

Integration leaders share thoughts on '60s, today in message to students

At a campus forum Jan. 21, four former students who led the way to integration at Auburn University in the 1960s reflected on a time when they were not welcome at the university, and then shared a message about their hopes for current and future students.

Harold Franklin, Willie Wyatt, Samuel Pettijohn and Anthony Lee joined civil rights attorney Fred Gray and retired federal judge U.W. Clemon for a panel discussion to share their experiences as part of the commemoration of 50 Years of Integration at Auburn University, as well as King Week 2014.

The four members of the first generation of African-American students at Auburn urged minority students of today to take advantage of the opportunities available to them and remember that people fought to give them those opportunities.

Franklin, who was represented by Gray in the first successful integration endeavor, was Auburn's first African-American student, enrolling at the university on Jan. 4, 1964.

Wyatt and Lee were the first African-American undergraduates to enroll later that same year after integrating Macon County schools, again with the help of Gray, while Pettijohn was the first African-American student to earn a degree from the university in 1967 after transferring from then-Tuskegee Institute. Lee was the first African-American student to complete all four undergraduate years and graduate from Auburn in 1968.

"What I tried to do with the help of people like U.W. and Fred

See [Recalling integration at Auburn](#), Page 2



Melissa Humble, Photographic Services

Pioneers of integration

Last week, four alumni who were instrumental in integrating Auburn University in the 1960s discussed their struggles, changes they have seen since and their hopes for the future. They are, from left, Harold Franklin, Willie Wyatt Jr., Samuel Pettijohn and Anthony Lee.



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Snow days

After their classes were snowed out on Tuesday, and with the majority of the campus community unable to get to campus by car or bus, many students in residence halls went outside that evening for time in the snow. Classes resumed and offices reopened Friday at Auburn University after a rare three-day break due to a storm of sleet and snow on Tuesday followed by a prolonged period of sub-freezing temperatures. Auburn and most schools and universities across the southern half of Alabama heeded the warnings of emergency and law enforcement officials, who urged people across the region to stay off the roads until temperatures rose enough for ice to melt on Thursday.

Auburn senior named finalist for Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Auburn University senior Mary-Catherine Anderson of Huntsville has been named a finalist for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship to do post-graduate work at the University of Cambridge in England.

Anderson, a senior in cellular and microbial biology in Auburn's College of Sciences and Mathematics, has a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and has conducted research under the direction of Mike Squillacote, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry. She will graduate in May and, if awarded the scholarship, will pursue a master's degree at Cambridge in biological anthropology with a focus on human development and epidemiology.

This is the second consecutive year an Auburn student has been named a finalist. Last year, Paul Bergen, a 2012 graduate, was named Auburn's third Gates Cambridge Scholar. The scholarship program is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates through the Gates Cambridge Trust. Nearly 1,000 students and recent graduates from the United States applied this year; the trust

has invited only 90 to interview in Seattle in late January and early February for 40 available scholarships.

"We are proud and excited that Mary-Catherine has joined recent Auburn graduates in being named a Gates Cambridge finalist," said Melissa Baumann, Auburn assistant provost and director of the Honors College.

"She is dedicated to Auburn's land-grant tradition of improving the lives of the people of Alabama and the world," said Baumann, "and her studies at Cambridge will focus on biological anthropology and improving healthcare delivery for underserved populations."

In addition to academic achievements, Anderson is an accomplished bluegrass musician, having produced a self-titled extended play musical album of her own songs. For the past three years, she has performed concerts at Magnolia Place Assisted Living Home and has logged hundreds of hours as a volunteer at Bonaparte's Retreat, a dog rescue facility in Nashville founded by

See [Gates Cambridge finalist](#), Page 3

Next Common Book to chronicle Village life in Africa

Auburn University has selected “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope” for its 2014-15 Auburn Connects! Common Book Program.

In the New York Times bestseller by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, Kamkwamba chronicles his experiences growing up in a small village in Malawi, Africa. He shares African folklore, insights into local and national government, details about cultural customs and the harsh realities of famine.

Kamkwamba will be on the Auburn campus Sept. 9 to speak about those experiences.

To fill his time after dropping out of school due to poverty, Kamkwamba began reading old American textbooks in which he learned about windmills. As a young, uneducated boy with minimal English skills, he decided to build a windmill to bring electricity and running water to his farm and his village.

With a small pile of scrap metal, tractor parts and bicycle halves, and to the surprise of all the neighbors who called him “misala,” crazy, he erected a functioning windmill in his backyard.

The book also details what followed, including appearances at two TED conferences, scholarships to multiple secondary schools and a trip to California to experience wind farms firsthand.

During fall semester 2014 the various themes presented in this year’s common book selection, as well as the culture of southern Africa, will be explored in lectures, film screenings, service projects,

exhibitions, public discussions and other programs.

The Auburn Connects! Common Book Program is an initiative of the Office of Undergraduate Studies. By creating a shared reading experience for students, faculty, staff and the wider Auburn community, Auburn Connects! seeks to provide insight into the human condition while developing lifelong habits of intellectual curiosity and engagement.

Scholarships available for dependents of employees

The Office of University Scholarships is accepting applications for the 2014-15 Auburn University Employee Dependent Children Scholarship.

A parent or guardian eligible for consideration must: (1) be a full-time, regular, continuing employee in any employee group in any division of Auburn University main campus; and (2) be employed for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the application deadline.

A dependent child eligible for consideration must:

(1) be an admitted, undergraduate student enrolled at the Auburn University main campus; (2) be a dependent child as documented by an IRS tax return for the most recent filing period; (3) demonstrate financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid through completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov by the scholarship application deadline; and (4) have a minimum 3.0 cumulative high school, transfer or unadjusted Auburn GPA, depending on current enrollment status.

The number of \$1,000 scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year will be based on available funding. For more information about the scholarship, see <https://auburn.academicworks.com/opportunities/7331>

Recalling integration at Auburn

Continued from Page 1

was to make it a better place, to try to raise African-Americans up. You do things because they need to be done, and if you can help somebody, you do it, and then you move on,” Franklin said.

“My Auburn experience was different from the standpoint that I was the first undergraduate to apply and be accepted,” Wyatt said.

“College life was not what it should have been like; it was very confining,” he said. “I look at things today and say, ‘What happens if football teams were all white again?’ Sports would not be the same. I challenge all of the young people here to think about those things. Walking in, registering and going to class was not always like it is now.”

Lee said his inspiration came from his parents. “My father was very instrumental in my being a part of the Lee vs. Macon Co. case. My goal after high school was to continue desegregating everything I could because I felt like with the backing of my parents and attorney Gray I had the fortitude to do things others couldn’t,” he said.

“I need to give credit to these people on the panel for the lawsuits filed,” Pettijohn said. “I had no idea then that was why I had no problems. I simply was here. The reason I wanted to tell this story was because this is the thing we should all think about with colleges and universities – they should be places where students can come and feel free to learn.”

Pettijohn continued, “I think it’s an abomination that we would even think of prohibiting people from going to an institution, especially when they have already decided that they want to learn a certain career. They should be free and friendly places where people can go and do their very best.”

Gray represented Franklin, Wyatt and Lee in court cases in pursuit of school integration in the 1960s, and continues to practice law in the state of Alabama.

U.W. Clemon, the state’s first African-American federal judge, called Gray “the most important civil rights lawyer in the history of this state.”

“For over 60 years he has been in the forefront of leadership of the Civil Rights Movement from a lawyer’s point of view, and I stand in awe of him,” Clemon said.

William Leftwich, principal with LS Strategic Group, was forum moderator. The company addresses human resources issues pertaining to equal opportunity programs, race, diversity strategies and training.

The Auburn Alumni Association hosted a luncheon featuring author, educator and poet Frank X. Walker in honor of Franklin, Lee, Wyatt and Pettijohn and presented the men with pavers for the Alumni Walk located at the Alumni Center.

“I was very pleased with the turnout after working with the commemoration planning committee to create a memorable tribute to an important milestone in the history of Auburn University,” said Paulette Dilworth, assistant vice president for Access and Community Initiatives in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Dilworth added, “The reaction to the opening events has been wonderful and has exceeded our expectations. As we move forward, throughout the year, I hope more students will take time to participate in commemoration events and visit the new exhibit at the Student Center.”

– Carol Nelson



Melissa Humble, Photographic Services

Southern Lights

While Auburn has never experienced the brilliance of Alaska’s Northern Lights, an unusually cold winter, with arctic-like temperatures, has led to some unusually brilliant sunsets across the skies to the southwest this January. And Spring Break is only six weeks away.

Vodyanoy named fellow in National Academy of Inventors

The National Academy of Inventors recently named Vitaly Vodyanoy, a professor of physiology in Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, as one of the association's 2013 fellows.

Representing 94 research universities and governmental and nonprofit research institutions, the 143 new fellows collectively hold more than 5,600 U.S. patents.

Vodyanoy, who is director of the college's biosensor laboratory, is widely known for his creation of an advanced illumination system that greatly enhances the resolution power of the light microscope.



Licensed to CytoViva Inc., microscopes with his illumination system are being sold worldwide and have found a niche in nanomedicine research where they can visualize nanoparticles that cannot be seen with a typical light microscope.

The technology won the prestigious R&D Magazine 100 Awards in 2006 and 2007, the Nano 50 Award in 2007 and currently is enabling researchers in biomedical and other fields to advance their science and find solutions to health, environmental and other problems.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Vodyanoy and found him to be an intellectually gifted scholar and gentleman," said John Weete, Auburn's assistant vice president for technology transfer and commercialization. "His ability to recognize and creatively overcome technical obstacles to research is remarkable."

Vodyanoy

In his research as a biophysicist, Vodyanoy deals with biomembrane phenomena

such as sensory receptors, biosensors, transport models, ion channels and olfactory receptor neurons, as well as other areas including cell preservation, symbiotic and probiotic bacteria, proteons from blood and pleomorphism of small DNA particles.

He holds 22 U.S. and 37 international patents based on his research. His inventions include a biopolymer for preserving cells, tissue, blood and macromolecules; a mechanism for remote monitoring and recording of olfactory sniff events as detector dogs sample a wide area; and a passive oil collection system.

"Selection as an NAI Fellow is a high honor," said Anne Chasser, former U.S. Commissioner for Trademarks at the USPTO and chair of the NAI Fellows Selection Committee. "The fellows have made outstanding contributions to innovation and discovery in ways that have had a significant impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society."

A member of the Auburn University Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors, Vodyanoy joined Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He received his M.S. in physics from Moscow Physical Engineering Institute and his Ph.D. in biophysics from Agrophysical Research Institute, Leningrad, USSR.

"The criteria for fellow recognition are rightfully rigorous," said Calvin Johnson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Dr. Vodyanoy is truly a remarkable and creative individual, an outstanding citizen of our university and deserving of the recognition and honor of being named NAI Fellow."

Included in the 2013 class are nine Nobel laureates, 69 members of the National Academies, 23 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 23 fellows of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, five inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, six recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and two recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Science.

– Janet McCoy

Differences between religious faithful, nonbelievers seen in brain waves

Religious believers and nonbelievers, alike, often say they think differently from each other, but is there a physiological basis for the difference? Apparently so, according to recent research.

In their recently published study of how brain networks shape individuals' religious beliefs, an Auburn University faculty member and researchers with the National Institutes of Health found that brain interactions were different between religious and non-religious subjects.

Gopikrishna Deshpande, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and the NIH researchers published their results in a recent edition of the journal *Brain Connectivity*.

The group found differences in brain interactions that involved the theory of mind, or ToM, brain network, which underlies the ability to relate between one's personal beliefs, intents and desires with those of others. Individuals with stronger ToM activity were found to be more religious. Deshpande says this supports the hypothesis that development of ToM abilities in humans during evolution may have given rise to religion in human societies.

"Religious belief is a unique human attribute observed across different cultures in the world, even in those cultures which evolved independently, such as Mayans in Central America and aboriginals in Australia," said Deshpande, who is also a researcher at Auburn's Magnetic Resonance Imaging Research

Center. "This has led scientists to speculate that there must be a biological basis for the evolution of religion in human societies."

Deshpande and the NIH scientists were following up a study reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which used functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, to scan the brains of both self-declared religious and non-religious individuals as they contemplated three psychological dimensions of religious beliefs.

The fMRI – which allows researchers to infer specific brain regions and networks that become active when

a person performs a certain mental or physical task – showed that different brain networks were activated by the three psychological dimensions; however, the amount of activation was not different in religious as compared to non-religious subjects.

To address this anomaly, Deshpande and NIH researchers characterized the interactions between the different brain networks that were activated during the study. To view the team's paper on the web, go to <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/brain.2013.0172>.

– Morgan Stashick

Gates Cambridge finalist

Continued from Page 1

Grammy Award winner and Country Music Hall of Famer Emmylou Harris.

"The Mary-Catherine I have come to know and respect should first and foremost be described as a humanitarian, scholar and musician, a genuinely kind and thoughtful young woman with a true servant's heart," said the country music star. "She is an exceptional young lady on an amazing journey, and I have been blessed to be a part of that journey."

Paul Harris, Auburn's associate director for national prestigious scholarships, said, "Mary-Catherine has not only taken the time to thoroughly research her

proposed program of study at Cambridge, she has also developed close relationships with the biological anthropology faculty at Cambridge."

Gates Cambridge Scholarships are awarded to college students and recent graduates based on four criteria: intellectual ability; leadership capacity; a desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others; and demonstrating a good fit between the applicants' abilities and aspirations to the graduate program.