June 2011

**Breaking Ground on the IDEA Center**

It was a beautiful summer morning, perfect for breaking ground on the new IDEA Center. The ceremony included a welcome from President Marjorie Hass, as well as remarks from Robert M. Johnson '53, chair of the Austin College Board of Trustees; Larry Robinson, professor emeritus of physics; junior science major Carla Khalaf; and Bill Magers '85, mayor of Sherman. Chaplain John Williams '84, offered an invocation.

[See photos from the ceremony here!](#)

**Class of 2011 Goes Forward**

After years of hard work, members of the Austin College Class of 2011 took their final final exams, and all that remained before receiving their diplomas was a weekend of ceremony that included many words of encouragement and inspiration, coming from a variety of voices.

**Six Receive Fulbright Grants**

Five graduating seniors and a 2009 graduate were awarded Fulbright grants this spring and will spend the next academic year teaching English internationally. They are among 1,500 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2011-2012 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

**Legendary Coach Takes on New Role**

Mel Tjeerdsma, head football coach of the Austin College Kangaroos for 10 seasons, will join the Development team in the Austin College Institutional Advancement Division this fall, leading fundraising efforts for athletics enhancement in addition to other responsibilities.

**A Perfect Day for Swinging**

It was a perfect day for swinging, as a group gathered to dedicate the Eleanor Elizabeth Barker Memorial Garden on May 14, would agree. And, outside Dean Hall, the lovely campus garden where the friends met provided the perfect spot to remember the beautiful blonde-haired little girl who loved to swing.

**Calling All Former ’Roo Mascots**

Austin College will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Katy ’Roo at Homecoming 2011. Alumni who served as the ’Roo mascot during the past 50 years or who have stories to share about Katy are asked to call or email Sue Snider, 903.813.2192 with years "in the suit" or stories about the mascot.

**Alumni Named Best Doctors**

D Magazine's May 2011 issue includes "The Best Doctors in Collin County 2011," a listing of the top 230 physicians in 37 specialties as voted by their peers through a peer-review voting process. Five Austin College alumni were included in this year's list.
More News

Legends Weekend - July 15-17
Join us for a weekend of golf and memories as we honor Jerry Bishop '66 with the Coach Joe Spencer Award and induct a new group to the Hall of Honor. Reunion of Champions will be on Friday, with the Legends Gala Dinner on Saturday and the Slats McCord Golf Tournament on Sunday.

Football National Title Team to Enter Hall of Honor
The 1981 NAIA National Championship Austin College football team will be inducted into the college's Athletics Hall of Honor this summer. The 'Roo football team will be honored at the annual Legends Weekend, taking place July 15-17, in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the historic championship.

Austin College Athletes Earn Awards
The Austin College coaches and team members honored more than 40 student-athletes, including the Austin College male and female athletes of the year, in its annual Athletics Convocation on May 5 in Ida Green Theatre on the Austin College campus.

2011 Baseball Season Recap
It was an up-and-down season for the Austin College baseball team and first-year head coach James Rise as the 'Roos started the year slowly before coming on strong to close out the 2011 campaign. Austin College finished the year with an overall record of 11-24 and a SCAC mark of 6-14.

2011 Softball Season Recap
After the first 2-0 start in program history, the Austin College softball team hit a bumpy stretch in February and March in what proved to be an up-and-down season for the 'Roos as the team dropped 10 of its final 15 games to finish with a 15-25 overall record and a 6-10 mark in SCAC play.

Two from Women's Tennis Earn All-SCAC
Austin College women's tennis players Arianne Goddard and Minnie Satyavada have each been selected by the coaches of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference as All-SCAC performers.