After the most unusual academic year, Austin College graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 entered the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court in full regalia...and masks. Guests at the Commencement Ceremony were seated in safely distanced chairs as safety protocols were kept in place.

COVID Vaccination for a Healthy Return

The President’s COVID Health Task Force encourages all members of the Austin College community to be fully vaccinated before the return to campus in mid-August. This video message from Dr. Santhia Banjara, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Co-director of the Public Health Program, answers important questions about the vaccination.

Parker Named as Fulbright English Teaching Assistant to Taiwan

“By teaching English to Taiwanese students, I will have served them in giving them a new cultural perspective while growing in my own,” said Elizabeth Parker, an Austin College Class of 2021 summa cum laude graduate selected as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. “My goal as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Taiwan is to create a classroom in which my students can learn more about the world outside of their country. I want the students to feel empowered by the education they receive through my time as a Fulbright teacher.”

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All Gifts Make a Difference

Our donors’ generous support makes a difference in every corner of our campus. We are excited to share that we now accept Venmo and PayPal! Giving is easier than ever—make your gift before June 30 to support the next generation of ‘Roos. Thank you, ‘RooNation!
Mamma Mia Lights Up the Nation Theatre

Austin College and Sherman Community Players have partnered to present Mamma Mia, with music and lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus based on the book by Catherine Johnson.

As the first theatrical production in the newly renovated Sally and Jim Nation Theatre in Ida Green Communication Center, Mamma Mia is directed by SCP Artistic Director Josh Harris.

The cast includes several Austin College community members: Lilly Boessen ’23, Marissa Brown ’18, Ed Richardson ’95, and Associate Director of Digital Design Production Christopher Maniet. Associate Professor of Theatre Liz Banks and Technical Coordinator of Nation Theatre Dan Pucul have participated as members of the professional production and design team.

The show runs through June 27, in-person with masks required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Purchase tickets at www.scptheater.com or at the door if seats are available. For more information call 903.892.8818.

Richardson Receives Austin College Teaching Award

Dr. John Richardson received Austin College’s 2021 Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership Award at Honors Convocation in April.

A member of the science faculty since 2008, Richardson was named professor of biochemistry in 2020. That year, he also was installed as the Richardson Chair for the STEM Teaching and Research Leadership Program, a program he helped to establish over the last several years.

Commencement Continues Under Cloudy Skies

After days of rain, the morning of May 22 was overcast and cool for the Commencement Ceremony for the Classes of 2020 and 2021. Families and friends gathered on the Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court and many others watched via Livestream as close to 400 graduates crossed the stage and were greeted by President Steven P. O’Day. Go to the Commencement page for photos, video of Baccalaureate and Commencement, and a complete list of graduates in the Commencement program.
In Memoriam

Dr. Anne Fuller
Former VP of Academic Affairs
Died May 22, 2021

Cecil Isaac
Professor Emeritus of Music
Founding Director of Sherman Symphony Orchestra
Died May 30, 2021