



## Austin College Commencement 2016!



The Austin College community celebrated the Class of 2016 on May 17 as seniors completed their undergraduate studies! Friends, family, and guests of the college joined our 260 graduates for a perfect morning. **Five distinguished guests** received honorary doctoral degrees, including Dallas Mayor Michael Rawlings, who delivered the Commencement address.

Graduation was a mostly serious affair with President **Marjorie Hass** granting students their degrees, and **Kirsten Brandt James** '85 welcoming them to the Alumni Association. But even in robes, the Class of 2016 made it a colorful event. Many students were spotted sporting elaborately decorated hats, unique ties, and of course a variety of tassels signifying their many academic accomplishments.

Check out all the photos here: [\*\*Commencement Photos\*\*](#)

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### **\$500,000 Matching Gift Received for Scholarships**



AUSTIN  
COLLEGE

Austin College alumnus **David Easterly** '65 has generously offered \$500,000 in matching funds for need-based scholarships. His generosity will allow your gift to have an even greater impact. For every dollar donated to scholarships between now and June 15, a matching dollar will be put toward immediate-use scholarship funds, and another dollar will be invested in the scholarship endowment. This allows you to help an incoming student afford an education now, and guarantees that future scholarships will be funded. Please visit the Austin College giving page for more information on how your generosity can have a lasting impact on the life of a student.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!**

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### **Legends Weekend is just 1 Month Away!**

The logo for Legends 2016. The word "Legends" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below it, the year "2016" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background features a yellow and orange sunburst or radial pattern.

**JULY 8-10**

Legends 2016, July 8-10 on campus, is just a month away! Austin College alumni, families, and friends will gather to celebrate and reminisce, starting with the 'Roos Reception at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 8.

On Saturday, July 9, the dinner and awards presentation will honor 2016 inductees **Mark Burtner '72**, **Tresy Ross Capelle '04**, **Kenneth Hillyard '94**, **John Leonard '76**, **Keith Powell '76**, **Chris Sanders '95**, and **John Womack '93**. The Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching will be presented to **David Norman '83**. Two outstanding coaches, **Ross Reedy '04** and **Kirk Thor '91**, will be honored with the Kedric Couch Alumni Coach of the Year Award.

The 34th Annual Slats McCord Golf Tournament will get underway Sunday, July 10.

Register for the event at [www.austincollege.edu/legends](http://www.austincollege.edu/legends), and contact Kate Shelley at [kshelley@austincollege.edu](mailto:kshelley@austincollege.edu) for information. The Athletics "A" Alumni Association urges alumni to sponsor student involvement in the weekend. See the [registration site](#) for details.

## Spotlight on 'Roo Accolades

Members of the Austin College family again participated in the behind-the-scenes workings of the Greater Dallas Business Ethics Awards, which honors Dallas-based companies demonstrating a measurable commitment to ethical business practices in everyday operations, management philosophies, and responses to crises or challenges.

**Dr. Mark Hebert**, associate professor of philosophy and Philosophy Department chair, served as a judge on the selection panel that chose four honorees for the May 2016 awards luncheon. A team of students from the Austin College Posey Leadership Institute, led by PLI director **Dr. Martinella Dryburgh**, participated in the judging process as student evaluators. The students' role is to visit each nominated company and review the award submission with company officials as well as make observations of company employees "in action." Student evaluators were **Elizabeth Pargaman '16**, **Karisma Sheth '17**, **Connor Cumption '18**, **Akshay Shetty '16**, **Lauren Mara '18**, **Kevin Butler '18**, and **Ethan Smith '17**. **Alicia Mistry '14**, now of Goldman Sachs, serves along with Dr. Dryburgh on the steering committee for this annual event. Thank you, 'Roos, for your commitment to servant leadership!

## NSF Grant Provides Scholarships for STEM Study



More than 73,000 jobs requiring sciences preparation are expected to be added to the North Texas workforce by 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Labor & National Center for O\*NET Development. Thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant announced in May, Austin College will be able to educate more science graduates to meet the growing need.

The NSF grant of nearly \$650,000 will allow Austin College to develop the "ACCESS" (Austin College's Career-Empowering STEM Scholars) program for academically talented and financially needy students majoring in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics in preparation for STEM careers. The program goal is to increase students' academic and employment success and increase the numbers of students pursuing STEM employment.

Not only does the grant allow Austin College to award six scholarships each year of up to \$10,000, renewable for up to four years, to qualified incoming freshmen for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, it will allow the College "to enhance current programs by growing the total number of students seeking a STEM career and creating an ecosystem of support for those students," said Dr. **Stephanie Gould**, associate professor of chemistry and principle investigator for the NSF grant and ACCESS program. The program will utilize curricular and co-curricular activities that enhance student success.

"Scholarships are the front line of providing students with high financial need a means to access the high-quality education that Austin College provides, but scholarships alone cannot assure a student has the ability to graduate in four years," Gould said. "Students must be provided with support tailored to their needs throughout their four years. This grant allows Austin College to provide scholarships and additional support through faculty mentoring, paid internships, and targeted programming."

[Click here to read more!](#)

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## Happening on Campus

- **Legends Weekend** - Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10, 2016
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**For more information on news and events of Austin College, follow us on social media.**



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Austin College, 900 N. Grand Ave. Suite 6G, Sherman, Texas 75090