



## PARENT NEWSLETTER | October 2023 Edition

*Hello! We're happy to bring you exciting and important news especially for 'Roo Parents and other supporters. The topics below are timely and of interest to Austin College families from first year to final year. If you have questions about anything covered here, please contact us by email at [vicepresident@austincollege.edu](mailto:vicepresident@austincollege.edu).*

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### Register for Homecoming & Family Weekend!

The **2023 Homecoming & Family Weekend** registration is open! Events of particular interest to families are the newly installed Historical Walking Tour, Campus Social, Kids' College, Tailgating in the Larry Kramer Outback and 'Roo football and the 175th Year Celebration Dinner. Most events are free but may require registration. Ticket prices are noted when applicable. Register today!

[Register for Homecoming & Family Weekend!](#)

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### Center for Career and Professional Development Scheduling Mock Interviews

Beginning Friday, November 3, the Center for Career and Professional Development has a series of opportunities for students and parents at Homecoming.

#### For students:

**Mock Interview appointments** are available for students on Friday, November 3. They have the opportunity to practice interview skills with alumni volunteers who will give feedback.

**Headshot Happy Hour** is also that day from 1:30 to 3 p.m. for students to get a free professional headshot taken. These will be useful for LinkedIn accounts and some job applications.

#### For students and parents:

**Applied Learning Student Panel**, scheduled for Saturday, November 4 at 9 a.m., is a great time for families to hear student reports about their experiences from study abroad, career studies off campus, and research. Panelists will report on several Austin College signature programs such as Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA), GO Fellowships, and

Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies research. Come hear about the many opportunities that are available to students.

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### **We Put the 'Roo in Roots—Legacy Photos**

Is your student an **Austin College legacy**? As part of our 175th Year Celebration at Homecoming, the Austin College Communication team invites legacies of any class year—individuals or family groups to a special photo opportunity. Parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings—if your roots include 'Roos, please drop by Ida Green Communication Center between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 4 for a photo. Select photos will be included in the *2024 Austin College Magazine*.

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### **Money Matters for Spring Semester**

Your best reference for questions related to tuition, fees, and all things money related is the [Austin College Business Office webpage](#). These are the **high priority** points for this month:

- January Term payments are due now.
- Spring 2024 bills send in mid-November with a January 15th due date.
- Spring payment plans, administered by [ACI Payments](#), open in November. You can choose a 4-month plan with payments beginning in December or 3-month plan with payments beginning in January.

As always, Austin College sends the tuition bill and account updates to your student, and all business can be conducted online through WebHopper.

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### **FAFSA: New Form, New Date**

There are major changes and improvements coming to the 2024–25 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (FAFSA®) form. As a result, the new form will be available in December 2023. The launch date will apply only for the 2024–25 FAFSA form.

The changes to the FAFSA form for the 2024–25 aid year include:

- expanded eligibility for federal student aid
- a more streamlined application process.

### **Stay Informed**

Stay informed about the changes and receive up-to-date notifications and information from the Department of Education:

- Did you fill out a FAFSA form for 2023–24? [Log in to your StudentAid.gov account](#) and be sure your current email address is listed. Once the exact FAFSA launch date is announced, they expect to send out an email to students (and parents of dependent students) who applied on the 2023–24 form, reminding them to apply for 2024–25.
- Didn't submit a 2023–24 FAFSA form? Make sure to [create your StudentAid.gov account](#)—and remember your username and password so you can access and submit the 2024–25 FAFSA form when it is available.

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## **Hop on this Special Deal from ARAMARK**

Give your students' **Hopper Dollar balance a boost!** For every \$100 added to their account, they receive \$15 bonus bucks. Limited time only between October 16-29. Add Hopper Dollars at [www.austincollege.campusdish.com](http://www.austincollege.campusdish.com).

Hopper Dollars can be used in the dining hall, the Pouch Club (not for beer or wine), Hopper Store, and Kangaroo Coffee Shop. Any Hopper Dollars remaining from the first semester are automatically credited to the second semester but *do not* transfer from one academic year to the next.

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## **Thanksgiving Break Dates and Expectations**

**Thanksgiving break** for students is November 20-November 24. Classes resume on Monday, November 27. Austin College offices will be closed November 22-24 for the holiday.

**The residence halls will close** at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 17, and students may return to campus starting at noon on Sunday, November 26. If a student needs accommodations for late departures or early arrivals, they should complete the Residential Life request form on the Student Portal as soon as possible—do not delay.

**Students do not need to remove their belongings** for Thanksgiving or winter break. However, remind your student to clean out the mini-fridge, unplug appliances and computers, bring home any medications and important documents. The Austin College Police Department patrols campus 24/7, so residence halls and vehicles will be monitored as usual.

**Dining Hall closes** on November 17 at 2 p.m. and reopens November 27 at 7 a.m.

**Pouch Club closes** on November 17 at 7 p.m. and reopens November 26 at 5 p.m.

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## **Flu Shots are Available on Campus**

**Flu shots are available** in the Adams Health Center by appointment only. Students should call 903.813.2247. The cost is \$30 (billed to your student's College account), or free to students who are enrolled in Academic Health Plan insurance through the College.

For COVID or other vaccinations, there are pharmacies nearby that take insurance.

**[Complete Austin College COVID-19 Protocols](#)**  
**[More Information from Health Services](#)**

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## **Did You Get the Call...Text...Email?**

On September 18, **Austin College tested the emergency alert system** with outreach by phone, text, and email to all persons listed as In Case of Emergency (ICE) contacts. If you did not receive those communications, ask your student to review and update their emergency contact information on WebHopper. Login credentials are required to update this information.

The emergency alert system is the primary form of communication in case of weather-related emergencies or other health and safety threats on campus, so it is essential that contact information be current.

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Extra news you can use!

***Q: How can I hear more about what's going on at Austin College?***

**A:** In addition to the [Austin College webpage](#), the College posts information on these social channels:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

"Follow, like, and share," as they say! Most all student organizations have their own Instagram accounts with lots of updates and photos to enjoy.

Also, if you do not already receive the monthly e-newsletter, [at]AC, [subscribe here](#).

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