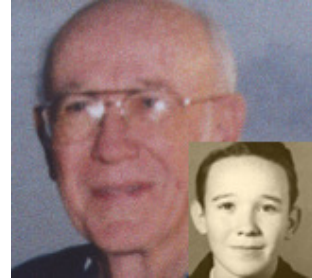


Dr. Laurence A. Becker has worked for the last 30 years with a number of the world's most well known autistic savant artists . He has also been closely involved with the study and practice of nutrition since 1974 when he almost died after a tennis tournament (he put a penny in a fuse box and almost burned his house down). He has been a tennis player and coach for over 60 years. Prior to 1976 he was head of the English Department at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin. While there he founded and directed the Texas Student Film Festival for six years. He had become involved in film when in 1969 his senior English class asked, "Mr. Becker, we've studied poetry every year we've been at St. Stephens. Can't we do something else?" His answer was, "Why Not? What would you like to do?" The students had no idea because no teacher had ever answered them that way before. The film the students made was titled "How to Try in School Without Really Trying" and was a profound examination of their own education at the school. The other results were a senior elective "Introduction to Film" and several student film festivals run by the students that attracted participants from across the country.



In 1983 Dr. Becker produced and directed *WITH EYES WIDE OPEN*, an international award-winning documentary film about Richard Wawro, an autistic savant artist from Edinburgh, Scotland. (Dustin Hoffman viewed his film as preparation for *Rain Man*) While at St. Stephen's he also brought the first "craftsman in residence," Bill Coperthwaite of The Yurt Foundation, and students, faculty, and parents built the first yurt in Texas on campus.

He has served on the boards of the Austin Waldorf School and the American YouthWorks (one of the original charter schools in Texas for high school dropouts and kids from the criminal justice system.) Currently he serves on the advisory board of the Down Home Ranch, a residential center for Down syndrome children and adults in Elgin, Texas. Recently a friend in Scotland after a visit with Dr. Becker exclaimed, "Laurence, you are a wonderful example of.....I don't know what!" Laurence took that as a supreme compliment for he believes that any diagnosis or description should be a ladder, not a lid. He is constantly going where he has not gone before, off on a new adventure of learning into the unknown. He plans to continue - "The Lord willing and the creeks don't rise" for many years to come.