Commencement Is Almost Here

The "Commencement Countdown" is winding down. Before you know it, Student Assembly President Krishna Thenappan '16 of Henderson, Nevada, will ring the Sam Houston Bell. Bagpipers will play—and the processional with the Austin College Class of 2015 will file into Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court.

The ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17. This year over 280 Bachelor of Arts degrees are being awarded, along with 18 Master of Arts degrees through the Austin Teacher Program.

The Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, is giving the commencement address. Following graduation from The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, he earned a reputation for appellate excellence. At the age of 35, he successfully argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court (an accomplishment earned by less than one percent of lawyers in the country). Twice Chief Justice Jefferson made history in Texas, as the first African American Justice and as Chief Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas.

Austin College President Marjorie Hass will welcome families and friends. Senior Taylor Crouch of Round Rock, Texas, will speak on behalf of his fellow classmates. Then honorary degrees will be presented by Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Pineres, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, to five individuals: Patrick Ernest McCoy (Baccalaureate Speaker), Honorary Doctor of Divinity; Chief Justice Wallace Bernard Jefferson (Commencement Speaker), Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; Catherine Ann McLean '85, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; Clyde Lewis Hall '46, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; and Kenneth Willow Street, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Les Miserables Comes Alive

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a new community initiative—led by Austin College and Sherman Community Players—is bringing the stage version of Victor Hugo's Les Miserables to Sherman. The "One Idea, One Community" project includes lectures for the public presented by area partners Austin College, Grayson County College, Denison Public Library, Sherman Public Library, and Sherman Museum.

The NEA grant supports the performance as well as community engagement through the "One Idea, One Community" programming. Next Les Miserables talk about Hugo's story set in 19th-century France takes place at noon on Friday, May 8, at the Sherman Museum, featuring Austin College history professor Hunt Tooley. A "sneak peek" of the music of Les Miserables will be
presented at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at Ida Green Theater. Tickets are on sale at www.communityseries.net. For more information about the May 8 lecture call 903.813.2041. The musical, staged by the Sherman Community Players and Austin College, will run June 5 to 28 at Finley Playhouse. Tickets for June performances can be purchased through the Sherman Community Players Box Office.

**Lasting Lesson: Give Back**

The Class of 2015 learned many lessons while at Austin College. But one lesson, they say, will not be forgotten. It was all about giving. What donors did for them--supporting their education--they now want to do for others. So, they are proudly presenting to Austin College their Class Gift of $12,169.

There's no better time to make a gift to Austin College! Just go online www.austincollege.edu/support.

**Golden 'Roos Head to Campus**

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