The Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court will be quiet Sunday—beautiful as always, yet quiet. At the close of Spring Term 2020, graduating seniors will mark their achievement at home and look forward to the on-campus celebrations scheduled for August 8-9.

Virtual Baccalaureate Scheduled for Facebook Live

Austin College will host a Virtual Baccalaureate at 7 p.m. on May 16, coinciding with the originally scheduled Baccalaureate service for the Class of 2020 on campus. All are welcome to participate in the service live on Facebook.

From Work Study to College Presidency; Alumnus Named to SOSU Top Spot

Dr. Thomas Newsom ’91 took office as the 21st president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant on April 30—beginning his leadership in a time of complexity amid remote learning and social distancing. He is confident as he takes on the challenges.

“As we navigate a changing world, I look back on my time as a student at Austin College and become more grateful for how my experience prepared me to become a solutions-oriented decision maker,” said Newsom, a student-athlete who completed a major in communications. “Austin College gave me a strong foundation that has allowed me to work through challenges from a base of knowledge, empathy, and understanding of how decisions affect the world around me. My experience at Austin College, both inside and outside the classroom, is one that I often reflect on when working to ensure the success of our university students, faculty, and staff.”

Newsom has had a successful and progressive career in higher education, though such a journey was not at all on his agenda as an Austin College student. He originally anticipated attending law school, but an on-campus job may well have created his career path.

Texas Tech at Austin College

Virtual Informational Session

Wednesday, May 13, at Noon CDT

The new Texas Tech University at Austin College program offers hybrid formats for postgraduate degrees conferred by Texas Tech. Options include: in-person classes taught on Austin College campus, classes joined remotely and taught live at Texas Tech University, and, for full-flexibility—all classes taught online.

• Master of Arts in Technical Communication
• Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Innovation
• Master of Arts in Public Administration

Faculty Collaborate with McKinney Public Library

Three Austin College faculty members have “gone public” with unique programming taught live, online with the McKinney Public Library System in McKinney, Texas. Through the collaboration, Mindy Landeck, assistant professor of East Asian Studies; Tom Blake, assistant professor of English; and Karla McCain, professor of chemistry; Zoom into the homes of eager learners to talk about topics such as tea in Japan, vampires in literature, and women in science.
Alumni Office Launches Business Directory; 'Roo Business Owners Invited to Apply

The Office of Alumni Engagement has developed a business directory for 'Roo-owned businesses and services. With close to 24 business categories, listings include business name, logo, description, physical and website addresses, and contact information. Application and listing are free, once approved. Contact Alex Haj ‘18, assistant director of Alumni Engagement, 903.813.2196, for more information. View the Business Directory here.

Apply Here

We're Making This Up As We Go

The Austin College Improv Troupe is staging its traditional Epic Improv event in a most untraditional, multi-episode Facebook live event. Improvisation began Sunday, May 10, and will continue daily through this week with John McGinn, associate professor of music, accompanying in real time on piano. Log on, listen, and laugh.

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Double Your Impact

for students like Lois Bronaugh ‘20

Now your gift to Austin College goes twice as far, thanks to the support of David ‘65 and Judy Easterly. Every gift made to the Austin College Emergency Response Effort will be matched, dollar-for-dollar up to $500,000. Please help support Austin College continue to deliver its mission to our students, faculty, staff.