



Austin College Board of Trustees Chair Scott Austin and Vice Chair Gail Utter join PA Program Director Dr. Diana Noller, Austin College President Steven P. O'Day, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Beth Gill and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Gillian Locke for the ceremonial ribbon cutting at the Austin College Health Campus in Denison.

Austin College Health Campus Opens; PA Program Accredited to Enroll Students

Austin College has taken a major step to expand its academic programs while helping meet the need for more healthcare providers. College officials and area dignitaries gathered Tuesday, November 14, for a ribbon cutting and open house at the Austin College Health Campus, home of the College's new Master of Medical Science-Physician Assistant program.

[**READ MORE**](#)



175th Celebration Takes the Cake! **2023 Homecoming & Family Weekend**

Alumni and friends began arriving on campus as early as Thursday, November 2 for the 2023 Homecoming & Family Weekend that continued through Sunday, November 5. Events centered around the celebration of the College's 175th year and included reunions, football, panel discussions, theatre, and more. Hundreds of guests enjoyed the Milestone 175th Celebration including a proclamation by Sherman Mayor David Plyler, a rousing Alma Mater by the faculty quartet, and buffet dinner with seating on Windsor Mall and the new Austin College Commons.



Great Day of Service Hours to be Counted Toward AC's *Make a Difference Day* Goal

Students helped load Thanksgiving meals at the MasterKey Ministry Food Distribution event on Saturday, November 11. Together with other community volunteers they served 983 families in just a few hours on the **Great Day of Service!**

Students volunteered all across Grayson County at more than 30 locations like MasterKey Ministries, Eisenhower State Park, and Sherman Animal Shelter. Their hours of service will be added to the **Make a Difference Service goal** of 175,000 hours served during the 2023-2024 academic year. The Make a Difference campaign was launched as part of the celebration of Austin College's 175th year.

You can add your hours, too! As the holidays approach, many people give their time to help others. Follow the link to be counted alongside 'Roos everywhere! Parents, alumni, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to add to the collective effort to Make a Difference!

Please submit your community service hours here:

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



The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube at 5 p.m.

www.facebook.com/austincollege or www.youtube.com/austincollege



Counting the Days! **Campus Holiday Schedule**

Thanksgiving Break for students is from Saturday, November 18 through Sunday, November 26.

The Dining Hall will be closed on Friday, November 17 after lunch and reopen on Sunday, November 26 at 5 p.m.

Campus offices will be closed Wednesday, November 22 through Friday, November 24 for the holiday. The Fall Term ends on December 8 with the completion of finals at 5 p.m. Students are expected to leave campus within 24 hours of their last final exams.

Campus offices will be closed for winter break from Thursday, December 21 through Monday, January 1. The campus opens and January Term classes begin Tuesday, January 2.



Members of the Class of 1973 were inducted as Golden 'Roos on Friday, November 3 during the first of several special activities during Homecoming & Family Weekend. They enjoyed brunch on Saturday with keynote speaker Emeritus Faculty Dr. Light T. Cummins and get-together hosted in the Collins Alumni Center.

Golden 'Roos '73 Win Bragging Rights!



The Reunion Class Giving Challenge, between October 23 and November 3, raised close to \$45,000 from a total of 132 donors. The Golden 'Roo Class of 1973 won the Challenge with 39 donors participating, representing 15.6% of their class.

The classes of 1988 and 1983 came in second and third place respectively. Thanks to all who participated!

**Jump In for
Fall Sports at
acroos.com**



Paramo Featured at Texas Book Festival



Dr. Sebastian Paramo was a featured author at the 2023 Texas Book Festival in Austin, November 11-12. The Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination.

As a visiting assistant professor at Austin College, Paramo has taught "Expository Writing," "Interpreting Literature," and "Introduction to Creative Writing" during Fall Term 2023.

He recently released a poetry collection titled, *Portrait of Us Burning* (Northwestern University Press/Curbstone Books, 2023). The semi-autobiographical collection of poetry uses self-portraiture and memory to uncover how his Texas, working-class, Mexican American identity shapes his relationship to his stepbrother and to his family's burning desire to become American.

His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Los Angeles Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *The Arkansas International*, *Prairie Schooner*, the *Academy of American Poets' Poem-A-Day* series, and elsewhere. He's a CantoMundo Fellow and recently a Dobie Paisano Fellow at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the founding editor of *The Boiler*, and Poetry Editor for Deep Vellum.



HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Austin College unveiled the Historic Walking Tour during Homecoming & Family Weekend. Permanent signs with descriptions are posted at 11 locations, and each features a QR code that opens an online exhibit.

The tour was created by staff members from Abell Library and Institutional Marketing and Communications with contributions from Austin College seniors Clemon White and Charlotte Evelyn. The tour exhibit features photos and stories about landmarks such as Wynne Chapel and Windsor Mall, and the former sites of Old Main, Lockett Hall, and the SUB. But you don't need to be on campus to enjoy it! You can access the online Historical Walking Tour from your phone, tablet, or computer right at home. Enjoy a stroll through time!



[Austin College Historical Walking Tour](#)



Hop into History

On November 11, 1919, the student body observed Armistice Day with a special service in Sherman Hall. A huge flag hung on the stage with 10 stars representing the men of Austin College who had died in service to the country in WWI. Those stars were encircled by 300 smaller ones to represent the students who had seen military or naval service during the war. There were solos, poetry readings, and a sermon, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day, was observed as a student holiday throughout the 1920s.

That same year, a grove of live oak trees was planted between Baker and Dean Halls by groundskeeper M.B. "Grandpa" Reid and dedicated on June 1 to the memory of those who had died in WWI. Although two of the trees died and were replaced, the grove still stands today. Source: *A Short History of Austin College* by Edward Hake Phillips and *Austin College Magazine*, June 2006 Issue.



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.



Emily Eldridge '12

*Library Associate,
Austin College Abell Library
Sherman, Texas*

"I manage Interlibrary Loans as well as the Archives and Special Collections at Abell Library. In my position here, I help connect students, staff, and faculty of this school, and of many other schools across the country, with the resources they need. One of my history classes at Austin College helped me discover a love of museums, archives, and historical research. My major led me directly into a graduate program for Museum Studies, which eventually brought me back to campus and to the library

I spent so much time in as an undergrad.

I did preliminary work on the Historical Walking Tour during the summer, compiling already-digitized items from the photographic, newspaper, and yearbook archives. As additional photos and newspapers were located by Andrew Smith and scanned by Alicia Flores during the semester, I added them to the Austin College digital archives. I also did further research on Jonsson Plaza and Windsor Mall to add some finishing touches to that virtual exhibit."

See the story about the Historical Walking Tour in this issue of [at]AC.



Austin Trantham '08

*Assistant Professor of Political Science,
Saint Leo University
Saint Leo, Florida*

"Attending Austin College allowed me to directly experience academic life and work by co-authoring my first publication with a faculty member, attending a professional conference, and completing a senior honors thesis. Working on a book review on the relationship between candidates, parties, and interest groups in presidential campaigns gave me the initial opportunity to experience the publication process firsthand.

During my final semester at Austin College, I traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to attend the 2008 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Attending panel sessions and hearing about the fascinating work being done in political science solidified my decision to attend graduate school and pursue a doctoral degree. I am presenting my current work at the same conference in January 2024, which will again be in New Orleans. I feel fortunate to be able to truly come full circle from my initial exposure to academia while at AC. My senior honors thesis centered on the jurisprudence of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney. Writing and orally defending the importance of this work was excellent preparation for my eventual doctoral dissertation at the University of Kentucky.

Today, as a faculty member at Saint Leo University in Florida, I find myself being afforded the continual opportunities to employ the knowledge I gained at Austin College. Last year, I created an original Research Internship course, inviting promising undergraduate students to work with me on various in-progress projects. These collaborations will result in multiple publications, and I am grateful to be able to pass on my undergraduate research experiences to these future scholars. The knowledge I gained on Chief Justice Taney through my honors thesis is often referenced in my current Constitutional Law courses when discussing pertinent Supreme Court cases.

My professional career would not be where it is today had it not been for the academic and professional mentorship of the dedicated Austin College faculty. I am honored to be an alumnus of an institution that truly desires to support its students achieve their professional goals."

PARENTS

ALUMNI



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