



The TEDxAustinCollege 2020 Seeing Beyond speakers delivered ideas worth sharing to the first in-person audience in the newly renovated Sally and Jim Nation Theatre in Ida Green Communications Center. The TEDx conference was organized and produced by students who have been working together since January. Speakers were Betsy Walling Furler '89; Dr. David Whelan, Associate Professor of Physics; Brittnay Connor '14; Timothy Crossley '20; and Mack Bolen '21. [Nominations are now open for 2021 TEDxAustinCollege speakers.](#)



## Stay at Home with RooNation

Mark your calendar for some exciting virtual events!

Austin College 'Roos everywhere are invited to a week of fun and free online events at **Virtual Homecoming 2020**. See the schedule below. If you'd like to schedule a virtual reunion, hosted by Austin College for your class year or affinity group (such as choir, law, Greek, etc.) please email [Alex Haj](#), Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement, for more information.

**Tuesday, October 13 | Noon | Available on Facebook**  
President O'Day: State of the College

**Wednesday, October 14 | 7 p.m. | Zoom**  
Book Talk: Rules for Being Dead with Kim Powers '79

**Thursday, October 15 | 7 p.m. | Zoom**  
Austin College Trivia Night with Marc Parrish '84

**Friday, October 16 | Noon | Zoom**  
Williams Executive-in-Residence Lecture with Melissa Thompson '84

**Friday, October 16 | 4:30 p.m. | Zoom**  
Career Services Alumni Panel: Don't Wait for Opportunities, Create Them!  
with Alyssa Banta '90, Courtney Smith '00, Thomas Locke '04, Landon Powell '04, Bobby Patel '11

**Sunday, October 18 | 6 p.m. | Zoom**  
Homecoming Worship Service with John Williams '84

[Register here...](#)



### Students and Faculty Get a 7th-Week Stretch

After seven weeks of class, in-person and remote, the Austin College students take **Fall Break** tomorrow, **October 9**. All classes are suspended for the day, and students who live on campus or are approved commuters are invited to enjoy fun on-campus activities planned with COVID protocols enforced.

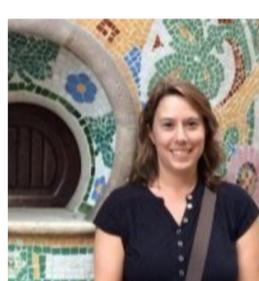
Students who are regularly on campus should minimize possible exposure to coronavirus and are asked not to travel over the long weekend.



### Crimson & Gold Are Austin College's Official Colors, but Green Runs Deep

**Environment Texas** has again recognized Austin College for its commitment to renewable energy. The group recently released a **report** that lists Austin College as one of more than 40 colleges and universities around the country to achieve 100% renewable energy use for its electrical needs. In 2019, Environment America, Environment Texas's parent organization, listed Austin College as second in the nation for renewable electricity use per full-time student.

[Read More...](#)



### Elena Olivé Wins International Award

**Dr. Elena Olivé**, Austin College Associate Professor of Spanish, is one of 10 recipients around the world of the "Josep Maria Batista i Roca – Memorial Enric Garriga Trullols" Award from the Institut de Projectió Exterior de la Cultura Catalana (The Institute of Foreign Projection of Catalan Culture.)

The prize has been awarded for 32 consecutive years to Catalan and Catalan-born residents outside of Catalonia who have distinguished themselves in maintaining the Catalan presence in the world and in promoting Catalan culture abroad. Enric Garriga Trullols, for whom the award is named, was an activist for Catalan independence. In the mid-1970s, Trullols co-founded the IPECC and later served as the institute's president until his death in 2011. An award presentation in Barcelona is scheduled for this fall; whether it will be held in person or through virtual channels is not yet determined.

[Read more...](#)



## ALL-CLASS GIVING CHALLENGE

We are excited to announce the new **All-Class Giving Challenge!** for Austin College Virtual Homecoming 2020. From now until October 17, you can challenge your classmates, friends, and fellow 'Roos to participate in the competition for TOP CLASS of Homecoming 2020.

The class with the highest increase in percentage of donors between October 3 and October 17 will win TOP CLASS honors. A gift of any size qualifies for the **All-Class Giving Challenge!** After you give, share your participation on social media using #austincollege.

Which class will claim TOP CLASS for this year's celebration? Watch for updates on the official Austin College social channels! **Make your gift now**, and join the fun. Go 'Roos!



### COVID-19 Testing Yields Few Positive Cases

The first round of mandatory testing for COVID-19 at Austin College began on September 15, and of 1,473 tests given to students, faculty, and staff, **only eight positive cases** were reported. The PCR oral swab tests are administered on campus by **GoGetTested**. The testing site is set up and free tests are available to the Austin College community and to the public.

On October 1, Austin College began random COVID-19 testing to identify symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers of the virus. Students, faculty, and staff who learn, live, or work on campus are tested as part of a comprehensive strategy that includes a daily health screen, contact tracing, and ongoing surveillance of data trends.

