Out on a limb
While many homeowners associate horticulture with lawns and shrubs, Auburn student Summer Thaxton is getting a different perspective on the profession, which also includes promoting the health of trees. The sophomore from Madison was one of several students recently scaling the large oaks along College Street beside Draughon Library as part of a class taught by Department of Horticulture member Matt Wilson with assistance from Steve Nagy of Davey Tree Experts. For another view, see page 4.

Auburn faculty to vote electronically for new officers in early March

Auburn faculty will vote electronically from March 5-9 for a chair-elect and a secretary-elect of the University Faculty and its representative body, the University Senate.

Candidates for chair-elect are Claire Crutchley of Finance and Larry Molt of Communication Disorders, and candidates for secretary-elect are Russell Muntifering of Animal Sciences and David Shannon of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology. Three of the four — Crutchley, Muntifering and Shannon — submitted statements presenting their thoughts on the university and faculty governance, and those statements are on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of the Auburn Report. The statements will also be posted, along with information about voting, at the University Senate Web site (www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html).

The winners will be announced at the annual spring session of the University Faculty, which meets at 3 p.m. March 10 in Broun Hall. At that meeting, Kathryn Flynn of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences will succeed Bob Locy of Biological Sciences as chair of the University Faculty and the Senate, and Dennis DeVries of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures will succeed Sue Barry of Curriculum and Teaching as secretary for 2009-10.

The new chair-elect and secretary-elect will assist Flynn and DeVries, respectively, for one year and will succeed them in March 2010.

After leaving office as chair of the University Senate on March 10, Locy will serve for a year as faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees, succeeding 2007-08 Faculty Chair David Cacci of Aerospace Engineering in that position.

The candidates for chair-elect and secretary-elect were nominated by a committee of three former Senate chairs, two former Senate secretaries and a faculty senator whose term expires this year.

Chair-elect candidate Crutchley has been a faculty member in the College of Business since 1989 and an associate professor in the college since 1996. She holds a Ph.D. in finance from Virginia Tech and is an authority in corporate finance, corporate governance and in sustainability and finance.

Crutchley has served on the University Senate since 2005 and is a former member of the University Graduate Council. She serves on the Senate’s Steering Committee, the University Sustainability Initiative and the College of Business Undergraduate Programs Committee. Past service includes committees on faculty salaries, rules and budget advisory.

Chair-elect candidate Molt is a professor and former chair of the Department of Communication Disorders and has been a faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts since 1995. A former member of the University Senate, he has served on the Calendar and Academic Standards committees. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and is dual certified in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Secretary-elect candidate Muntifering is chair of Auburn’s Academic Honesty Committee and was faculty representative to the Agriculture Committee of the Board of Trustees from 2005-07. He has served as chair of the Academic Initiatives
Experts to discuss programs to help disabled youths reach full potential

National and state experts on educating persons with disabilities will convene Monday-Tuesday, March 2-3, at the 19th Annual Alabama Transition Conference to discuss how to better prepare youth with disabilities for the challenges they will face in adulthood.

The conference at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National, is hosted by the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute, a research and outreach extension of Auburn’s College of Education. The event consists of workshops on such topics as employment, education, social networking and interagency collaboration on behalf of youth and young adults with disabilities.

Karen Rabren, director of the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute, said the conference brings together the people and the entities best equipped to assist young adults with disabilities as they seek employment or continue their education. The forum focuses on expanding the abilities of Alabama’s school systems, agencies, employers and communities to help youth reach their goals in the workplace, classroom and beyond.

“We’re helping them get prepared for that next step,” said Rabren, who is also an associate professor in the College of Education’s Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology.

The next step can be difficult to negotiate, Rabren noted. A U.S. Department of Labor study released in January revealed that the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities is 13.2 percent.

“Do they have equal access to jobs and opportunities and are they prepared?” Rabren asked. “Even with the money and legislation put forth, we’re still having huge unemployment rates. Hopefully what we’re doing will bring improvement.”

The two-day conference will include a keynote address by the Reader’s Digest 2008 Best of America “Dream Team,” which includes Ellen Porter-Levert, Mavis Crawford, Patricia De’Shazior Hill, Letitia Lewis and Cheryl Best. The five Georgia educators work in special education, administration and career technical education. The event’s roster also includes vocalist Daniel Ray, a disabilities advocate, and speaker Aaron Mickel, a senior from Shades Valley High School in Birmingham who participated in the 2007-08 “My Voice” self-determination project and serves as a member of the Jefferson County Transition Team.

“Transition is collaborative in nature,” said Diane Glanzer, administrator of outreach programs for the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute. “It encompasses not only students and teachers, but also rehabilitation counselors and job coaches, employers and parents — the communities that can help support that transition period for secondary students as they go into their young adult lives.”

— Troy Johnson
An evolving Charles Darwin
Faculty, staff and students in the College of Sciences and Mathematics led a campuswide celebration of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin on Feb. 12, with four persons from the college portraying the leading figure of the biological sciences at various ages. From left, Associate Professor Debbie Folkerts portrays Darwin in the latter stage of his career; graduate student Jess Stephens portrays him as an old man; Associate Professor Jonathan Armbruster portrays Darwin in middle-age, when he published “On the Origin of the Species”; and Arboretum staff member Patrick Thompson portrays the 19th century science writer as a young man. Sciences and Mathematics and the College of Liberal Arts are continuing the celebration of Darwin’s birthday with a series of public lectures and, on March 3, a panel discussion on evolution by Liberal Arts faculty at 3 p.m. in Room 112 of the Rouse Life Sciences Building.

Campus Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Darwin Commemorative Event Interdisciplinary panel on evolution (Elizabeth Brestan Knight of Psychology; Giovanna Summerfield of Foreign Languages and Literatures; Brigitta Brunner, Margaret Fitch-Hauser and Robert French of Communication and Journalism; and Chris Qualls of Theatre) 3 p.m., 112 Rouse Life Sciences Building

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Meeting University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall
Public Lecture “The Arts and the Black Academy at Mid-Century,” Julie McGee and David Driskell, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum; part of New Perspectives Series

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
Faculty Election Voting electronically through Monday, March 9; see www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html
Public Lecture “Leading the Way: Women, Poetry, and Social Movements in 18th Century Britain,” Paula Backscheider of Department of English, 3:30 p.m., Special Collections, Draughon Library; part of Discover Auburn Series

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
Meeting University Faculty, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

MONDAY, MARCH 9
Darwin Commemorative Lecture “Importance of Collections to Darwin,” Jon Armbruster of Biological Sciences, followed by tour of the university’s animal collection, 3 p.m., 112 Rouse Life Sciences Building

NEXT Auburn Report

College of Agriculture dean inducted into Hall of Honor for Alabama’s ag leaders

College of Agriculture Dean Richard Guthrie is one of three Alabamians recently inducted into the Auburn University Agricultural Alumni Association’s Hall of Honor, a prestigious award that recognizes individuals who have had a significant impact on Alabama agriculture and agribusiness.

Guthrie, who was inducted in a Feb. 24 ceremony in Auburn, is also director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and an Auburn alum. He came to Auburn in 1958 on a football scholarship and played end for the Tigers from 1958 to 1961, also lettering in track in 1959. He earned his bachelor’s degree in agronomy and soils from Auburn in 1962 and his master’s in soil science three years later, then received a Ph.D. in soil science from Cornell University in 1968.

In 1983, after working for several years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service, he returned to Auburn as professor and head of the Department of Agronomy and Soils. He was appointed as acting dean of the College of Agriculture in 1985 and, in 1988, was named associate dean of international programs, a position he held until his first official retirement in 2003. Two years later, he came out of retirement to assume his current positions as College of Ag dean and AAES director.

Guthrie was chosen for the Hall of Honor award in the education/government category. Those who nominated him cited his many contributions as a soil scientist, educator, international liaison and administrator.

Joining Guthrie as 2009 Hall of Honor inductees were Wyeth Holt Speir Jr. of Daphne, who was chosen in the agribusiness category, and, from the agricultural production sector, Ronnie B. Holladay of Trickem. The Ag Alumni Association also paid tribute to the late Samuel H. Booker and the late Ralph W. Martin Jr. by naming them as the 2009 Pioneer Award winners. The Pioneer Award is presented posthumously to outstanding Alabama agriculturists.
This is a time of both opportunity and challenge at Auburn University. As faculty, we enjoy an atmosphere of shared governance with our administration. President Gogue has demonstrated a willingness to listen to faculty and to implement the policies voted on by the Senate. We also are welcoming a new provost, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, who will bring new ideas to Auburn and work with faculty on implementation of the Strategic Plan. This gives faculty leaders, both in the Senate, and on University and Senate committees, the responsibility and the power to effect change at Auburn.

The challenges are large with the economic recession necessitating cuts in Auburn’s budget and the expectation of further budget cuts in the future. We will need to face the reality of smaller state allocations of funds. As a faculty member, I feel a responsibility to work with other faculty, administration, staff and students to deal with these financial challenges. We need to plan for the future and ensure that Auburn remains strong even with significant budget cuts.

In my 20 years as a faculty member at Auburn, I have worked on many committees and with many people across the university. Overall, I have found that both faculty and administrators work to further the best interests of the students, faculty and staff of the university. While we may disagree about what is best and how to achieve goals, these strong views demonstrate a commitment to Auburn. With shared governance, all ideas can be expressed and brought into the open. This helps different groups know that their voice matters. I hope all who have an opinion will take the opportunity to work on committees or attend and speak up at general faculty meetings or forums designed to collect different views. Listening to many views takes time, but ideas should always be valued.

From my perspective, the role of Senate leadership is to coordinate the many different constituents. We need to be open to all ideas, discuss ideas openly and work together to find solutions. My research on corporate boards has demonstrated that the most effective boards are those whose members are encouraged to share differences of opinions. Once all views have been expressed, the board then works together to come up with effective strategies. If we listen to one another with respect this leads to better solutions. I believe that Dr. Gogue has established an atmosphere at Auburn in which faculty are listened to and better ideas can emerge.

While most faculty agree with an environment of shared governance, as faculty members we need to remember that with it comes increased responsibility. It is not good enough to grumble to each other about poor decisions which have been made. Instead, we need to work actively on committees to state our views. We need to speak up about issues that are important to us and our colleagues. I have worked with Senate leaders over the past several years, and I am impressed with their commitment to generate and listen to ideas to implement policies that are good for Auburn.

I share this strong commitment to Auburn University. Through my many years of service on departmental, college and university committees, as well as my work in the University Senate, I am prepared to continue that work. Although the current economic situation presents challenges, I look forward to working with faculty and administrators in an open atmosphere to find solutions for the good of the university.

* * *

Editor’s note: Both candidates for chair-elect were invited by the University Senate and the Auburn Report to submit statements. Nominee Lawrence Molt did not respond.

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Hanging in there

In another scene from a recent class session outside Draughon Library, Horticulture major Michael Kennedy descends from one of the large oaks on the library grounds. Kennedy, a junior from Opelika, was one of several students recently participating in a horticulture class session on arboricultural climbing techniques related to the professional care and maintenance of mature trees in parks and on the grounds of many businesses and older homes across the South. In March, two students from the department will compete nationally at the Professional LandCare Network Student Career Days in Pomona, Calif. Additional information about the class is on page 1.

Melissa Humble, Photographic Services
Auburn Research Park adds tenant from financial sector

Auburn Research Park officials have announced that financial advisement firm Johnson Sterling Inc. will open a financial research and consulting office in the park in early April.

“Johnson Sterling has a long-standing relationship with Auburn University, having served the Auburn retirement plans and its participants since 1984,” Auburn Research Park Executive Director John Weete said. “The firm uses a research-driven, risk-managed financial and investment management discipline to serve its clients. We expect that to continue and even broaden in the research park.”

The Birmingham-based firm is an independent, fee-only company and is a registered investment advisor and pension consultancy with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It provides an array of financial services, investment advisory services and retirement plan fiduciary consulting services throughout the United States. Clients include colleges and universities, medical schools, individuals, families, estates and corporations.

Johnson Sterling selected the Auburn Research Park because of its proximity to Auburn University, according to Sam Johnson, CEO of Johnson Sterling. Plans call for a financial learning center to instruct people on how to use financial research and tools.

The company also plans a student internship for Auburn students, who would earn income while working part-time to gain “real life” experience. Student interns would participate in developing systems and techniques to help people meet financial goals and deal with financial challenges.

The Auburn Research Park is located on 156 acres of university property and is being developed and operated by the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, an Alabama non-profit corporation. The first building in the emerging Auburn Research Park was completed in September.

The research park is being designed to attract companies from within and outside the state to be near the intellectual resources at Auburn. Current tenants include Northrop Grumman, Roanoke Electronic Controls, the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation and the university’s Office of Technology Transfer.

See page 1 for biographical information about the candidates and details of the election
Auburn Abroad
With new programs, more students take advantage of opportunities to study abroad

Despite — and in some cases aided by — a worldwide economic recession, Auburn students are signing up at a record rate for international study. If projections hold through the summer, approximately 885 Auburn students will study beyond the borders of the United States this year, compared to 712 in 2007-08.

This year’s expected increase is part of a larger pattern. The number of Auburn students participating in international activities has tripled over the past decade as the university has stepped up its programs to encourage students to develop skills necessary for success in a global economy.

Deborah Weiss, assistant director for Auburn Abroad programs in the Office of International Education, said the worldwide economic recession seems to have had little impact on fall and spring enrollment in study abroad programs. With summer enrollment under way, Weiss said it appears that most of the faculty-led programs abroad will meet or exceed last year’s enrollment numbers.

More than 80 percent of Auburn students who study abroad do so in faculty-led programs. Noting that students and their parents are carefully considering their family budgets, Weiss said some have found good deals in international travel and travelers are finding that the buying power of the dollar against the euro and other major currencies has improved.

Changing economic conditions do affect students’ decisions, yet most who participate in study abroad programs look beyond the immediate future, as do their parents, Weiss said.

“At one time, students made the decision to spend a summer or a semester studying abroad after they got to college, but now they are coming in as freshmen with international study as part of their educational plans,” she said.

In many cases, the students’ parents are pushing them to participate in Auburn’s faculty-led studies abroad. “A lot of parents recognize the importance of studying abroad with faculty, and they consider it a necessary part of the total educational package,” Weiss said.

This academic year, more than 260 students have been studying in other countries during fall and spring semesters. With registration in the early stage for most summer programs, Auburn’s colleges and schools are preparing for more than 600 students in faculty-led study abroad programs this summer. In addition, more than 150 Auburn students are expected to participate in study-abroad programs sponsored by other universities and private organizations, which offer niche opportunities beyond those in Auburn’s faculty-led programs.

The Office of International Education works closely with the colleges and schools to implement their study abroad programs and assist students in preparing to go abroad.

After widespread input from faculty, students, staff, alumni and others, the university last year included study abroad and developing students’ international skills as part of Auburn’s new strategic plan. Approximately 3 percent of students participate in study abroad programs at least once during their time at Auburn; the strategic plan seeks to increase the rate to 25 percent.

The inclusion of study abroad in Auburn’s strategic plan was bolstered by a recent University of Minnesota study, which was reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education. That study of 6,400 study abroad participants from 22 colleges and universities over five decades found that 83 percent rated the experience as having a strong impact on their lives.

As a step toward increasing student participation, each college and school at Auburn now has faculty-led academic programs abroad for its students. Although many academic programs offer an international perspective on the educational needs of their majors, more than half the university’s colleges and schools offer some or all of their programs to students in other colleges and schools.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures — with summer programs in Austria, France, Italy, Spain and Mexico and fall and spring programs in several countries — has the largest mix of Auburn Abroad programs and the largest number of participants. Based in the College of Liberal Arts, the department makes the programs available to all Auburn students and does not require students to have previous knowledge of the host country’s language. Language instruction is in the host country and ranges from basic to advanced, depending on individual needs. The programs, meanwhile, focus heavily on the history and culture of the host countries, as does the London-based Regents College program led by faculty in the English Department.

The Human Odyssey program in the Honors College also draws students from throughout the university. Students do not have to be in the Honors College to participate, but they do have to sign up as entering freshmen during Camp War Eagle for the following summer. The program, which limits enrollment to 20 students, will extend its study of Western Culture to five countries this summer.

The College of Human Sciences has one of Auburn’s larger individual programs, with up to 50 students during the year at its campus in Ariccia, Italy. The college also has a summer program in Nutrition and Food Sciences that reaches across several European countries.

The College of Business, which has the largest number of exchange programs for undergraduate students, will expand its London summer internship program to include Dublin in 2010. Also, following the success of the study abroad phase of the Executive M.B.A. program, the college has begun requiring M.B.A. students to study abroad; M.B.A. options include China, Argentina-Chile and Eastern Europe.

The College of Architecture, Design and Construction also has a wide range of Auburn Abroad programs for its majors and has the university’s

See Auburn Abroad, next page
Three organizations recognize Auburn for its communications, marketing, alumni activities

Auburn received seven awards for its communications, marketing and alumni programs at the 2009 southeastern regional meeting of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Higher Education, or CASE, on Feb. 11 in Atlanta. The university also recently received awards from two other professional organizations for its activities in these areas.

The Office of Communications and Marketing won a Grand Award, the highest honor, in the crisis management plans category for its Message Dissemination in a Crisis entry, an outline of Auburn’s new emergency communications plan and publications created in cooperation with the Office of Risk Safety and Management and the Department of Public Safety.

The Office, meanwhile, was a Grand Award finalist in the institutional relations projects category for The Uganda FISH Project, a series of media projects about the work of Auburn aquaculture researcher Karen Veverica in Uganda. The effort was a collaborative venture with the College of Agriculture and Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures.

“This year’s awards are the result of many partnerships with colleges and departments across campus,” said Camille Barkley, Auburn’s director of marketing and creative services. “Being recognized for creatively telling the stories of Auburn’s strengths and service is gratifying.”

Auburn Magazine, the Auburn Alumni Association’s quarterly publication, was a Grand Award finalist in the alumni magazines category. Auburn Magazine was also a Grand Award finalist in the excellence in feature writing category for “The Nose Knows” article written by Suzanne Johnson.

The Auburn Report newsletter won an Award of Excellence in the tabloid and newsletter publishing improvement category, while an anti-hazing campaign brochure created for the Office of the Dean of Students picked up an Award of Excellence in the low budget publications category. The Office of Communications and Marketing also won a Special Merit Award for its work with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs on a faculty recruitment advertisement.

This year’s CASE competition had 869 entries, 320 of which came from Auburn, and 28 states. Auburn received 13 awards, up from four received last year. The public relations campaign; “Pretty Face” magazine advertisement series for recruiting students; and the AU Alert and emergency communications plan.

Bronze Awards were received for the “War Eagle Moment: Alaska” television advertisement; The FISH Project video production; Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs newspaper ad series; International Quality of Life Award advertisement; and the anti-hazing campaign.

In this year’s Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition, sponsored by the Admissions Marketing Report, Auburn picked up five honors. These include a Gold Award for the “Pretty Face” student-recruitment newspaper advertisement; Bronze Award for The Auburn Abroad Experience brochure; Merit Award for the Counselor Chronicle newsletter; Merit Award for the Events and Visits brochure; and Merit Award for the Honors College brochure.

The Admissions Advertising Awards is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

— Charles Martin

Summit set for this weekend as Auburn hosts scholars, students in fight against world hunger

Acting on behalf of Universities Fighting World Hunger, Auburn will host the fourth annual University Hunger Summit this weekend at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

In partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme, Universities Fighting World Hunger is a worldwide coalition of more than 80 higher education institutions committed to implementing short-term grassroots approaches and long-term academic solutions to ending hunger.

The theme for the Feb. 27-March 1 conference is “Ending Hunger...Yes We Can!” Among the attendees will be university students, faculty and administrators, as well as hunger activists from across the country.

Summit highlights include keynote addresses by Congressman Spencer Bachus of Alabama; Jonathan Blum, vice chairman and president of Yum! Brands; and Alan Jury, director of United States relations for the United Nations World Food Programme.

Several other colleges and schools have new or expanding programs in Central or South America. These include Agriculture, with a new program in Chile; Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, with a new program in Brazil; and Nursing, which has 24 students in Ecuador. Meanwhile, Sciences and Mathematics teams with Duke University to send students to Costa Rica and South Africa on the Organization for Tropical Studies programs.

— Roy Summerford

Auburn Abroad

continued from previous page

second-largest participation rate, behind Liberal Arts. Expanding activities in COSAM this year include a Building Science study abroad program with several locations in China, and an Industrial and Graphic Design program in Hong Kong.

Among new programs, the College of Education has an Eco-Adventure program in Costa Rica open to all Auburn students this summer and programs in Australia and South Korea for students in certain fields, while Engineering will offer a Global Perspectives in Engineering program in Pamplona, Spain.

Several other colleges and schools have new or expanding programs in Central or South America. These include Agriculture, with a new program in Chile; Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, with a new program in Brazil; and Nursing, which has 24 students in Ecuador. Meanwhile, Sciences and Mathematics teams with Duke University to send students to Costa Rica and South Africa on the Organization for Tropical Studies programs.

— Roy Summerford
Achievements

Buskist to receive lifetime achievement award as psychology educator

Bill Buskist, Distinguished Professor in the Psychology Department in the College of Liberal Arts, is the recipient of the 2009 Charles L. Brewer Distinguished Teaching of Psychology Award, an award given annually by the American Psychological Foundation.

The award is widely regarded as a lifetime achievement award and is the most prestigious award given to teachers of psychology in the United States. This award recognizes the significant career of contributions of a psychologist who has a proven track record as an exceptional teacher of psychology.

As part of the recognition, Buskist will give a special address at the American Psychological Association’s annual convention in Toronto, Canada, in August.

Three in Education receive honors at region kinesiology meeting

Two faculty members and one graduate student from the College of Education’s Department of Kinesiology were honored at the annual meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine Feb. 12-14 in Birmingham.

Peter Grandjean, an associate professor of health promotion and director of the TigerFit program, was elected president of the Southeast chapter, and Bruce Gladden, a Humana-Germany-Sherman distinguished professor in exercise physiology, received the organization’s Service Award. Meanwhile, Lindsey Schreiber received an award in the SEACSM Master’s Student Presentation Competition.

The organization provides support at the regional level for the goals of the American College of Sports Medicine, including professional development, mentorship of student members, and collaborative efforts between member institutions, organizations and special interest groups.

Auburn Pharmacy professor receives national educator award in his field

Bruce Berger, head of the Department of Pharmacy Care Systems, Harrison School of Pharmacy has been named the 2009 recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award.

Named for the late Robert K. Chalmers, a former AACP president and leading pharmacy educator, the award recognizes excellence in pharmacy education. The 2009 award cites Berger for excellence as an instructor, outstanding achievements as a researcher and scholar and overall impact on pharmacy education and the profession.

USDA recognizes Liu for leadership on aquaculture genome project

The USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service has recognized John Liu for his contributions to the National Animal Genome Research Program and for his service as coordinator of the program’s Aquaculture Genome Committee.

Liu, who has served as the associate dean of research for Auburn’s College of Agriculture and assistant director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station since January 2008, is also alumni professor in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and director of Auburn’s Aquatic Genomics Unit.

When the Aquaculture Genome Project became an official part of the National Animal Genome Project in 2003, Liu was appointed as the project’s first coordinator, and he was reappointed in 2008.

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