as an opportunity to help students have a gathering place, and it just thrills me to go over there

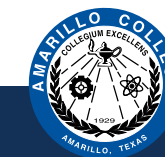
today and see people gathering and talking. “I believe that when you have, you need to give, and do so generously,” she said. “People just don’t realize what some students are having to sacrifice to stay in college.”



Captain Matthew Davenport

“Matt attended Amarillo College for his freshman and sophomore years. He then transferred to the University of Texas graduating with a degree in Geology. Amarillo College provided Matt with a strong foundation for his military and professional careers.”

—Linda Davenport



Make plans to attend the
Amarillo College Distinguished Alumni luncheon
honoring Sharon Oeschger and the late Captain Matthew Davenport

Tuesday, November 12 • 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Amarillo Country Club Ballroom • \$40 per person
 All proceeds benefit the President’s Circle Fund • Call 371-5924 for reservations



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Reverberations of Conflict: The Legacy of the Civil War

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Lecture 7:30 p.m. • December 5, 2019

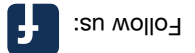
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The fourth and final year of the Civil War offers one of that era's most compelling narratives, defining the nation and one of history's great turning points. Now, S.C. Gwynne's *Hymns of the Republic* addresses the time Ulysses S. Grant arrives to take command of all Union armies in March 1864 to the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox a year later. Gwynne breathes new life into the epic battle between Lee and Grant; the advent of 180,000 black soldiers in the Union army; William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea; the rise of Clara Barton; the election of 1864 (which Lincoln nearly lost); the wild and violent guerrilla war in Missouri; and the dramatic final events of the war, including the surrender at Appomattox and the murder of Abraham Lincoln.



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