



**October has been a month of cultural celebrations with Garba, hosted by the Indian Cultural Association; Oktoberfest, sponsored Campus Activity Board and Student International Organization, National Hispanic Heritage Celebration hosted by the Office of Inclusion and Diversity and La Familia, and the Asian Mid-Autumn Festival, hosted by the Asian Student Association.**

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AUSTIN COLLEGE  
**HOMECOMING  
& FAMILY WEEKEND**  
NOVEMBER 3-5 • 2023

Just two weeks until **Austin College Homecoming & Family Weekend**, November 3-5! We look forward to welcoming many alumni, parents, and friends back in Sherman to celebrate the 175th year of Austin College. Most events are free but may require registration; ticket prices noted when applicable. **Online registration closes October 31.**

**REGISTER  
HERE**



**Homecoming 2023 celebrates 175 years of Austin College *and* the reunion classes of 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018.**

A Reunion Class gift will give students the tools to succeed — on the field, in the classroom, and throughout their careers and lives. The class with the highest participation rate in the **Reunion Class Giving Challenge** will win Top Class honors and bragging rights!

GIVE TODAY



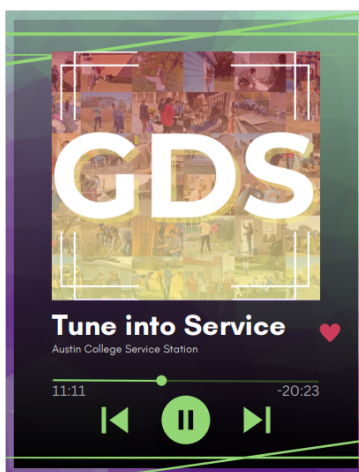
**As a key part of the 175th Year Celebration, Austin College has set out to Make a Difference with a goal of 175,000 collective hours of community service for the year.**

All members of the Austin College community can submit their independent service hours to be counted toward the **Make A Difference Days** goal! *All means all:* students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff—you are invited to participate. The Austin College Service Station is tallying hours and will report periodically as the service celebration continues.

Do you deliver Meals on Wheels, mow the neighbor's yard, help with literacy lessons, usher at the community theater? Your service to others counts as 'RooNation aims to Make a Difference!

Please submit your community service hours here:

[\*\*REPORT YOUR SERVICE HOURS\*\*](#)



## *Coming November 11!* **Service Station's Great Day of Service**

The Service Station's Great Day of Service in Grayson County is scheduled for November 11. Students will volunteer at more than 20 confirmed sites including Eisenhower State Park, Sherman Animal Shelter, and MasterKey Ministries. These 'Roos will **Make A Difference** in our community and make significant progress toward the 175,000 hour goal!

## **Williams Executives-in-Residence Encourage Students to 'Manage Up'**



**Geoff '08 and Jessica '09 Wescott**, alumni of Austin College, spoke to students about leadership and how Austin College trains students to successfully “manage up” at the 2023 Todd A Williams Executive-in-Residence panel discussion on October 10. The panel was moderated by Marion Jones '20, assistant director of Center for Career Development and internship coordinator. “A good leader will keep you moving forward and not look backwards,” Geoff said. “So, be focused on who is leading you and understanding their operations so you can control your responses better.”

[READ MORE](#)

AUSTIN COLLEGE  
POSEY LEADERSHIP AWARD  
Leader-in-Residence

2024 Recipient

Rick Lowe

## Rick Lowe is Austin College 2024 Posey Leader-in-Residence Awardee

Austin College proudly announces that Houston-based Rick Lowe is the 2024 Austin College Posey Leader-In-Residence and Award recipient. Lowe is an artist and activist who has worked with communities around the world to use art as a springboard for social understanding.

Perhaps best known as the founder of Houston’s [Project Row Houses](#), his work is centered on the personal engagement of community members to create projects and solutions that are rooted in their own values, ideas, and participation.

As the Posey Leader-In-Residence, Lowe will offer four sessions for students throughout the year touching on different aspects of his work. He will be on campus October 30 for the first student session entitled "Creativity and Community."

[READ MORE](#)

ARE YOU A **Legacy**' ROO?

To commemorate the 175th year of Austin College, all current and former students who are members of an **Austin College Family Legacy** are invited to the Legacy Photo Shoot during 2023 Homecoming and Family Weekend.

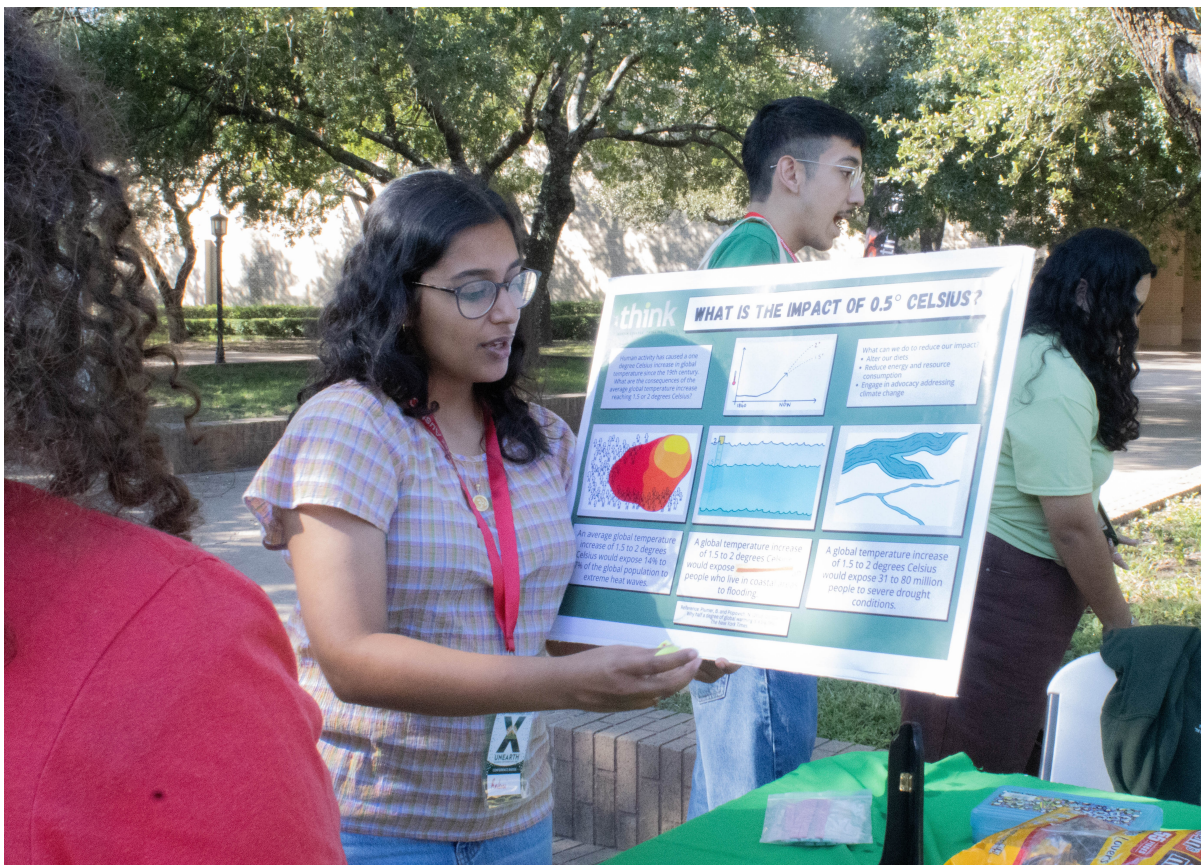
If you have a family member who attended Austin College, no matter how far back, we'd like to recognize you. Bring your legacy 'Roos, in person or in spirit, for a special photo opportunity.

**Legacy Photo Shoot  
Homecoming & Family Weekend  
Golden 'Roos Reunion**

**November 3, 2023  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Ida Green Communication Center—Lobby**

A photographer will be available for groups or individuals; and select photos will be published in *2024 Austin College Magazine*.



## TEDxAustinCollege: Speakers and More

The **TEDxAustinCollege conference** features speakers who share from their hearts, experience, and wisdom—and there is so much more. Many student organizations are involved with the Discovery Depot where audience members enjoy activities designed to reinforce the



speakers' topics. The 2023 conference on September 30 drew a record crowd—and work has begun for 2024. The TEDx team is accepting nominations for next year's speaker line-up—Nominations close on November 15. Do you know someone with Ideas Worth Sharing?

[\*\*NOMINATE A TEDxAustinCollege SPEAKER\*\*](#)

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## Hop *into* History

On October 13, 1849, Austin College was established at a meeting of the Brazos Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Texas. The State of Texas granted the school's official charter six weeks later on November 22, 1849. The College opened in Huntsville and admitted its first class in the fall of 1850. Its original building still stands and is in use on the Sam Houston State University campus.

The early Texas legislature chartered 135 institutions of learning. By the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 only Austin College remained. All the others closed forever, except Baylor, which suspended operations for two years, reopening as Waco University in Waco Texas. Austin College is the oldest institution of higher learning in Texas operating under its original name and charter. Source: *Search for the Summit*, by Austin College alumnus George L. Landolt; published in 1970.

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**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; find belonging with like-minded peers; and answer the call to make a difference. Here are their stories—in their own words.**

### **Amanda Kissell '04**

*Director of College Counseling & Spanish Teacher  
Casady School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

"I left my viola at home when I first came to AC because I thought I wouldn't have time for it. In the fall of my senior year, I went over to Craig Hall and asked about starting up again. The music department got me signed me up for lessons with Cathy Richardson and the Chamber Orchestra with Ricky Duhaime. With the exception of a brief hiatus when I was living abroad, I have never stopped playing since. Now, I am a member of the Oklahoma Community Orchestra, I play



periodically at the school where I work, and I take a weekly lesson with a violist in the Oklahoma City Philharmonic."



### **Clare Rushing '11**

*Writer, professional resumes and fantasy fiction*

"I've dedicated my writing to creating stories that empower people who have been historically underrepresented in the fantasy genre. The fictional world I'm building includes magic, dragons, and knights, but the core message is about self-acceptance—and accepting people

from other cultures. My goal is to create characters who are both entertaining and relatable in terms of race, gender, sexuality, and physical abilities, from a physician's apprentice with magical migraines to a librarian who lost his hearing as a boy, and a queer woman seeking freedom for her people. As a resume writer, I often work with individuals who are facing major life changes...Everyone deserves the opportunity to find work that is enriching and aligned with their own interests and abilities.

In addition to the rigorous training in writing and analysis I received through the English department, Austin College opened my eyes to issues and ideas I hadn't considered before. I learned how to think critically, look at problems and opinions from multiple perspectives, and embrace diversity. The technical aspect of my current work was gained after graduating, but Austin College laid the foundation for my ability to learn and my openness to new ideas."

*Clare's debut novel, Magic and Goldfire, released in 2022; her second book, Omens and Widows releases on November 1 in e-book and print format on Amazon. Signed copies will be available on her [author website](#).*

**PARENTS**

**ALUMNI**



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