

# [at]AC April 2019

## Congratulations to the Austin College Class of 2019!

**Formal Commencement activities** will begin with the **Baccalaureate service** on **May 18, at 7 p.m.** in **Wynne Chapel** where **Rev. John Wurster**, pastor of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, will deliver the message. The service will be preceded by a **reception at 2 p.m.** in the **Wright Campus Center Living Room** and is followed by a **Senior Party** in **Mabee Hall**, hosted by Student Life and the Senior Committee.

On Sunday, May 19, the Commencement Ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. on Clyde Hall Graduation Court on the north lawn of Caruth Administration Building. **Dr. Ruth Whiteside '64** will deliver the Commencement address. A trustee of the College, she recently retired as director of the Foreign Service Institute at the U.S. Department of State, capping her distinguished time as a career member of the Senior Executive Service of the agency.

In the event of rain, see the [Commencement Rain Plan](#). Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 1.800.467.6646 or by email at [alumni@austincollege.edu](mailto:alumni@austincollege.edu).



## College Debuts AC Writes Initiative

The campus was buzzing in early April with the roll-out of Austin College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *AC Writes*. The College must develop a new QEP every 10 years as required by SACSCOC (Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges) to maintain accreditation as a degree-granting higher education institution.

*AC Writes* will promote a culture of writing at Austin College by increasing opportunities for students to practice and reinforce their writing skills, offering classroom teaching support for faculty, and creating new resources for integrating writing and writing instruction. The Lemuel Scarbrough Center for Writing in Abell Library — created in 2016 by an estate gift of the late Mr. Scarbrough '58 — serves as the hub for this activity.

For its debut, *AC Writes* was highlighted across campus through posters and materials featuring students, faculty, and staff sharing statements of their engagement with writing.

Social Science student Michael Suresh '19 said, "...the tutors of the Scarbrough Center for Writing taught me to re-frame, rethink, and question the direction, formulation, and message of all my contemporary and forthcoming work. In other words, they helped me become more open-minded, which I believe to be one of the most beneficial attributes I have gained from attending Austin College."

## ON-CAMPUS NEWS



## We're Just Making This Up

**Epic Improv VII** on **May 4** will be a sensational, improvisational marathon by the Austin College Improv Troupe beginning at **3 p.m.** and ending at **midnight** at Ida Green Theatre in Ida Green Communication Center. The show is free and open to the public—come for a while, or come for it all.

There are four sets of improvisation, each performed with a 10-minute intermission, and a one-hour dinner break at 7 p.m. Kirk Everist, Associate Professor of Theatre, will narrate; John McGinn, Associate Professor of Music, will improvise music; and Dan Pucul '04 will

provide set and lights.

"Think of each two-hour set as an episode in a season of *Game of Thrones*, each one an engaging melodrama, made even richer by being part of a larger whole, the end of which is unknown," Everist said. "*Comedy is definitely a part of the picture, but with performances of this length we can explore an even broader emotional range, that can include musical numbers, dramatic confrontations, and characters with depth that people come to care about.*"

All theatre alumni and friends are invited to a **reception** with appetizers and drinks at **7 p.m.** in **Ida Green Lobby**. RSVP for the reception to Janet Clark at [jclark@austincollege.edu](mailto:jclark@austincollege.edu) or call 903.813.2419.



## Elite Scholarship Support

A dedicated team of faculty mentors is advising students from all disciplines at the College to pursue elite scholarship opportunities—and the results are exciting. Students can turn to an [online resource](#) to learn which scholarships best suit them and to read testimonies from students who have had life-changing opportunities in recent years. Austin College is proud to announce the 2019 recipients of these coveted international scholarships:

- Victoria Gilbert '21, Critical Language Scholarship to China
- Tianna Anderson '19, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Malaysia
- Audrey Lynne Jones '18, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain
- Julian Valdez Coronado '19, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Germany (Alternate)

Jennifer Johnson-Cooper, Associate Professor of Chinese & Director of East Asian Studies; Patrick Duffey, Professor of Spanish; and Scott Langton, Associate Professor of Japanese, presented the goals of the scholarship initiative at the recent Board of Trustees meeting and to visiting high school seniors on the ACE Day event for admitted students for fall 2019.



## ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT



### 'Roos Names New Head Women's Soccer Coach

"I am honored to join 'RooNation and bring my passion for athletics and academics to [Austin College](#). I look forward to working with a tremendous group of student-athletes and restoring a culture of winning. The women's soccer program will be built on core values such as *integrity, pride, competition, and academic excellence.*" – Michele Housden

[Read more about Coach Housden](#)



### Women's Water Polo Earns Individual Awards

In its first season of varsity competition, the Austin College Women's Water Polo team not only made some waves but also made history. The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the CWPA Division III Championship Tournament, and [Lexi Wong](#) was named the 2019 CWPA Division III Rookie of the Year. She and fellow freshmen [Brooke Le](#), [Presley Woods](#), and [Valery Piachonkina](#) have all been named All-CWPA.

## ALUMNI NEWS



### Fitzgerald Shares Chimpanzee Research

The Center for Environmental Studies hosted [Maegan Fitzgerald '09](#) on April 17 in IDEA Center. Now a doctoral student in primatology and wildlife sciences at the Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University, Japan, she is conducting research on the unique and fascinating behaviors of chimpanzees.

The behavior and ecology of chimpanzees have been topics of research in the Nimba region of Guinea, Africa, for more than 40 years. "During this time, the landscape providing resources for these chimpanzees, other wildlife, and many thousands of people has undergone intense changes. There is an urgent need to address these changes and identify sustainable ways to balance wildlife conservation with socioeconomic development," she said.



### Cashion Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Ty Cashion '79, is an award-winning historian, author of five books (with a sixth on the way), member of the prestigious Institute of Texas Letters, an Austin College Distinguished Alumnus, and now – 40 years after his graduation from Austin College, he's been inducted as an alumnus to the College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Cashion was the guest speaker at the 2019 Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony where he and 31 undergraduates were welcomed into the prestigious academic honor society.

Austin College chartered its PBK chapter on March 30, 2001, long after Cashion earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Economics. He continued his education at University of Texas at Arlington where he earned an M.A. in History and at Texas Christian University where he earned his Ph.D. in History. He has taught History at Sam Houston State University since 1999.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April

- 23 [An Evening with the President | Oklahoma City, OK](#)
- 24 [An Evening with the President | Tulsa, OK](#)
- 25 Honors Convocation
- 26-27 Aussie Spring Show
- 27 Sherman Symphony Orchestra & A Cappella Choir
- 29 Presbyterian Heritage Celebration

### May

- 2 [Athena Awards Celebration & Luncheon 2019](#)
- 4 [Theatre Improvathon VII and Reception](#)
- 6 Honors Thesis Reception
- 9 Athletics Awards
- 13 Last day of Spring Term classes
- 17-19 [Golden 'Roos Weekend](#)
- 17 End of Spring Term
- 18 [Baccalaureate](#)
- 19 [Commencement](#)
- 23 Dallas Huddle Up!
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday (Campus Closed)
- 28 [Dallas AlumNight](#)





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