

**Subject:** [at]ac August 2015 | Freshmen arrive soon, SEPA interns, and more(Preview)  
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**From:** Austin College (sent by Austin College <noreply@list01.publishingconcepts.com>)  
**To:** Jake Stanley



### Summer Gives Way To New Academic Year



*Freshman Move-in day at Austin College*

*Shhhhh!* Hear anything? It's growing quiet on the Austin College campus. Summer courses are winding down. Student researchers are hanging up their lab coats. Youth who attended academic programs or camps have headed home.

But the sounds of silence won't last long. In a matter of days, the Class of 2019 arrives to begin an Austin College journey that will transform their lives.

An estimated 370 students--from 17 different states--are on their way. At least a dozen international students, primarily from Asia and Europe, will be among those heading to Sherman.

Whether from China, Spain or the United Kingdom, the new international students will join many fellow freshmen and upperclassmen contribute to the College's rich diversity. (Some 42% of the College community represent ethnic and racial minorities.)

The freshmen student count, which slightly surpasses others in recent years, aligns with goals to grow the size of the student body, per the current strategic plan, "[Adding Value to a Changing World: The Plan for Austin College 2015-2020](#)." This moderate growth is part of a sustainable revenue model that helps keep tuition affordable for families. Even with growth, Austin College's small classes remain a hallmark of every students' education.

### Students Make an Impact on Texoma Community

## August 2015 ALUMNI EVENTS

[None in August](#)

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## CAMPUS EVENTS

8/1-31  
[Visit Campus](#)

8/19  
[Summer Term Ends](#)

8/20-26  
[New Student Conferences](#)

8/24-26  
[New Student Registration](#)

8/26  
[Opening Convocation](#)

8/27  
[Fall Classes Begin](#)

[Full Event Calendar](#)

[Full Athletic Calendar](#)



*Austin College student Justin Hayward at The Sherman Museum*

This week Austin College student **Justin Hayward** '16 is completing a summer internship at The Sherman Museum. And, he says, he's feeling good--thanks, in part, to some new real-world skills.

Through the College's nationally-recognized Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) program, a collaborative program with Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) and US Government Grants, Justin learned how to write grants. To date, his efforts and those of other students have brought well over \$380,000 to Texoma non-profits.

This summer Justin and 21 other SEPA students went to work for some 20 nonprofits. Justin wrote a grant that secured \$6,000 to help preserve the museum's artifact collection. In addition, he's obtaining matching funds for building repairs. In 2014, regional organizations welcomed 20 students, who provided grant writing and general assistance.

Some years ago, Don Rodgers, associate professor of political science, spoke with local leaders about students and area agencies working together. Repeatedly, students had told him they wanted to help others, only they had no necessary skills. A grant writing initiative soon was underway.

Now the SEPA experience--agencies offering internships and students providing grant writing skills--is creating a new mindset, too. Last summer **Lindsey Womack** '16 became a SEPA summer intern, working for the Whitesboro Economic Development Corporation. During that experience, she says, "I saw a new side to this area." So rather than leave Sherman this summer, she chose to stay. "I felt like I could make more of a difference and be of more use here."

### **Career Services Recruiting Alumni Volunteers**



*Career Readiness event offers advice from alumni*

Austin College seniors may be heading into their final lap toward graduation, but they're also preparing for the big, real world. And that means job hunting.

Now through the Career Readiness Check event, seniors can get their first taste of what it's like to interview for a job. Austin College alumni professionals assist them in the Friday, September 25, day-long event, which includes a networking reception.

According to **Margie Norman** '83, director of Career Services, "The Career Readiness Check gives students the opportunity to practice interviewing and



present themselves in a much less intense and nerve-racking setting."

Norman points out that students--seniors, as well as juniors--have found the interview practice informative. Pairing students with professionals during the event has also led to internship and job offers. To date, almost 100 students have taken part in the fall event since it began in 2013.

Professionals interested in taking part can learn more at [www.austincollege.edu/crc-volunteer](http://www.austincollege.edu/crc-volunteer).

### Looking Back, Looking Forward



*Campus outdoor classroom*

*Small classes. Faculty who care. My mentor.* Ask Austin College alumni about their college, and quickly they tell you about their many sources of pride. Soon the new Class of 2019 will see too what makes the Austin College experience exceptional.

Students and faculty know that you value the quality liberal arts education that Austin College delivers. Please take a moment now to help us continue with our tradition. A gift of any size makes a difference. Simply go online to [www.austincollege.edu/support](http://www.austincollege.edu/support).

### Austin College 2014-15 Fundraising Impact



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