



# AUSTIN COLLEGE

## Message to Austin College Class of 2020

Austin College has seen wars and pandemics before. While we never anticipated this semester playing out the way it has, we are once again reminded that our students are nothing if not resilient. And the class of 2020 has once again proven this with grace in the historic tradition of AC. Congratulations on completing your degree and thank you for providing future students an example of how to prevail in extraordinary times. The faculty of Economics and Business Administration is proud to call you alumni!

GO 'ROOS!

Economics and Business Administration

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AC 'Roos Class of 2020. These are extraordinary times, but I could not be prouder of how you have persevered in the face of adversity this semester. Watching how you adapted to events no one could have foreseen only solidifies my belief that you will make us proud as you navigate your lives. Congratulations on completing your degree and always remember that the challenges of life only serve to make you stronger. It has been an honor to serve as your professor and Department Chair.

Kevin

Congratulations on completing your Austin College studies. It has been my honor to work with you as business professor, dean, and faculty advisor. While COVID has upset many of our campus routines, it has not changed the college's lifetime commitment to your success as students, community and family members, citizens, employees, and entrepreneurs. Please let us know if we can help in the weeks and years to come. Most importantly, please stay in touch.

Best wishes,  
David

Although we celebrate your graduation in absentia, I am very proud of you and your impressive academic achievements. I am also moved by your remarkable resilience throughout this challenging time. You are ready - more than you may think you are - for the next chapter in your lives and careers. Go out there and do great things!

Miki Mohammed

Congratulations to the Austin College Class of 2020! I am amazed at the many talents that you all represent and I'm excited to see the wonderful ways you're going to change the world. There are challenges ahead of you but your resilience and determination will help you overcome them. Good luck to you all!

Martinella Dryburgh, Ph.D.

While we are celebrating your milestone accomplishment differently this year, I want to specifically emphasize the magnitude of your success. You have proven that despite obstacles unpredicted by the world, you had the ability and determination to overcome the unknown and achieve the goal as originally planned.

This resilience, which some of you discovered for the first time in your last semester of college, will be needed in your future. Adapted from "To a Mouse" by Robert Burns, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry". However, when life diverted your plans, you responded with tenacity.

So, I want to leave you with one more thought as your professor, since you are now my fellow alumni. This quote was given by Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer of Facebook, "The easy days ahead of you will be easy. It is the hard days – the times that challenge you to your very core – that will determine who you are."

Shannon

I congratulate each and every one of you in achieving this important milestone—You are DONE! You have GRADUATED! And, you did while surviving a Pandemic. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING! I am so proud of you and I know you are going to do great things in this new world. Keep well and keep in touch

Ashley

“It is of course sad that we have ended the semester with a model of student/professor interaction that is in direct opposition to the Austin College liberal arts teaching tradition. Somehow, however, such an unfortunate experience may serve you well, as you navigate the uncharted waters of a future family of your own and a career ; both of which will have its own set of challenges and yet, be offset by astonishing rewards. This I know, all of you are such special, brave individuals. You have shown exceptional academic work. You have exemplified care and empathy for others. We are obviously extremely proud of you, wishing you all good fortune. Please do not forget about us. We will always remember you, and hope you will return many times to Austin College for a welcomed visit.”

Warmly,  
Prof. Nuckols

Seniors 2020 - I am very proud of you. Every class has its challenges but you are in a special group of unique challenges. Let's hope that you look back at this, 50 years from now, and realize that you were the only class to face this "change to remote classes" in the middle of a semester. The fact that you could face that and finish strong just shows that you are prepared for your next set of challenges. I wish each of you "Great Success". Stay in touch and let us know of your future milestones.

Steve Ramsey

Congratulations, and Thank You! I congratulate you on your well-earned graduation. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we all worked together to adapt to these strange times. You not only had to accept the cancellation and postponement of all traditional senior year celebrations but also had to brace yourself to face an economic condition that threatens any assumptions about the immediate future after graduation. The once-unimaginable challenges that you faced in the days leading up to your graduation will not be the last challenge that you face in your life. However, I am confident that you will thrive even in these unsettling times. Your well-rounded liberal arts education at this great, little institution equipped you to face bigger challenges, to think deeply about complex problems, to lean into hard work, and to lead. I am immensely proud of you, and I believe you will all strive to make a positive impact on your world. Congratulations again! I wish you the best of luck as you begin the next chapters of your incredible journeys. Keep in touch and come back to see us when you can. Go Roos!

Syed