



The hard hats are not "just for show" in the recent "Postcards from Austin College" video series. Institutional Advancement Communications staff members Christopher Maniet and Nick Hummert work with President Steven O'Day and First Lady Cece inside Ida Green Communication Center where construction is ongoing. The weekly messages help bridge the gap between the campus and students and alumni during the coronavirus disruption.



Celebrating 'Momentous Accomplishments'

Eight Austin College faculty members have been named to faculty chairs or professorships this spring. **Dr. Elizabeth Gill**, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty, said that the installations celebrate momentous accomplishments. "To endow a faculty chair or professorship is one of the most significant investments a donor can make to the College," Gill explained, "as the position honors the life's work of a faculty teacher/scholar. Likewise, an endowed chair or professorship is among the highest honors that can be bestowed on a faculty member.

These positions confer prestige to our faculty who do outstanding work in teaching, scholarship, and service to the institution."

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Bagby Receives Alpha Chi Benedict Fellowship

Shelby Bagby '20, from Forney, Texas, won a national Alpha Chi Benedict Fellowship for her honors thesis in Spanish, a study of two short stories by Spanish neurologist Santiago Ramón y Cajal. "Through this research project, I learned that it is perfectly acceptable to have multiple passions," Bagby said. "Like Santiago Ramon y Cajal, I enjoy literature, art, and science! I have certainly learned as a non-science, pre-med student that following the crowd is not the path for me—or Cajal. Happiness and fulfillment come from following your own dream."

Bagby is completing majors in business finance and Spanish, and a minor in biology. She will attend Texas Tech School of Medicine in Lubbock, Texas, this fall.



TEDxAustinCollege Announces 2020 Theme

The TEDxAustinCollege team announces Seeing Beyond! as the theme for the fall 2020 conference. The speaker lineup, which features faculty, alumni, and students, will be posted on the TEDxAustinCollege Instagram page later this week. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Tickets go on sale August 1.



Archer Shares Insight to 'Trust the Process'

Kelby Archer '09, coordinator for the Center for Environmental Studies, concluded the 2019-2020 Marsupial Mindfulness series with his thoughts on how to "trust the process" of living. In 2016, he left his job as a commercial television producer and stepped out on a one-year, no-agenda journey across the western United States. That experience, along with his study of philosophy and religion, led him to plan for when "the map no longer matches the territory."

More than 40 participants joined moderator Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan, professor of religious studies and Religious Studies Department chair, online Thursday, April 23, for Archer's talk titled—"Embracing Uncertainty in an Age of Calamity; Unconventional Advice from a Wanderer at Heart."

Marsupial Mindfulness: Contemplative Approaches in Higher Education was co-sponsored by Austin College Cunningham Lectures and Live Well—small steps to wellbeing.

[Watch Kelby's Marsupial Mindfulness lecture here...](#)



Alumnae Sew 'Roo-style Masks and Caps

With all the coronavirus safety guidelines in place, wouldn't it be cool to have a 'Roo mask? That question recently came up on the [Austin College Alumni Community Facebook page](#). Of course, it sounded good, but who was going to make them? Alumnae **Angela Steele McCormick '03** in Whidby Island, Washington, and **Stephanie Birch Robertson '05** in Austin, Texas, are collaborating with permission to design and sew custom masks and scrub caps using licensed Austin College colors and artwork. The interest was so high that McCormick and Robertson moved the operation from Facebook to McCormick's existing online store, [Steele Threads Handmade](#). This link for 'Roo masks and caps will be live only through May 1.

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Austin College donors, we thank you for ensuring
that students will continue to learn and thrive, even in
the midst of unprecedented global events.

