



♥ Give Where Your Heart Is! ♥

This month's newsletter is filled with student success stories—stories made possible in large part by gifts to the College from friends and alumni like you. **Austin College Giving Day**, March 30, is a 24-hour fundraising campaign in support of the College's greatest needs. Annual support is more important now than ever. With the unique challenges of COVID-19 over the past year, Austin College has been able to positively pivot for the benefit of our students, and now join us as we celebrate student success and our first Giving Day!

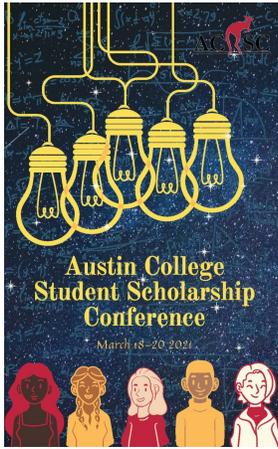


Ninth Annual ACSC Student Scholarship Conference Goes Virtual

The annual ACSC Student Scholarship Conference of student-faculty collaborative projects and independent student projects are available worldwide with virtual access to the event from March 18 through March 20.

The celebration of students' academic endeavors is sponsored by the Center for Research, Experiential, Artistic & Transformative Education (CREATE) and includes projects from Biology, Chemistry, Math, Psychology, Physics, Public Health, Leadership, Economics, Neuroscience, Music, and Theatre.

Beginning March 18, anyone can attend the conference by following the [link](#) at ACSC. A music recital and theatre production will be synchronously livestreamed; all other research presentations will be available on demand for 48 hours. Rachel Young is the winner of the annual ACSC cover artwork contest.

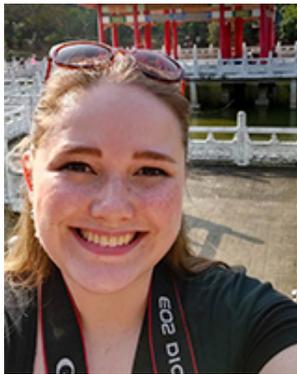


Two Seniors Designated as Fulbright Semi-Finalists

Victoria Gilbert '21 and **Elizabeth Parker '21** have been designated Fulbright Semi-Finalists by the Fulbright National Screening Committee.

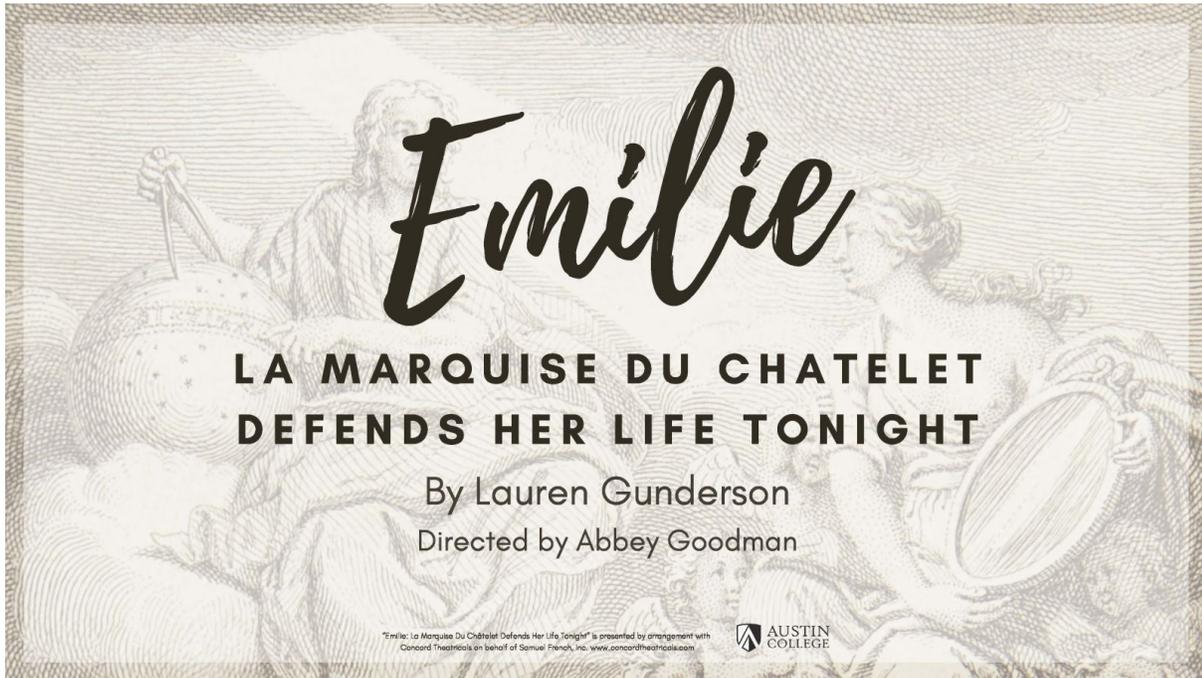


Gilbert is a semi-finalist for study in the Master of Arts Program in Brand and Fashion Management at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. Victoria began teaching herself Mandarin during elementary school using resources from the library. She continued her independent studies with Rosetta Stone software and eventually worked with a tutor. At Austin College, she took all the Chinese classes she could, and spent a semester in Suzhou, China, in an intensive language program.



Parker is a semi-finalist for an English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan. She recalls sitting in class during January 2020 when a headline caught her eye about a virus in Wuhan, China. Elizabeth traveled to Taiwan in Spring Term 2020 for a month before returning to the U.S. because of COVID. During that time, she widened her studies in International Politics and created an Honors Thesis in East Asian Studies focusing on the democratic growth and power of Taiwan. Her career plans for a law degree have expanded to include a joint degree program in International Affairs.

[Read More...](#)



Student-Directed Play Tells the Story of the 18th-Century French Physicist

As a salute to women in science, **Abbey Goodman '21** directs *Emilie La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight*, a play by Lauren Gunderson. The story recounts the life of 18th-century French physicist Emilie du Chatelet as she seeks to find out what really matters and finally know whether love or science is the driving force of the universe.

Showtimes for *Emilie* are March 18, March 19, and March 20 at 7:30 p.m.; livestream and in-person tickets are available at no charge. The limited in-person seating is available only to on-campus students, faculty, and staff who will be required to follow the Austin College COVID protocols for health and safety.

[Reserve a ticket here](#)

[Read more...](#)

Memories Become Paintings on Display



Austin College Professor of Art Mark Smith has an exhibition of new paintings on display at Craighead Green Gallery in Dallas through April 3. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday afternoons, though visitors should check for specific hours before arriving. Smith encourages visitors, saying that he feels safe since the space is large so that everyone can observe COVID protocols. Masks are required.

Smith's new Bobbin Series comes from his childhood and memories of his paternal grandmother, who raised him. When Mark was five, she taught him to sew, and he "learned about the magic, mystery and power of thread, bobbins, and beautiful old machines that hummed and made amazing patterns in colored lines that seemed to flow and float across the fabric surface like music coming from an open window."

He turned to those solid memories when COVID-19 left the world a bit

wobbly. His “Bobbin Series” is a homage to his grandmother, the art he learned from her, and her guidance in his life. Smith, who holds the Craig Professorship in the Arts at Austin College, joined the College faculty in 1986.



Austin College Continues All COVID-19 Safety Protocols

Today marks one year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic, and life at Austin College changed dramatically for the health and safety of our community. Spring Break 2020 rolled into remote learning for all, followed by a summer spent preparing for both in-person and remote learning in the academic year 2020-2021.

Safe distancing, hand washing, and wearing face masks, mandatory and surveillance COVID testing, daily health screens, and lots of communication have helped slow the spread of the virus on campus. As the COVID vaccinations continue to be made available across the country, Austin College looks forward to the future. Meanwhile, all students, faculty, staff, and approved visitors will continue to follow COVID safety guidelines as recommended by the CDC.

[COVID Updates](#)

In Memoriam



Dr. Thomas Nuckols

Emeritus Professor of Religion

September 21, 1933 – February 21, 2021

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