



## Craig and Jolene Biggs named Old Bill Honorees at 38th annual Barton Foundation Auction

Each year the Barton Foundation Board chooses someone to honor with the "Old Bill" honorarium at its annual Big Benefit Auction. This year they chose Craig and Jolene Biggs.

In 1981, the Claflin Fire Department donated a stuffed buffalo head to the foundation auction. This unique item was christened as "Old Bill" and quickly became a mainstay of this annual event being auctioned off each year since. To date, Old Bill has netted over \$210,000 in support of academic scholarships and program enhancements. Since 2002, the money generated from the sale of Old Bill has taken on an additional purpose – to honor loyal supporters and donors to Barton Community College.

Barton's Executive Director Coleen Cape said the couple truly embodies what it means to be supporters of Barton.

"I have known Craig and Jolene for many years on both a personal and professional level, and they are exemplary citizens," she said. "They know and practice the theory of paying it forward. The foundation is proud to honor them with the Old Bill Honorarium and hope by doing so we can show them how very much we appreciate their generosity."

Jolene Biggs said supporting the foundation is important in helping those who need a little boost in their quest for a better life.

"The foundation plays a vital role for many students who might struggle to pay for higher education," she said. "In order for the younger generation to succeed

in the workforce today, higher education is needed whether it be in specialized skilled areas or earning your bachelor's degree. The foundation helps many students financially to reach these goals. Our hope is that it builds tomorrow's workforce with quality leaders for the future."



Jolene and Craig both graduated from Barton so they understand its benefit firsthand.

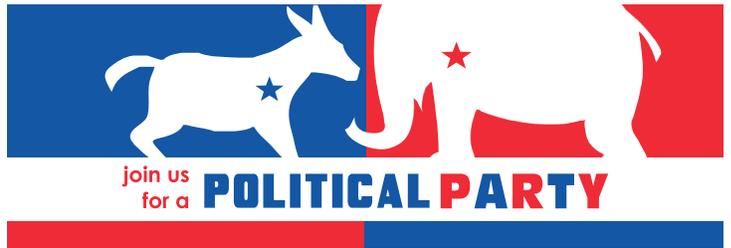
"Barton allowed us to do our undergraduate classes while living at home and working," she said. "The college serves as a springboard for those working towards their bachelor's degree and also fosters skilled workers. This higher education can be seen in our young people in the community every day. In order for the community to be strong, we need the skill sets of

these higher educated leaders. The college also provides many options for updating skills, learning new skills and taking classes just for fun as we age."

Cape said the Biggs' have been very active supporters of the college in a variety of different ways.

"Craig and Jolene established their own academic endowment several years ago, as well as managing several others," she said. "In addition, they have loyally supported the auction and a variety of foundation initiatives over the years. In 2013, they agreed to serve as Co-chairs of our Annual Enrichment Fund Campaign and because of their strong leadership the campaign was a rousing success and far exceeded its goal."

# Big Benefit Auction raises more than \$45,000 for scholarships, program enhancements



The proceeds from nearly 200 items sold, underwriters, program ads and ticket sales netted more than \$45,000 at the 38th Annual Big Benefit Auction in late August. The funds benefit students directly through scholarships and program enhancements.

The support for this 38th Annual Benefit Auction was once again nothing short of amazing. It seems no matter the current economic climate, the community steps up and comes through for us year after year; it is the kind of continued loyalty and support we never take for granted.

We couldn't be more pleased with the results of the auction; it was a huge success. The quality of our



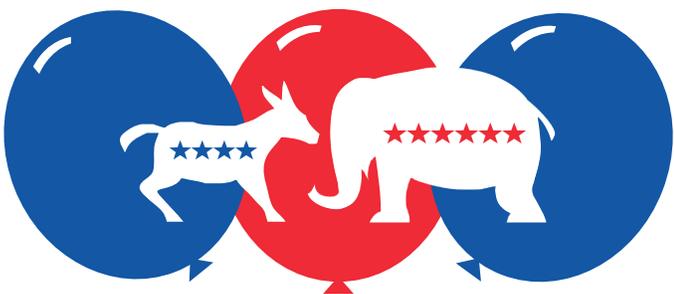
items donated by over 191 businesses and individuals was in no small measure a contributing factor to this success.

With the help of a very generous match by Craig and Jolene Biggs, the Old Bill Honorarium raised almost \$10,000. These funds will be used to award scholarships for the 2017-18 academic year in honor of the Craig & Jolene Biggs Family.

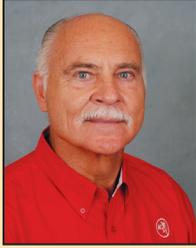
With items ranging from those that began with just \$5 bids to big ticket items selling for thousands, the annual auction is an opportunity for community members to contribute at whatever level they are comfortable.

The auction exceeded its goal of \$40,000 and that is always our purpose, but this year the success of this annual event can be measured by so many more important and intangible factors. The auction was a true coming together of members of our community from all walks of life with diverse economic and cultural backgrounds to support a great cause.

To say a good time was had by all would be an enormous understatement. The evening was filled with good food, fellowship, laughter and great generosity. Our deepest gratitude to every attendee, donor and volunteer. Once again their commitment translated into our success.



## 2016 - 2017 Foundation Board of Directors



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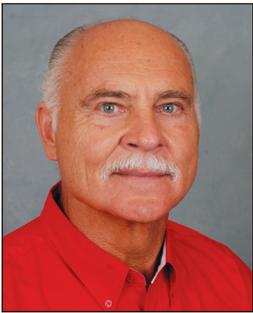
**Kim Vink**



**Jim Vopat**



## Outgoing Chair



**Sylvan Bleeker**  
Immediate Past Chair

In 2015-2016 the Foundation was able to meet its objectives of the various initiatives and campaigns held throughout the year. Earl and Judy Fox were the chairs for the AEF campaign benefiting multiple departments on the campus. The first ever Clay Shoot at Camp Aldrich was successful and generated many positive comments for the facility and venue for

the shoot. We look forward to expanding it and utilizing one of the best facilities in the state. The Benefit auction, BEST campaign and Thank-A-Thon also met their goal. The Foundation awarded over 200 scholarships and also funded \$13,000 in mini-grants to assist various departments with much needed equipment, etc. not able to be funded with college dollars. The Winged Aspiration sculpture was completed and dedicated thanks to the support of the Bill McKown memorial.

The office staff of Coleen, Donna and Michelle kept me on the straight and narrow and made my job easy. Thank you. Coleen Cape is the new Executive Director and with her many years of experience and contacts will lead the Foundation to the next level.

With Shawn taking over as Chair, and the strong Board we have, the future looks promising. Thanks to everyone for all the support given to myself this last year.

## Incoming Chair



**Shawn Panzer**  
Chair

Let me begin by saying that I am very excited to serve as this year's Foundation Chair. We have a fantastic group of professional people serving on the board. As the saying goes, "If you want something done, ask a busy person", and our Board is filled with busy people who are still willing and able to step up and get the job done.

A special thank you goes to Sylvan Bleeker for his leadership of the board this past year. He did a phenomenal job during a transitional time. I would ask everyone to help welcome Coleen Cape as the new Executive Director. She is dynamite! She is a familiar face in the Foundation office and a lifetime member of our community, and has hit the ground running. It is truly rewarding to work with Coleen, as well as Donna McCormick and Michelle Fryberger, in the Foundation office. They are truly passionate about their Foundation duties of enhancing Barton Community College and providing scholarships for the students that attend.

One of the highlights of last year was the long-awaited return of our Clay Shoot. The proceeds of this event are used to fund BCC Faculty mini-grants. We were finally able to hold the event at the newly rebuilt Camp Aldrich. The setting was perfect, and I have hopes that we can grow it into one of the premier sporting clay events in the region. Our other major events include the Academic Enrichment Fund in the spring and the Big Benefit Auction in the fall. I would like to thank all the donors and friends of the Foundation. Recent donations through the Foundation have allowed the startup of the Welding program and the CDL program, all of which benefit the employers and workforce in our community. It is truly rewarding to see your contribution have an immediate and lasting effect on someone's life. I am looking forward to another successful year, and I encourage you to help support our community, our students, and our mission!



## LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK

Every time I look out my door, this phrase is emblazoned in large black letters on the southeast wall of our office. I find this statement both powerful and prophetic – truly a mantra for the mission of the foundation.

During the 18 years that I have been with the Foundation office, I have been witness to amazing acts generosity, foresight and true philanthropy. Giving from the heart, often to those you will never know, and expecting nothing in return except the gratification that you have touched the life of another, is the true meaning of unselfishness.

All of these gifts regardless of size or purpose have one thing in common, they speak volumes about the life of the donor. That voice continues to speak and be heard long after they no longer have a

voice of their own. Each gift becomes a living thing, growing and reaching far beyond anything the donor could have imagined.



**Coleen Cape**  
Executive Director  
of Institutional  
Advancement

I could not be more proud to have this opportunity to continue the work of the Foundation; to build on existing relationships and cultivate new ones. I truly believe everyone is born with a desire to help others and to make a difference in any way they can. It is the mission of the Foundation to assist them in making the choices they need to leave a legacy for future generations so they may always find a way to Let Your Life Speak.

If you wish to know more about the Foundation, the work we do and how we can help you make a difference, just call my office or stop in if you are on campus.



**Michelle Fryberger**  
Administrative  
Assistant

My name is Michelle Fryberger and I am the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director in the Foundation office. I've worked at Barton Community College for 15 years and am proud of the difference our office makes, both in the lives of our students when providing scholarships as well as assisting the college with program enhancements and other needs.

My husband is the Director of Choral Activities here at Barton. He and our two daughters are Barton alumni. Barton Community College is a great place to work and I think the Foundation is the best office on campus. We're not just co-workers, we're like one big family.



**Donna McCormick**  
Business & Accounting  
Specialist

My name is Donna McCormick, my position with the Foundation is Business and Accounting Specialist. My main duty is to take care of the Foundation's financial records. I have worked at Barton Community College for 23 years. When I first started working at the college, I worked in the business office, but moved to the foundation office in 2008. While I made the physical move to the foundation

office in '08, I have worked with the Foundation financial record-keeping for over 20 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to watch the Foundation grow and benefit the college and students.



# Calendar of Events

## SEPTEMBER

September 5 - Labor Day  
(No Classes/Offices Closed)

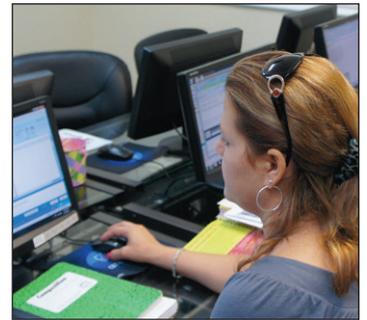
September 22 - Fall Begins

September 29, 30, October 1  
Barton Theatre Production of "Our Town"



## OCTOBER

October 31 - Halloween



## NOVEMBER

November 1  
Spring 2017 Registration Begins

November 6  
Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 8 - Election Day

November 11 - Veteran's Day

November 21 - Faculty Work Day  
(No Classes/Offices Open)

November 22 - Jack Kilby Science Day  
(No Classes/Offices Open)

November 21-22 - Thanksgiving Break  
(No Classes/Offices **Open**)

November 23-25 - Thanksgiving Break  
(No Classes/Offices **Closed**)





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**VOTE November 8th**

**FOCUS Newsletter**

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**FOUNDATION STAFF**

