



## August 2014

### Class Reunion Plans Are Set for Homecoming 2014

Calling all 'Roos! Austin College Homecoming 2014 will be here before you know it! **Celebration of 'Roo Nation** will be hoppin' from Thursday evening, October 30, through Sunday, November 2, including special programming for reunion year classes (those with class years ending in 4 or 9). The Homecoming brochure with a detailed schedule will be mailed in early September. In the meantime, here are some highlights.

This year's event kicks off on Thursday evening, October 30 with an Alumni and Friends Reading Group, the first of several Alumni College programs featuring Distinguished Alumna and *New York Times* best-selling author Deborah Crombie '76. Deborah is just one of the distinguished alumni who will be featured throughout the weekend as part of the 'Roos Who Write Alumni Writers Conference on Friday.

Friday evening's Distinguished Alumni and Volunteer Service Awards Dinner will honor graduates Tara Myers '76, Kim Powers '79, Sue Masica '83, and Craig Florence '84. Abbas Ravjani '04 will be honored as the First Decade Award recipient.

Saturday's events begin with the (new and improved) Faculty/Alumni Brunch featuring The Homesick Texan, *New York Times* best-selling author Lisa Fain '91. Plan to come hungry and sample some of Lisa's favorite recipes. At 11 a.m., come to the Outback for tailgating and Kangaroo football at 1 p.m. Reunion classes will have designated areas, so bring chairs, memorabilia, food to throw on the grill, coolers, and tailgating games--fun for the whole family!

Reunion classes will gather again for their official celebrations Saturday evening in the Big Tent next to Collins Alumni Center. The weekend concludes with Sunday morning's traditional Homecoming Worship and Memorial Service in Wynne Chapel at 10 a.m. Homecoming 2014 promises to be a special time of alumni connecting with old and new friends--so mark your calendars and gather your classmates!

Reunion classes can make a gift for their class year campaigns [here](#), and more details are being added each week on the [Homecoming](#) page. We'll see you on campus!

### A Huge Thank You for Record Giving in June

Austin College closed its 2014 fiscal year on June 30 with record-setting online giving in response to ***The Journey Continues*** Campaign. Throughout June, the College shared the "Journey" stories of current scholarship recipients via email and Facebook posts. The result? Nearly **1,000 participants** made over **650 gifts** of just under **\$225,000**, and the Facebook posts received over **1,000 likes**. In addition, the College saw the largest online giving day ever on June 30: 76 outright gifts. The balance of activity was in new pledges made--to sustain scholarships in future years as well.

The entire student body--including 350+ incoming freshmen--will benefit from the impact of every dollar given. Scholarships open doors for talented students to access education, and during Spring Term 2014, grateful students took time to learn more about the impact of giving during "Philanthropy Week." For several days during April, members of the organization STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow) hosted campus activities to share with their fellow 'Roos the power of giving by generous alumni and friends. Every gift matters, and the message of thanks that students proclaimed a few weeks ago is again sent to all who invested in Austin College during the past year. Thanks, 'Roo Nation, for making a difference!

## **New Schedule for 2014 Opening of School**

A Labor Day Opening Convocation has been the tradition at Austin College for many years, but for Fall Term 2014, classes begin one week earlier than usual. The change in schedule is allowing for an extended orientation time for incoming freshmen--who move in August 22--and the College's official opening of school ceremony will be held on Wednesday, August 27, at 7 p.m. The freshmen will be joined by faculty and graduating seniors--donning their graduation regalia for the first time--to march into Wynne Chapel for the Opening Convocation address by President Marjorie Hass.

More details for new students can be found on the [New Student Information page](#). Go 'Roos!