

# Author Philipp Meyer Talks TV, Raises Money for Healthcare Scholarship

By Molly Kendrick

On May 4, Kathy and Randy Taylor welcomed guests to their lakeside home for a Toast of the Town party. St. David's Foundation organizes the Toast of the Town events to raise money for the Neal Kocurek Scholarship. This scholarship offers \$7,500 per year for students who are studying for careers in the medical field. The "Southwest Storytelling" event featured a discussion with author Philipp Meyer and Michener Center professor Don Graham.

Before dinner, St. David's Foundation CEO Earl Maxwell introduced Kocurek Scholar Juliette

Coronado. Maxwell said of the Toast of the Town parties, "They're more than just parties. They're about changing the lives of young people." Coronado's grandfather passed away this year, which made it more difficult to focus on her studies. Addressing the crowd she said, "It's all because of you that I had the opportunity to make him proud."

After guests had their fill of the buffet, the focus shifted to the acclaimed author. Philipp Meyer wrote *The Son*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and went on to become an AMC television show starring Pierce Brosnan. Meyer is also one of the writers for the television show.

Meyer received a Michener Center fellowship in 2005. During his time at the Michener Center, he struck up a friendship with professor Don Graham. Graham helped Meyer solidify West Texas as the setting for his novel when he told Meyer that not many authors had written about West Texas at the turn of the century.

The discussion began with a provocative clip from the AMC series, in which the main character fantasizes about scalping an odious businessman. After the clip, Meyer and Graham took questions from guests. Meyer didn't shy away from the gory details — he spent time with a Comanche tribe while re-

searching his book, and he reported that he drank the blood from a buffalo he had slain in order to ingratiate himself with a Comanche companion. He said that it tasted "how a monkey house smells."

Graham is impressed with his former student's work. According to Graham, *The Son* "deals with Texas history in a compelling way." Meyer is from the northeast, but according to Graham, he "got caught up in Texas history, and wrote a book that Texans love."



Ashley Yarborough and Brooke Taylor



John Huffman, Dr. Denise Trauth, Wolfgang and Julie Niedert



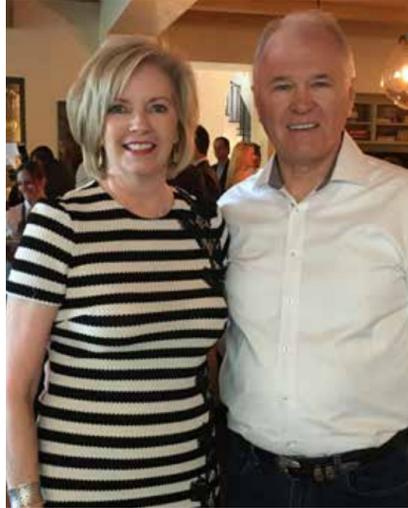
Brandon Taylor, Philipp Meyer, Justin Yarborough



Chris and Chandra Hosek



Leslie Robnett, Dr. Don Graham, Dr. Betsy Barry



Kathy and Randy Taylor



Juliette Coronado

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