

[at]AC  
Monthly Edition  
MARCH 2023



**Carpe Diem!** Today members of the Class of 2025 and transfer students were honored at the inaugural **Austin College Declaration Day**, an event that marks their progress toward graduation with the declaring of academic majors and minors. **President Steven P. O'Day** welcomed the students and presented each one with a commemorative coin. Other guests at the luncheon included members of the faculty, Center for Student Success and Access Services, Registrar's office, and Center for Career and Professional Development.

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## **Alumni Board Nominations Due Soon; Serve the College You Love**

The **Austin College Alumni Board** is seeking new members to serve in the upcoming year. Would you like a role in promoting the interests of the College? The Alumni Board helps in several ways, such as helping plan and advertise college-related events for alumni; expressing the ideas, opinions, and concerns of Austin College alumni; raising awareness of the mission and programs of the College, including programs in which alumni can participate; and honoring faculty, staff, and alumni who have distinguished themselves in their field of endeavor. **Applications due by March 31, supporting materials by April 15.**

**[Learn More and Make Your Nomination!](#)**

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## **Thank you for your generosity!! Giving Day 2023 Helps Build a Bright Future**

On March 7, 2023, 'RooNation came together from every corner for 24 hours to fuel the passions we hold dear at Austin College for **Giving Day**. We want to say thank you.

Together, **you contributed over \$570,000 from 421 gifts**, with Austin College advocates raising

more than \$18,000. Alumni in five cities reconnected at special AlumNight events. No matter when or where you gave, you helped advance critical programs, scholarship support, and our commitment to providing a world-class education and experience.

The success of this year's Giving Day is a testament to the wonderful people, like you, whose support makes this campus such a special place.

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## Choir Set to Tour for First Time in Three Years

The Austin College A Cappella Choir and ensembles will be performing on tour in southeastern Virginia from March 31 through April 3. Alumni, parents, and friends in the area are invited to a special time of music including classical, contemporary, gospel, and jazz.

The concerts are free and open to the public; dates, locations, and times are listed here:

**First Presbyterian Church-Richmond**, 4602 Cary Street Road, Richmond, VA, Friday, March 31, 7 p.m.

**Williamsburg Presbyterian Church**, 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA, Saturday, April 1, 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 2, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Wycliffe Presbyterian Church**, 1445 North Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA, Monday, April 3, 7 p.m.

[Read More](#)

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## ACSC Begins Today

### Student Researchers Featured from All Disciplines

The 11th annual **Austin College Scholars Conference** (ACSC) begins Thursday, March 23, with *Raise Your Voice: First Gen* poetry presentations and will continue through the weekend with poster sessions, panel discussions, a music recital, and an art show.

ACSC is sponsored by the Center for Research, Experiential, Artistic & Transformative Education (CREATE), with **Dr. David Whelan**, professor of physics, serving as coordinator; **Dr. Mikidadu**



**Mohammed** is associate coordinator.

Congratulations to **Maddie Wilson '23** whose artwork was selected to promote the conference. Maddie graduates in May with majors in Business Administration and Graphical and Human Interface Design. She is on the board for Service Station, is an intern for Institutional Marketing and Communications, and played on the AC Women's Soccer team. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Digital Design in Business at UNC-Chapel Hill.

[ACSC 2023 Schedule](#)

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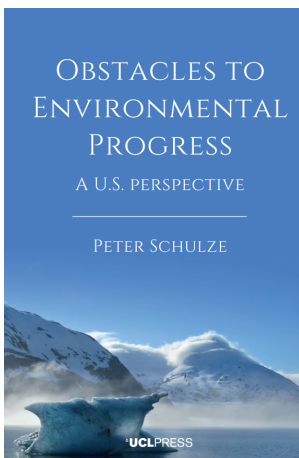
# Save the Date!

## *Austin College Alumni Weekend in the Hill Country*

*Fredericksburg, Texas  
May 5 & 6, 2023*

*Mark your calendar for a weekend of good friends, good food, and good wine!*

*Contact Kristi Lucchese at [Klucchese@austincollege.edu](mailto:Klucchese@austincollege.edu)*

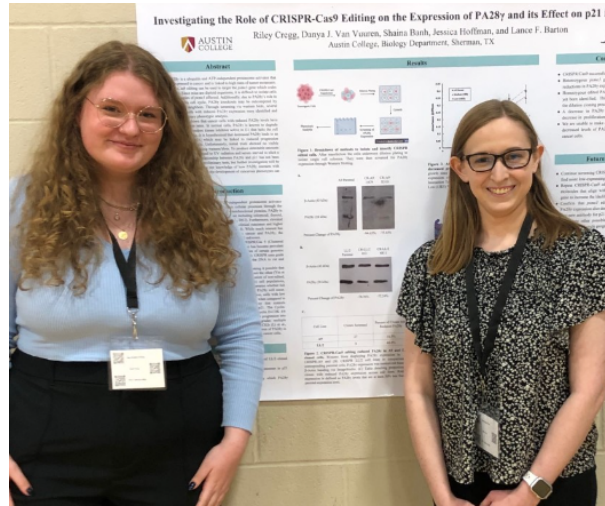


### **Schulze Addresses Common Obstacles to Progress for Environmental Issues**

Millions of people are aware of environmental problems, but progress has been slow. Why? *Obstacles to Environmental Progress: A U.S. Perspective*, by **Dr. Peter Schulze** and published open-access by University College London Press, aims to help readers anticipate obstacles and thus hasten environmental progress.

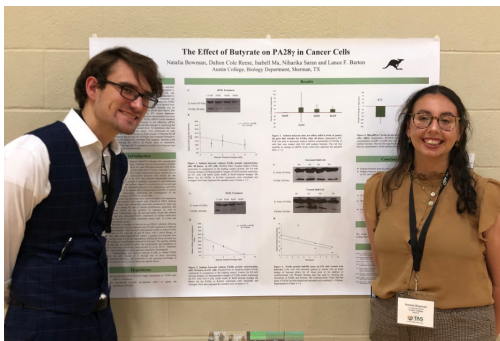
Schulze is a professor of biology and environmental science at Austin College where he also directs the Center for Environmental Studies and the Sneed Prairie Restoration. During his time as Center director, the College has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 60% and ranked second nationally in renewable energy use per student. The prairie project received the 2020 Texas award for excellence in environmental education.

[Read More](#)



## Students Present Cancer Research; Two Win Best Undergraduate Poster

Austin College juniors **Natalia Bowman, Riley Cregg, Cole Reese, and Danya Van Vuuren** along with Dr. Lance Barton, professor of biology, attended the 126th Annual Meeting for the Texas Academy of Science (TAS) at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, March 3-4, 2023.



The students presented two posters related to cancer research from the biology department. Cregg and Van Vuuren were recognized for best undergraduate poster presentation in the Molecular and Cellular Biology category.

In addition to the presentations, Cregg and Bowman had each submitted proposals for an undergraduate research award competition. Cregg earned second place and \$1,500 for her research proposal and Bowman earned third place and \$1,000 for her research proposal. The projects are to be completed before the 2024 TAS meeting.

Attendance at the conference was made possible by funding from Austin College alumnus **Dr. Larry Driver'76**. The Texas Academy of Science (TAS) is an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) with a mission to foster student mentorship and research excellence through annual scientific meetings and the publication of the Texas Journal of Science.

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***Watch online!***

**AC Esports Team Competing in SCAC Esports Showdown**

The AC Esports (ACE) team travels to the San Antonio Tech Port esports arena for the [2023 SCAC Esports Showdown](#) on March 24-25. Austin College is competing in each of the five games played in the Showdown including League of Legends, Valorant, Rocket League, Apex Legends, and Smash Bros Brawl. Dr. Brett Boessen, associate professor of media studies, is the faculty sponsor for the 30 gamers and livecast commentators.

ACE members have competed weekly this spring in preparation for the Showdown and will be facing gamers from Colorado College, Concordia (Texas), Hendrix College, McMurry University, Schreiner University, Southwestern University, and Trinity University.

**[Watch 'Roos @ SCAC Showdown!](#)**

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**PARENTS**

**ALUMNI**

**CALENDAR**



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