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Monthly Edition

MAY 2023



Commencement exercises for the Class of 2023 were held Saturday, May 20, on Clyde L. Hall Graduation Court with 15 Master of Teaching degrees and 275 Bachelor of Arts degrees conferred. [Graduates are listed online](#), and a photo gallery will be available online in the near future.



AUSTIN
COLLEGE

— *Announces* —

**A Historic Gift for
Full-Tuition Scholarships**

President Steven P. O’Day, J.D., L.H.D., has announced the largest single gift in the College’s history, a \$20 million bequest from the estate of Clifford J. Grum of Lufkin, Texas. The bequest will provide full-tuition scholarships for eligible students, beginning in 2024-2025. Grum’s gift comes at an exciting time as the College prepares to celebrate its 175th academic year since its founding in 1849.

“In this time of rising costs, the bequest adds to Austin College’s robust gift-aid program and its unwavering commitment to remove financial barriers for a college education,” said President O’Day. “The gift bolsters the College’s resources to support young people preparing for careers and service in a changing world.”

[Read the whole exciting story.](#)





2023 Faculty Awards Recognize Excellence in Teaching

Each year, Austin College recognizes excellence in teaching with two awards including the College's nominee to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Professor Award and the Austin College Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Award. The 2023 Austin College Piper Professor Nominee is **Dr. Ashley Tharayil**, associate professor of economics. The Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Award recipient is **Dr. Andrea Overbay**, associate professor of mathematics.

Two recipients were named for the 2023 Homer P. Rainey Award: **Dr. Ricky Duhaime**, professor of music, and **Kim Snipes** (posthumously), biology lab coordinator and adjunct instructor in biology. Snipes' husband, Dr. Wayne Meyer, accepted the award on her behalf.

[Read more](#)



Lake Campus is Open for Austin College Community Members

The Memorial Day holiday often signals the start of summer fun on the lake. The Robbie Kubela Rogers Lake Campus of Austin College is available to members of the College community (faculty, staff, students, and alumni) for recreational activities, retreats, and meetings. Badge ID is required.

The Lake Campus is open only for day use from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There are restroom and shower facilities on-site, as well as a covered pavilion.

Alumni may access the lake campus with a valid Austin College ID. To request a validated badge, please contact Austin College Campus Police by phone during business hours at 903.813.2555 or by email to acpd@austincollege.edu. (Validated badges may be mailed to you or picked up on campus.)

[Lake Campus Information](#)



Alumnus Ranks 5th in World Benchpress

Seth Howard '20 competed in the International Powerlifting Federation World Benchpress Championship on May 23, in Sun City, South Africa. He ranked 5th in the world for the 74 kg Open Division. Representing the USA team for the second time, Howard says he was excited to be in a country that he might not have otherwise visited. "This competition has competitors from 21 countries, and I will get the chance to interact with and meet people from all over the world. I am excited to finally compete on a world stage for Team USA." Seth works as a data scientist at Reinsurance Association of America.



New Opportunity Celebrates Cultures and Identities

A new initiative to celebrate culture and identity was offered to members of the Class of 2023 with the presentation of representative stoles at the first Multicultural Stole Ceremony. The event on May 3 featured student speakers **Traelyn Marsh '23** and **Mariagisse Morales '23**, and performances by the **South Asian Dance Association** and **Clemon White '24**.

Stoles were presented in recognition of these student organizations: Asian Student Association, Black Expressions, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Indian Culture Association, La Familia, and Muslim Student Association; stoles were added to Commencement regalia worn at Baccalaureate and Commencement.

The event was hosted by **Dr. Carlos Lassiter**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, and served to commemorate the accomplishments of graduates

within their familial and cultural context. The celebration reinforces the College's Inclusion and Diversity pledge to cultivating minds, upholding justice, togetherness, and common humanity.

PARENTS

ALUMNI

CALENDAR



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