



JanTerm: Three Weeks to Make Memories That Last a Lifetime

Austin College's January Term lasts just 22 days—from January 2 until January 24. In that short time, students have opportunities for life-changing experiences through unique courses on campus, off campus, and abroad. This photo of the "Scotland: Castles, Crosses" class, led by Dr. Wayne Crannell, Associate Professor of Music, shows the class at the 12th-century Elgin Cathedral in Elgin, Scotland.



JanServe Event Hosts Special Olympians



Austin College welcomed over 400 athletes to campus for a Special Olympics basketball tournament on Wednesday, January 17, in the Robert T. Mason Athletic-Recreation Complex.

Katy Williams '10, Austin College alumna and key person in implementing the first JanServe Special Olympics tournament, attended as a special guest speaker for the event and as part of

Austin College's 175th year celebration. "It's an opportunity for Special Olympics athletes to develop skills, interact with others, and be on a college campus," Williams said. "As for Austin College students, it's an opportunity for them to interact with an often-hidden population of our society, develop empathy, and begin to understand how things like modifications help build a culture of inclusion, not just for Special Olympics athletes but for everyone."

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2024

AUSTIN COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Distinguished Alumni Nominations Now Open

Each year, Austin College recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions and their communities, who exemplify leadership and ethical standards in their work, and provide support and advocacy for the College and its mission. **Nominations are now open through April 12, 2024.** Awards are presented at the Annual Distinguished Alumni and Volunteer Awards Dinner during Homecoming Weekend. For nomination criteria and access to the forms, follow the link below. For more information, email alumni@austincollege.edu.

[DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS](#)

AC Grants Its First MLK Jr. Visionary Award



Dr. Al Hambrick '79, MAT'80, was selected as the first recipient of the Austin College Martin Luther King Jr. Visionary Award. The designation recognizes an individual or group on the campus or within the City of Sherman who lives out King's vision through their words and deeds. The individual or group has made significant and lasting contributions to creating an environment where diversity is honored and inclusion is embraced.

The award was introduced and presented by **Dr. Carlos Lassiter**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, at the 20th Annual MLK Jr. Community Celebration held Monday, January 15, in Sally & Jim Nation Theatre in Ida Green Communication Center. Lassiter said, "In his letter from the Birmingham Jail on April 16, 1963, Dr. King wrote that, 'the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others.' This quote reflects the character of our inaugural award recipient."

Hambrick worked 36 years in education, starting as a math teacher and coach and finishing as superintendent of Sherman Independent School District. He is president of the Grayson County Branch of the NAACP, a deacon at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, and serves on many other organizations. He also owns and operates an investment group concerning real estate

acquisitions and construction.

“This award is one more way to ensure that King's legacy remains in the minds and hearts of our students, faculty, staff, and Sherman community members,” Lassiter said. The student-led MLK Community Celebration featured music performed by **Clemon White '24** and **Dr. Lisa Brown**, student speaker **Yvan Konan '26**, and alumna speaker **Dr. Geré Feltus '01**. Sponsors for the event include Grayson County Rotary Club, Sherman Rotary Club, Undaunted Agency, Sherman Chamber of Commerce, City of Sherman, and Aramark Dining Services.

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DR. KENNETH STREET
LAW SYMPOSIUM
AT AUSTIN COLLEGE

Registration is Open!
Thursday, February 22, 2024

TSTH Consortium Convenes on Campus



On Monday, January 8, the **Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub (TSTH) Consortium** convened at Austin College to continue developing the group's application for up to \$75 million in federal funds from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). The TSTH is one of only 31 applicants nation-wide (and the only one in Texas) to receive the Tech Hub designation following Phase I of the EDA's Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs competition. Additionally, TSTH is one of only 11 applicants that also won a Strategy

Development Grant as part of the competition. The meeting at Austin College was the next step in the planning process, and one step closer to the \$75 million in grant funds. Goals for the day-long working session included combining component proposals into one overarching framework and evaluating gaps in fulfilling the proposal criteria.

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Professor Named to Tech Hub Exec Board



Dr. David Griffith, Austin College business professor and Director of Strategic Programs, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub (TSTH). (see related story above)

The TSTH Executive Board provides strategic direction for developing and implementing collaborative, grant-funded projects focused on industry innovation, supply chain resilience, and workforce development in the North Texas and Southern Oklahoma region.

“As a Texoma native son, I am honored to represent the people, businesses, and education providers of the region on the TSTH Executive Board,” Griffith said. “This Tech Hub designation represents a transformative opportunity for the economic fortunes of the region. My goal on the board is to ensure that every student in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma has the opportunity to develop the skills they need to find good jobs at home here in Texoma.”

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Hop into History

In spring of 1967, the Austin College Board of Trustees ratified the new academic calendar to include a January Term that would provide opportunities for career exploration, world travel, and in-depth study. Students earn a full course credit in just three weeks, and faculty members enjoy the opportunity to cover unique topics such as beer making, castles in Scotland, and Broadway! Courses from the class offerings in 1968 were “Stock Market Bulls and Bears,” “Gymnastics: Tumbling and Trampoline,” and “Super Materials in the Modern World.”



A recent question on the [Austin College Alumni Community Facebook](#) page inspired almost 200 comments with stories and pictures of favorite JanTerm experiences dating all the way back to the first one in 1968. This picture of Stonehenge was submitted by Sallie Sampsell Watson '78 and included this caption, “In 1978 we did the ‘London Theater’ trip with Dub Narramore. This is Ann Wilkinson,

Steven Bull, and Stephen Tompkins at Stonehenge. Oh, I can tell you so many stories from this trip!”

MY STORY: EXPLORE. BELONG. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

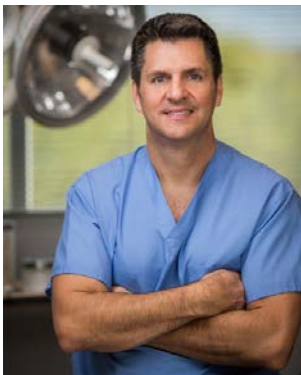
The 175th milestone theme *Explore. Belong. Make a Difference.* is the story arc of most students who call themselves 'Roos. They arrive here and begin their exploration; find belonging with like-minded peers; and answer the call to make a difference. Here are their stories—in their own words.



Margie Norman '83

*Director of the Center for Career & Professional Development
Austin College
Sherman, Texas*

I would like to believe the work I do every day with students and alumni is my service, giving back to my college that did so much for me. Austin College provided mentoring and guidance to help me clarify goals and realize what I wanted to do with my life's work! This consisted of many long talks with my mentor, Dr. Dan Schores, to taking so many courses that challenged me and caused me to ask probing questions and provided my first professional experience as a misdemeanor adult probation officer. From there I continued my process of reflection and choosing my next strategic steps that led me to where I am today!



Dr. John Williams '84

*Plastic Surgeon
Scottsdale, Arizona*

I own and manage my solo plastic surgery practice (since 2000). I feel that my career involves an impactful service. I help my patients overcome dissatisfaction and poor self-esteem, body image issues, anxiety and sometimes depression by correcting areas of the face and body that have been altered through massive weight loss, pregnancy and breast feeding, or simply due to age. My time at AC taught me how to think critically to solve problems, how to connect and interact with other people (professional colleagues and patients) and how to serve others in a meaningful way.

PARENTS

ALUMNI



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