

[at]AC August Edition

Austin College <alumni@austincollege.edu>

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To:Darian Johannsen <djohannsen@austincollege.edu>



Welcome to the incoming class of 345 first-year and transfer students! They hail from Texas and 13 other states (Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington), as well as five countries (Germany, Mexico, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam). Students of color represent 50% of the incoming first-year class, 33% are first generation students, and 43% are student athletes.



Austin College Opens 175th Year **Milestone theme is Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.**



Austin College declared the start of the 175th year at Opening Convocation on August 21, at 7 p.m. in Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary inside Wynne Chapel. The convocation event traditionally honors the incoming class of first-year students, transfers, and seniors.

"What an honor to celebrate the 175th year of Austin College," said Austin College President Steven P. O'Day. "While all institutions of higher learning are facing the impact of a tough economy and changing opinions about the value of education, Austin College stands strong. Each year we welcome a diverse and dynamic student body that is eager

to learn and wants to make a difference in the world."

"This year, we welcome them with extra gratitude for the strong foundation and longevity of this institution," he continued. "We are grateful for the traditions and proud of the growth of Austin College as an innovative leader in higher education."

[Read More](#)

Campus Renovation Update from the President

Over the summer, the campus has undergone some exciting updates in preparation for the return of students and start of classes. Here's a quick look at renovations, repairs, and a very special new space for all 'Roos to enjoy. We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.



Share Your News With 'RooNation! Only 1 Week Left!

Austin College Magazine wants to know—have you written a book, launched a podcast, changed careers, had a baby, or retired? Climbed a mountain, met a goal, proved a theory, helped the needy, traveled to a war zone, the end zone or graduated from the friend zone? Share your news in the upcoming issue of *Austin College Magazine*.

Submit alumni news and photos to ['Roo Notes - Austin College](#) or by email to editor@austincollege.edu. Pictures are welcome and encouraged!

Deadline is August 31.



New Students Complete First Service Project

On Monday afternoon August 21, at the annual **First We Serve** program, over 200 members of the Austin College Class of 2027 packed 35,208 nutritious meals that will be shared with families on the Moskito Coast of Honduras. They haven't even been to class yet, but they're already serving and changing the world. **First We Serve** is a partnership between Austin College, Kids Against Hunger, and the Allen, Texas Kiwanis Club.

MY STORY: EXPLORE. BELONG. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The 175th milestone theme **Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.** is the story arc of most students who call themselves 'Roos. They arrive here and begin their exploration. They find belonging with like-minded peers in areas of interest—both new and familiar. They answer the call to make a difference. We are proud to share their stories—in their own words. Tell your alumni story, too—[175th alumni profiles](#).



Brittnay Connor '14

Bilingual teacher to 5th/6th grade new immigrants; Chicago School District

"I received the most incredible experience through the Austin Teacher Program that truly prepared me to step into any classroom. My study abroad and Fulbright experiences gave me the tools I needed to specialize in the educational needs of the students I currently teach. I do believe anyone can be taught curriculum and pedagogy, but AC gave me the experience I needed to be empathetic, kind, supportive, and to advocate for parents and students. The professors I had believed in me and continued to champion even after I graduated. They saw my potential and

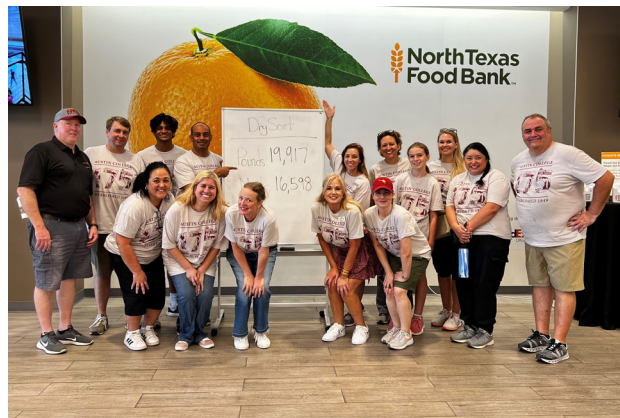
encouraged me to be more active and apply for programs that would help me achieve my goals. I am so grateful for my AC experiences.”



Pranav Sheth '18

Consultant aligned to Accenture's Supply Chain & Operations

“Austin College's comprehensive curriculum and leadership opportunities imparted me with the skills that allow me to bring value to my Fortune 500 clients. The emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, and interdisciplinary approach equipped me to tackle the challenges I come across. Additionally, real-world internships and projects honed my analytical skills, decision-making abilities, and leadership qualities, preparing me for the challenges in my profession. Altogether, Austin College did more than instill knowledge; it cultivated a lifelong learning mindset, enabling me to continually adapt and contribute effectively in my field.”



Alumni Launch Milestone Service Campaign

As part of the year-long celebration of our milestone year, the College and the Alumni Board will host a series of volunteer opportunities called **Make a Difference Days**. The Make a Difference Day events bring members of the Austin College community—near and far—together in service to others. We have set a goal to collectively reach 175,000 hours of community service.

The first events took place on August 21, and were organized by alumni board members **Jana Harrison '89** in Plano, Texas and **Montie Krumnow '89** in Houston, Texas. The alumni groups volunteered at the Houston Food Bank and North Texas Food Bank.

If you would like to learn more about organizing a Make a Difference Day event in your area, contact alumni@austincollege.edu.

Chem Prof Studies Oppenheimer's Physics



Dr. Aaron Harrison, assistant professor of chemistry, recently published an article about J. Robert Oppenheimer and his work in quantum mechanics. Known as the father of the atom bomb, Oppenheimer's earlier work revolutionized the field of quantum physics, and his theory is still used today.

Harrison's research interests focus on molecular photochemistry, spectroscopy, and computational chemistry. On faculty since 2021, He teaches quantum chemistry, two chem labs, and a First-Year Seminar titled "Science Fact and Science Fiction."

[Oppenheimer Article](#).



AC to host 1st night game in 'Roo football history!

Kangaroo Kick Off Moved to Beat the Heat

With the current excessive heat in the area expected to continue into next week, the Austin College football team's season opener against Nebraska Wesleyan has been pushed back to a 7:00 p.m. kickoff on September 2 under the lights at Jerry E. Apple Stadium.

Officials from both schools have agreed to move kickoff from its originally slated time of 1:00 p.m. to later that evening due to the health and safety concerns for the student-athletes. This will mark the first time in the more than 125-year history of 'Roo football that the program has hosted a night game on campus.

Tailgating Rules & Regs

Please look at and follow the guidelines for tailgating in the Larry Kramer Outback. You are welcome to bring your grill and gear or enjoy the culinary skills of **Billy Core '76**, who is returning to cook loads of tailgate food this fall. All Division III sporting events are free and open to the public. [Larry Kramer Outback Rules](#)

PARENTS

ALUMNI



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