The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work Advisory Council
Member Biographies 2017-2018

CURRENT OFFICERS

Kara Nordstrom Wells, Co-Chair

Kara Wells currently serves as CEO for Sailormen, Inc., a fast food franchisee based in Miami, Florida. Sailormen and its subsidiaries currently own and operate 175 restaurants in 5 states including 132 Popeyes Louisiana Kitchens, 23 Burger Kings, and 21 Taco Bells. Sailormen is based in Miami, Florida, and with sales more than $250,000,000, it is currently one of the largest women-run franchisee organizations in the United States.

Kara attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated in 1991 earning a BBA and also attended the University of Houston where she earned a MBA in Finance in 1995.

She and her husband Shawn are passionate about giving back and providing scholarships for need-based and first-generation college students. She and her husband have endowed 2 scholarships: Horns Helping Horns and Kim Heilbrun Scholarship at the UT School of Social Work. Additionally, she and her husband have made planned gifts to the UT Business School and the UT School of Social Work to fund need-based scholarships. In furtherance of her and her husband’s goal of breaking the cycle of poverty through education, her Taco Bell restaurants provide for any current employee to get their GED by paying for the testing materials and online tutoring as well as the test itself. She is currently trying to implement this program throughout her Burger King and Popeyes restaurants.

At the University of Houston, Kara is also a member of the Ezekiel W Cullen Society and has endowed the Patricia L Wells Memorial Scholarship there as well as endowing several scholarships benefitting need-based first generation college students.

Additionally, over the last 10 years, her company, Sailormen, Inc. has raised over $8,000,000 ($8MM) to send special needs children to MDA Summer Camp. In 2017 alone, Sailormen raised over $831,000, making it one of the largest corporate donors to MDA. All monies raised are used for children in the communities we serve.

Kara currently is a member of the UT Development Board as well as serving as Co-Chair of the Advisory Council at the UT School of Social Work. She is also a member of the Longhorn Foundation, the Chancellor’s Council, the Littlefield Society, The Texas Leadership Society, and a Lifetime member of Texas Exes.
Shawn Wells, Co-Chair

Shawn Wells is General Counsel and Chief of Staff at Amherst Holdings, responsible for oversight and coordination of the Firm’s control functions. Shawn has more than 25 years in the investment management and financial services industry, serving most recently as a founding partner and Chief Operating Officer of East Lodge Capital. Prior to East Lodge, Shawn was General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Head of Investor Relations at Roc Capital Management. He has also held senior roles at Merrill Lynch in New York, as well as Franklin Templeton Investments in London and San Mateo, California. Shawn is a CPA and is also a member of the State Bar of Texas. He earned a B.B.A. from The University of Texas and his J.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Law.

Joe Galli, Vice Chair

Joseph Galli has been with the Bernstein Companies since 1988. With extensive commercial real estate expertise, he was an integral player in the launch of TBC’s structured investments, providing critical knowledge, expertise, and foresight to the new ventures.

Joe received a B.S. degree in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where he was Senior Class President as well as FEI Wharton Student of the Year.

Joe lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Shelly, and their three daughters, Isabella (class of 2019), Camille, and Francesca. Joe and Shelly have been deeply involved with advocacy on the behalf of autism. Joe has served as a board member of Cure Autism Now and is currently chair of Government Affairs for Autism Speaks.

Cynthia Adkins, Building Committee Chair

Cynthia Adkins is the Executive of The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) Foundation in Houston, an organization that seeks to improve the recovery, health, and quality of life of people who have sustained central nervous system damage. Cynthia has been a member of The University of Texas at Austin Development Board since 2004. She is an active leader in the community, having been president of the Junior League of Houston, Inc.; on the board of trustees for the Kinkaid School and Episcopal High School; and holding positions with numerous organizations including the Texas Exes, Vivian L. Smith Foundation, and the Harris County Hospital District Foundation.

Cynthia received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from UT Austin in 1974. Her daughter, Elizabeth, recently graduated with her bachelor and master’s degrees at the UT School of Social Work.
Jeffrey M. Duchin, **Scholarship Committee Chair**

Jeffrey Duchin works as a Senior Vice President salesman in the Institutional Fixed Income Division of Southwest Securities, Inc. During his 16-year career at Southwest, Jeff has progressed from a sales trainee to a sales manager in the Dallas office and has established himself as a top producer in the Firm. His customers range from regional banks and trust departments to worldwide asset managers domiciled in the United States. He concentrates his efforts on providing best execution and bringing new investment ideas to institutional accounts with both tax-exempt and taxable fixed income products.

Jeff, a native of Beaumont, Texas, received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin in 1998. He is a fully licensed registered representative in the securities industry and holds a Series 7 and 63.

Jeff is a very active member of and a leader in the Texas Exes (alumni association for the University of Texas at Austin). He was President of the Dallas Chapter in 2006, which consists of around 30,000 alumni in the area. Jeff served on the executive board of the Texas Exes from 2011-2013. Currently, Jeff is the chairperson of the McCombs School of Business Alumni Board, and also sits on the Dean’s Advisory Council for the School of Social work at The University of Texas at Austin. In the spring of 2014, Jeff was presented with the Jack Harbin Top Hand Award. This accolade is awarded for excellence in service to the Texas Exes and The University of Texas and is the top recognition a volunteer can receive. Jeff currently resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife of 11 years, Erin, and their two dogs Lulu and Oscar.

**Tiffany Anschutz, Events Committee Chair**

Tiffany is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who has extensive experience in the mental health and addiction fields. Tiffany graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Master of Science in Social Work.

In her varied experience, Tiffany knew there were elements that were missing from a top-notch program that could make a huge impact in the success rate of a client’s recovery while reducing the stigma of getting help. This desire to bring about the change that was needed led her to open the doors to Sage Recovery & Wellness Center. Sage is a spa-like evidence-based outpatient program in Westlake that offers individual counseling, couples and family counseling, group therapy, yoga, acu detox, and intensive outpatient programming for both adults and adolescents that find themselves struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse. Tiffany has several social workers on staff and is a host site for some of The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work interns. Tiffany has served as a chair and board member for several non-profits and fundraising committees and still serves on the board for The University of Texas Social Work Alumni Network (SWAN).
MEMBERS

George Ackert

George Ackert is an internationally recognized investment banker and advisor to companies in the transportation and infrastructure space, as well as leasing/rental and business services. George is Global Head of Transportation and Infrastructure at Evercore Partners, where he joined in 2009 after 12 years at Merrill Lynch, where he was also Global Head of Transportation and Infrastructure.

George’s advisory assignments at have included advising on major transformative transactions for a host of clients including Burlington Northern Santa Fe on its $44 billion sale to Berkshire Hathaway; the merger of Alaska and Virgin, the sale of Landmark Aviation to BBA, the merger of Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, the sale of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation to Canadian Pacific Railway; the sale of Pegasus Aviation Finance Company by Oaktree Capital Management to Terra Firma; the merger of America West Airlines with US Airways, the SkyWest Airlines acquisition of ASA from Delta Air Lines; the sale of Spirit Airlines; and on the LBO and IPO of Hertz.

George began his career as an associate attorney in Mergers & Acquisitions at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He holds a J.D. with Honors from the University of Texas School of Law, an M.B.A. from Baylor University, and a B.B.A. with high honors from The University of Texas at Austin.

George is a founding member of Wall Street for McCombs (where he is currently Chair-Elect), a member of the Advisory Council for the McCombs School of Business, a founding member of the MSF Advisory Council, a member of the Longhorn Foundation Athlectic Council, a member of the UT System Chancellors Council and the UT-Austin Development Board.

George has been married to Pamela Ackert for 26 years, and they have two children: George and Victoria Ackert. They live in Bernardsville, New Jersey, as well as New York City.

Pamela Ackert

Pamela Ackert graduated in 1992 from The School of Education at Southwest Texas State University. Pamela worked at Robert E. Lee Elementary School as a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher for two years before moving to New York City with her husband, George Ackert. She then worked at Lane Capital Management as an associate to the president for 6 years before having her first child.

Although Pamela has not practiced professionally for 17 years, she has continued to be actively involved in her community as a cheerleading coach, running coach, Girl Scout leader and many other community service endeavors.
Pamela and her husband both live in Bernardsville, NJ and are the proud parents of two children, George (18) and Victoria (16). When she’s not shuttling her kids around to various activities or doing community service, she enjoys Crossfit, scuba diving, traveling, and reading.

**Dan Adams, LMSW**

Dan has served as the President and CEO of Cal Farley’s and the Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch Foundation since 2004. His life experiences, education, and 35-year career in social services have been about mission-focused work with youth and families.

Dan’s leadership blends professional social work practice with sound non-profit business sense. Reporting to the Cal Farley’s Board of Directors, Dan is responsible for all services, operations, finance, fundraising, and asset management of the organization.

Dan holds an MSSW from The University of Texas School of Social Work and currently serves on the school’s advisory council. He received an MBA from West Texas A&M University, and Bachelor of Science from Southwest Texas State University. He received the Charles I. Wright Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Texas School of Social Work in 2009. As an advocate in his field, Dan is the immediate Past President of the Texas Alliance for Child and Family Services and has participated in various state and national initiatives related to child welfare. Dan is also a member of the national Alliance for Strong Families and Communities.

**John Adkins**

John Adkins is a real estate/banking/corporate lawyer with Blank Rome LLP in Houston. He is a long-time volunteer for the Texas Exes and served as president of the organization in 2005-06. He received the UT Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award in 1985. John’s undergraduate degree was Plan II-Government in 1973, and he graduated from UT’s School of Law in 1977.

John and his wife Cynthia are proud parents of four children: a UT MSSW graduate at a Houston hospital; a UT undergraduate in urban studies; an energy entrepreneur in Houston; and an educational diagnostician in Fort Bend County.

**Mary Beth Arcidiacono, LMSW**

Mary Beth is a Child Trauma Fellow and a licensed Master Social Worker in the state of Texas working toward her clinical licensure. She received her master’s degree from the University of Houston and completed her undergraduate degree at Southern Methodist University in Psychology and Women’s Studies. She has developed programs for families and individuals to help deal with grief and traumatic loss and is currently working to build on those and develop integration programs and materials for communities, schools, communities of faith and businesses. Mary Beth also works as an advocate for children, young adults and their families dealing with issues as a result of Traumatic Brain Injury.
Mary Beth participates as part of the CTA Critical Incidence Response Team. In this capacity, she conducts debriefings for Texas Department of Family and Protective Services staff who have experienced the death, or serious injury, of a child on their caseload or other traumatic events in their work. Her academic interests include relational poverty, trauma, secondary trauma, grief and traumatic brain injury. She is available to provide training and consultation on grief and traumatic loss program development as well as to facilitate support groups and assist in organizing public awareness efforts.

Karen Aston

Karen S. Aston is the fourth head women’s basketball coach of The University of Texas at Austin, taking the position in 2012.

Coach Aston’s basketball coaching career began in 1988 at Vilonia High School in Arkansas as head girls’ basketball coach. It didn’t take long for Coach Aston to demonstrate her ability to lead and succeed. In the 1992-93 basketball season, she received recognition as the Arkansas Basketball Coach of the Year after leading Vilonia to a 36-1 record and a Class 2A State Championship.

In 1994, Coach Aston made the transition to collegiate coaching. From 1994 to 1996, she served as an assistant coach at Baylor University in Waco. From 1996 to 1998, she served as an assistant coach at the University of North Texas in Denton.

From 1998 to 2006 at The University of Texas at Austin, Aston served as an assistant coach, and later associate head coach. Coach Aston was instrumental in the Longhorns’ trip to the 2003 NCAA Final Four and a pair of Sweet 16 appearances in 2002 and 2004.

After departing Texas after the 2005-06 season and prior to returning in 2012, Coach Aston made additional coaching stops at Baylor, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and, once again, North Texas.

Now with five seasons under her charge, Coach Aston has revitalized Texas Women’s Basketball, having led the program to four consecutive 20+ win seasons, and four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, including an appearance in the fourth round (“Elite Eight”) of the 2016 NCAA tournament, and a recent appearance in the third round (“Sweet Sixteen”) of the 2017 NCAA tournament. Additionally, under Aston’s leadership, Texas Women’s Basketball celebrated its 1,000th win during the 2015-16 season.

Beyond coaching basketball, Ms. Aston currently serves as a board member with the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA).

Brian Boddicker

Brian Boddicker graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and minor in Business. During his time at UT, Brian represented the university as a forward on the basketball team, where he was part of the 2003 team that reached the Final Four. After graduation, he became a professional
basketball player with FIBA Europe, playing for Turkey, Germany, Spain, and France. Brian is now the Advisory Specialist in Marsh & McLennan Companies’ Risk Management & Benefits Practice working with mid-market companies. At Marsh & McLennan, Brian helps clients reduce expenses through innovative concepts, market leverage, and industry expertise.

Brian lives in Buda with his wife, Brooke, and his three children.

Elaine Cavazos, LCSW

Elaine Cavazos, LCSW, has over 20 years of practice experience in the Social Work profession. She graduated in 1991 from Our Lady of the Lake University with a MSW degree and began her career at The University of Texas MD Anderson Hospital as a medical social worker in their outpatient clinics. She next moved to Texas Children’s Hospital and was the social worker for the Pediatric Cardiology Department.

In 2000, Elaine and her husband and their growing family moved to Austin where she worked at Seton Hospital Network as a PRN social worker for one year before joining the UT School of Social Work in 2004 as a lecturer. Elaine was promoted to clinical assistant professor in 2006. During her time at UT, she taught a foundation Practice course to first-year MSSW students and served as a faculty field liaison. Her focus area at the School was to support students who were interested in working with older adults. She founded the Gerontology Resources in the Aging Community and Education (GRACE) program. She resigned from her position in May 2010 to devote more time to her four children.

Elaine has presented at many statewide conferences about a variety of topics designed to enhance the delivery of field education. She is currently employed as a therapist at My Healing Place, a non-profit serving clients who are experiencing grief and loss. In addition to working with clients, she supervises MSSW interns from UT as they complete their first field placement at the agency. Elaine serves on the School’s Community Partnership and Development Committee. Elaine is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers of Texas (NASW/TX) and serves on the Women’s Issues Committee.

Quan Cosby

Quan Cosby graduated from The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work with his BSW in 2009. While at UT, Quan played football for the Longhorns as a wide receiver and was a member of the 2005 National Championship team. He also started a football camp in his hometown of Mart, Texas, that teaches children and adolescents life skills.

After graduation, Quan entered the NFL as a free agent, playing for the Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Indianapolis Colts, and Jacksonville Jaguars. He now lives in Austin with his wife and two young daughters and is a Commercial Risk Advisor with MHBT, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company. Quan also serves on the board of directors for the YMCA of Central Texas and the 100 Club of Central Texas.
Julie Crosswell

Julie Crosswell is a third generation Owner/Vice President of Osborn Heirs Oil and Gas Company, San Antonio, Texas, and has been a Houston resident over 30 years.

Julie graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Spanish and from the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work with a Master’s degree in social work. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker, a guardian ad litem for Child Advocates, a member of the National Association of Social Workers and currently serves on Communities in School Houston Executive Committee, Mental Health of Harris County Executive Committee, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Dean’s Advisory Council, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, President’s Council, and the University of Texas Fine Arts Advisory Council.

Previously Julie has served as Texas Governor’s Commission for Women board member, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance board member, The Shepherd Society – Rice University Governing Council, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, development member, Communities in School State Advisory Committee, Saint Mary's Hall board member and Bo's Place board member.

Joslyn Dobson

Joslyn Dobson is an institutional investment manager and private investor who founded and sold Palladium Capital Management after managing assets for Criterion Asset Management in Houston and Boston. She is currently the managing Partner of JDSD Investments LTD, with interests in Texas and New York. She also advises several family offices while exploring venture philanthropic opportunities.

In addition to chairing the Advisory Council to The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and being a member of the UT Presidential Development Board, Joslyn is also a board member and co-founder of CapCityKids – a non-profit devoted to helping homeless children in Austin succeed in school.

Joslyn is a co-founder and on the Board of Directors for OncoPep, a Boston-based vaccine development company targeting cancer. She is also on the Presidential Science Committee at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Joslyn resides in Austin, Texas, with her husband of 20 years, Sean Dobson, and their children - Sean-Karl (13) and Johanna Grace (11). She enjoys tennis, golf, cooking and spending time with her family.

Tom Dunning

Tom Dunning, a 1965 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, is Chairman Emeritus of Lockton Dunning Benefits, a health and welfare benefits firm that works with large employers
throughout the U.S. including in excess of 30% of the top 50 privately and publicly held companies in Dallas/Fort Worth. He is married to Sally Dunning and they have two children and two grandchildren. Tom has been very active in civic and non-profit organizations, and has served in leadership positions for the city of Dallas and the state of Texas. In 1999, he was the recipient of Dallas’ most prestigious award, the LINZ Award.

Tom, a former Chairman of the Dallas Citizens Council, served in 2014 on the boards of American Beacon Funds, BancTec, Inc. and Oncor Electric Delivery where he is the Lead Director. He is a past Vice Chair of the State Fair of Texas and currently serves on the following boards: Baylor Health Care System Foundation, SMU Tower Center for Political Studies, The Bridge (Dallas Homeless Assistance Center), North Dallas Shared Ministries, and Greenhill School.

Tom is a strong supporter of UT where he has been a board member of the UT Development Board, The Chancellor’s Council Executive Committee, the UT School of Social Work Dean’s Advisory Council and the National Board of UT Blanton Museum of Art. He was named the 2010 Outstanding Dallas Texas Ex and is currently leading the effort to complete the goal of raising $150 million to endow the Forty Acres Scholarship Program where he and Sally had a scholar, Marisa Swanson ’16, a Plan II and School of Social Work student.

Dallas Mayors have appointed Tom to chair a number of important boards. In 1977, he was appointed to the Dallas Park and Recreation Board where he served as Vice President. When Dallas was confronted with its most serious racial crisis, Mayor Annette Strauss asked Tom to form and chair Dallas Together, an 80 person group to address the underlying issues. Mayor Ron Kirk asked Tom to Chair the DFW International Airport Board and to make the Universities Center in Downtown Dallas a reality so Dallasites could have an opportunity to obtain a bachelor’s degree from a state university. Mayor Laura Miller appointed Tom to serve as Dallas’ first Homeless Czar and to form a committee to build a new homeless assistance center, The Bridge. In March 2014, Mayor Mike Rawlins asked Tom to form a large committee with two other leaders to look for “game changers” for the Dallas Independent School District.

Governors of Texas have appointed Tom to serve on the following boards: Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Turnpike Authority, Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and Chair, The Texas Water Development Board.

In addition to the LINZ Award and the Dallas Texas Exes Award, Tom was elected to the Dallas Business Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Anti-Defamation League Humanitarian Award, the Volunteer Center’s Servant Leader Award, the American Jewish Committee Institute of Human Relations Award, the Natural Leader Award from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas, The Bridge’s Bridge Builder Award, and the Dallas Business Journal’s Outstanding Director Award. He also was named a Distinguished Alumnus in the Inaugural Class at Hillcrest High School’s 75th celebration.
David L. Evans

David L. Evans has over 30 years of experience as a leader in the mental health, mental retardation, and chemical dependence field. He is presently the Executive Director at Austin Travis County Integral Care, and also serves as the Executive Director of the Center’s affiliated non-profit New Milestones Foundation, Inc. David is involved in several organizations throughout the Austin community, including: Austin Wellness and Prevention Committee, Community Action Network Administrative Council, Texas Council of Community Mental Health Mental Retardation Centers, Executive Directors’ Consortium, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). He also serves as a board member of the Tejas Behavioral Health Services and is an adjunct faculty at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work.

David's past experience includes working with the following councils: the National Association of State Mental Health Directors, the Georgia Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Georgia’s Initiative for Children and Families Leadership Council. He has also served as a trustee for the Commission for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the past president of the National Association for State Mental Retardation Program Directors, the state commissioner for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse in the state of Georgia, and as the state director of Mental Retardation Services in Nebraska. David received his Bachelor of Science in social sciences and obtained a Master of Arts in education.

Susan Finnegan

Susan resides in Houston, Texas, and is active in several charitable organizations, including the Nick Finnegan Counseling Center named in memory of her son Nick. Susan is married to Bill and they are the parents of Nick, Terrell, and Scotty. Susan is a fourth generation Longhorn. She received her BS in Advertising from The University of Texas at Austin in 1981. Bill and all of their children are also UT Longhorns.

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin, Susan was a travel agent and fitness instructor before retiring to become a full-time mom and raise their three children. For many years Susan was the on-air radio fitness expert for SUNNY 99.1. Susan enjoys long walks and quality time with her Labrador Retriever, Cooper.

Brad Fluke

Brad Fluke is Vice President at Cirrus Logic. Previously he served as CEO at Javelin Semiconductors, an innovator of high performance, mixed-signal IC's for the wireless communications market. Prior to his position at Javelin, Brad held the position of Vice President and General Manager for the Networking Products Division at Silicon Laboratories where he held various marketing and business management positions starting in 1997. Previously, he served as the Director of Marketing of the Computer Products Division of Crystal
Semiconductor/Cirrus Logic from June 1990 to April 1997. From 1984 to 1990, Brad held various marketing positions in the Data Converter Group for Analog Devices, a designer and manufacturer of integrated circuits. Brad holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Shelly Galli

Shelly Galli, along with her husband Joe, are residents of Washington D.C. and have three daughters, Isabella (class of 2019), Camille and Francesca.

For fifteen years the Gallis have been deeply involved with advocacy on the behalf of autism. Shelly has been actively involved in chairing many local autism activities such as Walk Now for Autism and Bike to the Beach for Autism.

Shelly received her Bachelors in Business from Villanova University.

The Honorable Sheri Perry Gallo

Sheri Gallo is currently serving on the Austin City Council as the elected Council Member representing District 10. She is a 5th generation Austinite raised in a family with a long history of public service in Central Texas. Prior to Sheri’s position on the Austin City Council, she was a successful business owner in the real estate and mortgage lending industry. Sheri’s strong community involvement includes serving as Texas Governor’s Mansion docent, past leadership as UT School of Social Work Advisory Council Chair, Austin Apartment Association President, Housing Authority of the City of Austin Chair, PTA President, Settlement Club Board member, UT Development Board member, and volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, Blue Santa, Girl Scouts, Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup, MDA and Austin Theatre Alliance. She attended Trinity University and The University of Texas at Austin studying biology and architecture. Sheri’s family includes her husband Bill Hudspeth, her two children, Anthony and Cassie Gallo, her two step-daughters, Ann Hudspeth and Jenny Stone, and two grandchildren. Sheri plays competitive tennis and loves to scuba dive, ride horses, walk her adorable rescue dog, Allie, and travel whenever she can!

J. Gaut

J. Gaut was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas, and represents the fourth generation in a family with over 100 years of real estate experience in the Amarillo area. He is a graduate of New Mexico Military Institute and The University of Texas at Austin, where he majored in Business Administration and International Business.

In 1989, he formed J. Gaut & Associates Commercial Real Estate and began to specialize in the sale and leasing of commercial and investment real estate. He received the professional Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation in 1990, an elite distinction held by only four percent of
commercial real estate practitioners and representing the successful completion of approximately 240 hours of comprehensive graduate-level training. J. has also received a designation from the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR), the leading professional commercial and industrial real estate association.

In September 2011, J. Gaut & Ben Whittenburg formed Gaut & Whittenburg Commercial Real Estate. His primary focus is in the sale of land and investment properties. In 2013, J. sold his portion of the business to Ben and relocated to Houston where he is focusing on net leased investments. J. assists buyers and sellers by means of 1031 exchange or reverse 1031 exchange. Additionally, he assists oil/gas investors that wish to exchange into net leased investments.

J. has been married to Julianne Gaut for 32 years and they have two sons, Jeff, age 26, and Roy, age 31. His hobbies include fresh- and saltwater fly-fishing and bird hunting.

**Professional Affiliations**
- Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM)
- Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR)

**Julianne Gaut**

Julianne, BBA ’82, UT Austin, BSN ’95, West Texas A&M, MSSW ’98, UT Arlington, worked in private practice in Amarillo, where she also served on the Potter County Child Welfare Board. She is married and has two grown sons.

**Kathy Ikard**

Kathy grew up in Austin, attended the Austin public schools, and graduated with honors from The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in mathematics. She is married to Frank Ikard, a fiduciary litigation attorney, and has two children, one son-in-law, and one seven-month old grandson. Frank has three married children, two granddaughters, and one grandson.

Kathy is now retired and previously worked as Senior Budget Analyst for Health and Human Services in the Governor’s Office, Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Department of Human Services, Director of Research and Policy Development in the Texas Comptroller’s Office, and Senior Manager for BearingPoint, Inc. Her primary work experience included senior management, policy and strategic planning, fiscal and budget administration, business development, and business consultation.

In 2001, she began serving on the Advisory Council for the School of Social Work at the University of Texas, and in 2003, she was selected for the Commission of 125 for the University of Texas at Austin. She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Austin Child Guidance
Center, the Junior League of Austin, and was Chair of the Texas State Agency Coordination Committee.

In addition, she is a graduate of the Texas Governor’s Executive Development Program and the Program for Senior Executives in State & Local Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Kathy’s interests include fly fishing, hiking and gardening in Colorado, Pilates and yoga, book club and garden club in Austin, traveling, and, most especially, babysitting her first grandchild.

Bruce Kerr

Bruce is the founder and chairman of a financial services company, The Partners Group, in Portland, Oregon. His daughter and one of his sons are currently enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin. His main interest lies in two areas; one, aggressive fundraising for the School of Social Work; and two, coupling relationship skills in which social work students excel with students in other courses of study.

Steve Kuhn

In late 2015, Steve co-founded the ASK Charitable Foundation in his beloved adopted home of Austin, Texas. Since that time, he has been actively involved with local organizations such as Nobility, RBI Austin, JFON, and with the Parker Lane United Methodist Church community.

Prior to devoting his time to the Foundation and its local partnerships, Steve was a Partner and Portfolio Manager at Pine River Capital, where he focused on seeking new opportunities for the firm. Steve served on both the Executive Committee and on the Charitable Initiatives Committee. Prior to joining Pine River in 2008, Steve was a Portfolio Manager at Goldman Sachs based in New York and Beijing from 2002 to 2007, where he was part of the mortgage portfolio management team. From 1999 to 2002, Steve was a Japanese convertible bond trader at Citadel Investment Group in Chicago. Prior to that, he was head of mortgage-backed securities trading at Cargill. Steve received an AB cum laude in Economics from Harvard University in 1991.


Clay Leben, Ph.D.

Dr. Clay Leben received his Ph.D. in 1985 from The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work for his dissertation research on computer-assisted field journal writing and social work student learning styles. Prior to this he taught social work classes and field instruction for five years at Hong Kong Baptist College and the University of Hong Kong. He received his MSSA
in 1974 from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. His work experiences include program evaluation, grant writing, and needs assessment for the Austin Independent School District and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Office of Strategic Planning. After 1993, he returned to his passion for instructional technology by becoming a freelance course developer and instructional designer for Austin-area high-tech companies such as Dell who required web-based, employee training materials.

For many years, he has been an active volunteer and board member for community groups and nonprofit organizations including the Friends of the O. Henry and Dickinson Museums, Austin Community Television, and the Pflugerville Council of Neighborhood Associations. The City Council of Pflugerville recently recognized him for his video skills and contribution to an award-winning book, Pflugerville: A Heritage to Remember. In 2003, Clay and his wife Norma established an Endowment for Excellence in Play Therapy Methods at the UT Austin School of Social Work. Clay has served on the School of Social Work Advisory Council since 2004. In 2012, Clay and his wife also established the Professorship in Child and Family Behavioral Health.

Norma Leben, LCSW, ACSW, RPT-S, CPT-P

Mrs. Norma Leben (Loo Yau Chee) has over 39 years of experience in social work roles such as a youth worker, program supervisor, child protective services supervisor, school drop-out team leader, therapeutic foster group home executive director (aka Mom), and play therapist. In 1987, she founded Morning Glory Treatment Center for Children (MGTCC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that provided residential therapeutic foster care services to 40 children over a 10-year period. Today MGTCC provides only outpatient child and family therapy and training focused on treatment of children diagnosed with ADHD, ODD, RAD, and ASD.

Norma is a widely respected international speaker on parenting and play therapy techniques, particularly in Hong Kong, and has been an invited speaker at conferences in Beijing, Canada, England, Ireland, Hawaii, Oregon as well as Texas. Her publications include: “The Feelings Wheel Game,” the “Smiley System Kit for Responsibility and Compliance Training for Children,” “Directive Group Play Therapy: 60 Structured Games for the Treatment of ADHD, Low Self-Esteem, and Traumatized Children,” and several DVD series on play therapy and parenting techniques for children with ADHD, which may be purchased at www.playtherapygames.com. She has also created 40 products in Chinese distributed by The Greenfield Educational Centre of Hong Kong including CD’s and DVD’s of lectures, books, and games on various treatment and parenting topics. Norma received her MSSA in 1974 from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, which also recognized her in 1997 for Innovation in Social Work Practice. She is the national recipient of the 2013 Association of Play Therapy Key Award on Public Education and Promotion. She is currently a LCSW and TSBSWE Board certified supervisor as well as NASW and ACSW member. She is also a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor and Certified Play Therapist with Professor Status. She has served on The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work Advisory Council since 2004.
Anna Morrison Lee

Anna Morrison Lee, a fourth generation Austin resident, has always embraced her family's core belief in service. She brings this dedication to every transaction, whatever the size or its perceived complexity.

Anna’s former career as a social worker and teacher offered her years of experience assisting people in stressful and unfamiliar situations. She utilizes this experience to guide her clients through the real estate specific processes. You will find her skills in understanding and explaining contracts and inspections helpful. Her negotiating skills and her ability to stay calm under pressure will prove to be invaluable.

From her first year in the real estate business Anna's performance and client focus have placed her in the top 1-2% of Austin agents. Real estate is a relationship-based business; Anna strives to create client relationships built on trust and confidence. Her fundamental goal: A business built entirely on client satisfaction and endorsements.

She is intimately familiar with Austin's long established neighborhoods from Tarry Town to Lake Travis and equally knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the greater Austin area with its many and various options welcoming many new residents.

Anna puts her extensive networks, strategic knowledge, and people skills to work for you. Her love of research and travel keep her aware of national and international trends in the housing market.

Anna and her husband Matthew live in central Austin with their two daughters. They established and own the nationally acclaimed Teo Espresso and Gelato.

Jack Nelson

Jack Nelson co-founded Propel Financial Services in 2007 and has served as its President since its inception. As President, Mr. Nelson manages all daily operations related to originations, servicing, portfolio acquisitions, marketing, legal, and staffing. Prior to joining Propel, Mr. Nelson practiced law in the Austin office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

Jack graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with an undergraduate degree in Finance and Business, and holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Denise Nixon

Relationships matter to Denise, and her life is built around them. She dearly loves her family, friends, church, and city. She and her husband, Ray, have a strong marriage of 37 years. Their love and grace with one
another is a testimony to all who know them. They adore their four children, two sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, and nine grandchildren.

Denise pours into others beyond her large family including young mothers she mentors in her A Mother’s Heart group, her Bible Study Fellowship group, and the leaders of Serve West Dallas ministries. She and Ray have big hearts for the poor, both locally and internationally, and have taken many mission trips around our world including India, Africa, and the Dominican Republic. Her heart for the poor developed from her work as a social worker upon graduation from The University of Texas at Austin where she studied psychology and social work.

Denise serves as current board chair of Serve West Dallas, a collaborative organization of 17 ministries in West Dallas who work together to impact the community. She is also an active board member of Park Cities Presbyterian Church Urban Missions and Global Leadership Alliance. She also has given her time and passion to CARE (Chemical Awareness Resource Education), Park Cities Presbyterian Church Women, Young Life, and the YMCA, sitting on their Board of Directors in past years. Denise’s favorite mantra that she seeks to live by is, “Unity in diversity with humility.”

Julie Stone Payne

Julie Stone Payne graduated in 1982 from the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin and earned her MSW in 1985 from the University of Houston. Julie worked as an adoption and foster care worker at Hope Cottage in Dallas, a post-adoption case worker at DePelchin Children’s Center in Houston, and, while her husband earned an MBA from the McCombs School, Julie worked in residential treatment at the Settlement Home and Girls Town in Austin.

Although Julie has not practiced professionally for 20 years, she has continued to be actively involved in the Houston community. Julie currently serves as a director for the Junior League of Houston Community Foundation and is a member of the Chancellor’s Advisory Council at Texas Christian University. Julie’s past community board service highlights include St. John’s School; BEAR...BE A Resource for CPS Kids, Scenic Houston, and The Junior League of Houston, where she served as President in 2000 – 2001.

Julie and her husband Leon live in Houston and are proud parents of William, a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University, and Mary Katharine, a junior at Texas Christian University. When not volunteering, Julie enjoys playing bridge, traveling, and watching the Texas Longhorns play football.

Leon M. Payne, Jr.

Leon M. Payne, Jr. is the proud father of Mary Katharine, a Texas Christian University graduate in business, and of William, a Vanderbilt University graduate in history. Leon received his MBA from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas in 1989. Leon graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1980 with a BA in history and from St. John’s School.
in Houston in 1976. Leon started in the energy business as an oil field supply company inside sales representative at Wilson Industries and then, following his MBA, worked at Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, leading as its northern market area manager. In 2002, Leon formed BND Interests, LLC, as an investment vehicle. BND invests in small companies and start-ups in the biotech, media, and energy fields. Leon is president of BND Interests, LLC, and co-director of the C. Payne Family Limited Partnership.

As a two-time cancer survivor, Leon dedicates as much time as possible to serving his community. Highlights include serving on the Chinquapin Preparatory School Board of Trustees, where Leon is immediate past president; the Methodist Hospital Neurological Research Institute Community Council; the Payne Foundation, and the Greater Houston Community Foundation Council. Leon lives in Houston with his wife, Julie.

**Dan Ross**

Dan Ross started Ross Law Group in 1998, where he practices as a trial lawyer, focusing on issues of personal injury, employment law, and insurance disputes. Dan received his bachelor’s from The University of Texas at Austin in 1978 and returned to attend the UT School of Law, graduating in 1994 with his JD. Additionally, Dan is a life member of the Million Dollar Advocates and belongs to the American Board of Trial Advocates, National Employment Lawyers Association, and Travis County Bar Association, and is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

**Vicki Ross**

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin in Radio-TV-Film in 1979, Vicki Ross worked on feature films, entertainment oriented television programming and also in advertising. Working for over 20 years in the film and advertising business throughout the US and abroad, Vicki effectively transferred the skill set used in producing complex location film production to the field of college admissions counseling, opening her company College Strategy in 2005. The tenacious focus and serious multi-tasking required in film and video production have served her well working with high school students all over Austin and throughout the country, guiding them with their college choices and through the maze of college admissions.

Vicki and her husband Dan own two popular Austin event venues, The Allan House and Brodie Homestead, run by their daughter, Juliana. Vicki and Dan also have another daughter, Margo, who is an attorney for Legal Aide of Nassau County, NY.

**Holly Scofield, LCSW**

Holly is a licensed clinical social worker. She has been in private practice since 2004.
Jon K. Weizenbaum, M.P.A., MSSW

Jon Weizenbaum was appointed Commissioner at the Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (DADS) after previously serving as Deputy Commissioner Deputy Commissioner. Before joining DADS, Jon was director of the Center for Policy and Innovation at DADS. Prior to that Jon served as director of government relations for the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and policy director of the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Jon earned his MSSW in 1987 from the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. He subsequently worked in a variety of clinical settings in the Austin community, including Child Protective Services, the Casey Family Program and AIDS Services of Austin. Jon also completed his Master of Public Affairs at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin in 2001.