The 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Celebration drew a large crowd to Ida Green Communication Center's Sally and Jim Nation Theatre on Monday, January 16. The 19th annual celebration, themed "Action Through Education and Community Engagement," was sponsored by Grayson County Rotary Club, Sherman Rotary Club, and Austin College.

Pictured above: (front, left to right) Event emcees Kaitlyn Malone '23 and Clemon White '24, student speaker Rebecca Osei '23, keynote speaker Jimmy Petty, Sherman High School Interact Club Members Miles Drenner, Sam Alam, and Leif Inocian, (back, left to right) Psychology professor Dr. Lisa M. Brown, Vice President for Student Affairs/Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Dr. Carlos Lassiter, Grayson County Rotary President Paul Manley, Sherman Rotary President Paul Terrell, NAACP Grayson County Branch President Dr. Al Hambrick '79, and President Steven O'Day.
AC Welcomes Special Olympians Back to Campus for JanServe 2023

In a long-awaited return to tradition, Austin College students welcomed about 300 participants from nearby school districts to campus for the Special Olympics Basketball Skills Competition. The students and Austin College volunteers met in Hughey Gym on the morning of January 18 for friendly competition and fun.

JanServe activities continued into the afternoon as Austin College volunteers served as readers in elementary and middle school classrooms in Sherman. JanServe is a collaboration between Austin College Service Station and Sherman Independent School District.

[Watch the News Story]
Alumna Shares Cancer Research Insight at Annual Forum

Austin College hosted the 8th Women’s Health Forum and Student Research Showcase titled “Modeling Cancer Progression and Impact of DNA Repair Regulation” on November 29, 2022. Ayesha Shafi ’09 Ph.D., assistant professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, was the keynote speaker.

Shafi focuses her research at USU on defining the mechanisms and biomarkers of therapeutic resistant prostate cancer to develop better treatment strategies.

Dr. Lance Barton, biology professor, coordinates and oversees the conference. He said, “We always ask the keynote speaker to present about their career journey and their academic training, as well as their own research into cancer biology or women’s health issues. The goal is to engage the broader college community in discussions of diseases, research, and aspects of public health that will affect all of us directly or indirectly.”
Nominations are Open For 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Nominations are open for the annual Austin College Distinguished Alumni Awards and the First Decade Award. Deserving alumni have sustained distinguished accomplishments in any field of work or service. Distinguished alumni are recognized for representing themselves and Austin College in an honorable way. All nominations and supporting materials must be received by February 28, 2023.

Nomination Criteria and Online Form
JanTerm Classes Meet On Campus, Off Campus, Around the World

Students in the Korean Language and Culture JanTerm class visited a Korean temple in Richardson, Texas where they learned about meditation and Buddhism from a monk who lives there. The class, taught by visiting Economics instructor Dr. Soo Choi, investigates the culture, traditions, food, and language behind the "Korean Wave" sweeping international pop culture.

The 2023 JanTerm classes range from the science and culture of wine to beginning ballet, along with many other unique topics. Seven classes are studying abroad, while many have traveled domestically to Oklahoma, New York, and within Texas. JanTerm offers short-term adventures that create long-lasting memories.