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AU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

World's Fair

Students got the opportunity to travel around the world at last week's AU World's Fair on the Haley Center Concourse. More than 40 countries were represented with displays that included information about each country's culture and customs as well as crafts and games. The event was sponsored by the offices of International Student Life and Admissions as well as the UPC.



Math professor named Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer for 2006

The AU Graduate School has selected Olav Kallenberg of the College of Sciences and Mathematics as Auburn's 32nd annual Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer.

Kallenberg, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, will receive an award and present his public lecture, "On the Wondrous World of Modern Mathematics," at 4 p.m. April 5 in the Sciences Laboratory Center auditorium.

A member of the AU faculty since 1986, Kallenberg is an internationally recognized researcher in the area of probability theory, and he is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Born and educated in Sweden, Kallenberg received his Ph.D. in 1972 from Chalmers Technical University in Gothenburg. After various teaching and research positions at Swedish universities and some visiting positions abroad, he came to the United States in 1985. He is internationally known in the field of mathematics for his books *Random Measures*, *Foundations of Modern Probability* and

Probabilistic Symmetries and Invariance Principles, as well as for numerous research papers in all areas of probability theory.

Kallenberg's lecture will focus on the significance of modern mathematics.

"Mathematics used to be regarded as an essential part of the cultural heritage, but not anymore. Many 'well-educated' people are totally ignorant about the subject, to the point of doubting that any significant progress has been made in the area since the age of Newton," he said. "I shall try to dispel such beliefs by explaining what modern mathematics is all about, why it matters in our society and what mathematicians are doing when they are not teaching calculus to endless crowds of undergraduate students."

The Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer is selected each year by a committee of previous recipients. The award recognizes distinguished service in support of graduate education at Auburn University. In addition to a keynote address, the recipient is honored with a dinner for invited guests sponsored by the Office of the President. The Alumni Association also presents the lecturer with an honorarium.



Kallenberg

AU announces promotions, tenure

The Office of the Provost has announced awards of promotion and tenure at Auburn for 2006 to the following faculty members (listed with departments):

Professor

Fennechiena Dane and Jeffery L. Sibley, Horticulture; Darrell Rankins, Animal Sciences; John Gaber, Architecture; Larry L. Colquitt Jr., Finance; Daniel M. Gropper, Economics; Joseph B. Hanna, Aviation Management & Logistics; Thomas Denney and John Hung, Electrical & Computer Engineering; Nels Madsen, Mechanical Engineering; Mary Stroup-Gardiner, Civil Engineering.

Scott A. Enebak, Forestry & Wildlife Sciences; Susan S. Hubbard, Nutrition & Food Sciences; Jennifer Kerpelman, Human Development & Family Studies; Murray D. Jardine, Political Science; Kelly D. Jolley, Philosophy; Michel J. Raby, Foreign Languages & Literatures; Willis E. Hames and Ming-Kuo Lee, Geology & Geography; Paul Schmidt, Mathematics & Statistics.

Professor with Tenure

Pradeep Lall, Mechanical Engineering; Kathryn H. Braund, History.

Librarian III with Tenure

Jean Liddell, Reference, RBD Library.

Associate Professor

Cynthia Bowling, Political Science.

Associate Professor with Tenure

David Y. Han, Agronomy & Soils; Linda C. Ruth, Building Science; Anoop Sattineni, Building Science; James E. Smith, Architecture; Jennifer M. Mueller,

Accountancy; Olin L. Adams III, Paris S. Strom and Sara E. Wolf, Educational FLT; Alyson I. Whyte, Curriculum & Teaching; Saad Biaz, Computer Science & Software Engineering; David H. Timm and Dongye Zhao, Civil Engineering; Mathew F. Smidt, Forestry & Wildlife Sciences; Francesca Adler-Baeder, Human Development & Family Studies; Paula F. Peek, Consumer Affairs.

Lourdes Betanzos and Jana F. Gutierrez, Foreign Languages & Literatures; Penelope A. Ingram, Christopher M. Keirstead and Michelle A. Sidler, English; Eric A. Marcus, Philosophy; Christopher L. McNulty, Art; Luke J. Marzen, Geology & Geography; Joanna Wysocka-Diller, Biological Sciences; Eleanor M. Josephson and Juming Zhong Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology.

Associate Research Professor

LaDon Swann, Fisheries & Allied Aquacultures.

Associate Clinical Professor

Amy R. Donaldson and Kristi W. Kelley, Pharmacy Practice; Debra Beard, Clinical Sciences.

Tenure

Prabahakar Clement, Civil Engineering; Fa Dai, Electrical & Computer Engineering; John A. Hamilton, Computer Science & Software Engineering; Hanqin Tian, Forestry & Wildlife Sciences; Paula Bobrowski, Political Science; Lisa Channer, Theatre; Wendy Duncan-Hewitt, Pharmacy Care Systems; Mark Carpenter, Mathematics & Statistics; Kenneth M. Halanych, Biological Sciences.

Jamie Bellah and Harry Boothe, Clinical Sciences; Dawn M. Boothe and Elaine S. Coleman, Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology; Carl Pinkert and Haroldo Toro, Pathobiology.

CADC associate dean, community planning team win leadership awards in their field

Sharon Gaber, associate dean in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, and a student group in the college's community planning program have been named to receive leadership awards this month from the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The awards will be presented May 18, at the organization's annual meeting in Florence.

Gaber, who has served as associate dean of the college since fall 2002, will receive the chapter's 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner.

Dan Bennett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, said Gaber's leadership has transformed a small graduate planning program into a nationally recognized accredited degree program that is attracting outstanding students

from across the United States and internationally.

Gaber has published 17 refereed journal articles focusing on planning research methods and has been instrumental in helping the community planning program grow from three students in 2002 to more than 40 this year.

The state organization also named AU's community planning student team the winner of the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Student Team for 2006.

The group, which consisted of 22 students, won for their work on the Macon County Preliminary Comprehensive Plan. The plan, which provided officials with the first comprehensive planning effort for all of Macon County, will serve as a guide for future development.

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 27

SPRING BREAK No classes this week; offices remain open

Friday, March 31

DEADLINE Registration for April 7 faculty forum to review three alternatives to current student evaluations of classes and faculty; contact Biggio Center, biggio1@auburn.edu

Monday, April 3

NEXT AU Report

DEADLINE Nominations for Creative Research and Scholarship Awards, Office of Vice President for Research, www.auburn.edu/research/vpr/internalfund.htm

POETRY READING English and German, Austrian poet Karl Lubomirski, 4 p.m., Eagle's Nest North

Tuesday, April 4

LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE "Enhancing the Human: Genetics, Science Fiction and Ethics Collide," Gregory Stock, best-selling author and UCLA medical researcher, 4 p.m., auditorium, Sciences Laboratory Center, Roosevelt Drive

Wednesday, April 5

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY LECTURE "On the Wondrous World of Modern Mathematics," Olav Kallenberg, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, 4 p.m., auditorium, Sciences Laboratory Center

Thursday, April 6

GRISHAM-TRENTHAM LECTURE "Packaging Yourself for Success in the Fashion Design World," author and fashion consultant Karen Fisher, founder of Designer Previews, 11 a.m., AU Hotel

PUBLIC LECTURE "Is the Media Censored: Politics, Profits and Propaganda," Orville Schell, dean of Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, 4 p.m., AU Hotel

FACULTY PANEL DISCUSSION "Self-Censorship: When is it Necessary? What are its Dangers?" 5 p.m., AU Hotel



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Internal search begins for new AUM chancellor

AU has launched an internal search at the university's Montgomery and Auburn campuses for an interim chancellor of Auburn University Montgomery.

The interim chancellor will succeed Guin Nance, who is retiring after 35 years at AUM, the last five as chancellor. The person selected as interim chancellor will serve during the search for a new AU president and then during the search for a long-term leader of the Montgomery campus.

The chancellor of AUM reports to the president of AU, is the chief executive officer of the 5,000-student campus and is responsible for the quality of AUM's academic programs and instruction and the fiscal and support operations of the campus. A complete description of the chancellor position is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/president.

Applications are due by Monday, April 3, and the selection process is scheduled to conclude with an announcement from interim President Ed Richardson on May 4 or 5. Application materials must be submitted electronically in MS Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format to aum_search@auburn.edu and must include a letter of interest, a current vita and a list of references, with names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The announcement notes that the interim chancellor will "in all likelihood" have a strong academic background with a doctorate or terminal professional degree. But it adds that "different career histories could be applicable so long as the experiences the candidate has gained are appropriate to leading a large, complex enterprise."

Author to discuss ethics, future of biotechnology

Gregory Stock, a best-selling author on biotechnology, will speak at AU on Tuesday, April 4, as part of the Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series.

Stock, who is director of the Program on Medicine, Technology and Society at UCLA, will speak on "Enhancing the Human: Genetics, Science Fiction and Ethics Collide" at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Sciences Laboratory Center on Roosevelt Drive.

A professor of psychiatry and biobehavior at UCLA, Stock is the author of the *New York Times* best-seller *The Book of Questions*, which has been translated into 17 languages, and *Redesigning Humans: Our Inevitable Genetic Future*. He also edited the book *Engineering the Human Germline: An Exploration of the Science and Ethics of Altering the Genes We Pass to Our Children*.



Faculty Awards

The Alumni Association recently recognized the work of three AU faculty members by presenting them with the association's 2006 Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards. The recipients are, from left, Brian Gibson of Aviation Management and Logistics, Sheri Brock of Health and Human Performance and Paula Peek of Consumer Affairs.

Speaker to discuss ways to get ahead of trends in design

Karen Fisher, a nationally prominent interior design expert and forecaster of emerging trends, will deliver AU's 20th annual Grisham-Trentham Lecture on Thursday, April 6.

Fisher will speak on "Packaging Yourself for Success in the Design World" at 11 a.m. at the AU Hotel.

The visiting speaker is founder and head of Designer Previews, a consulting firm that specializes in matching clients with both well-known and emerging designers and architects.

Before launching Designer Previews, Fisher was an editor for *Women's Wear Daily*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire* and *American Home*. She is the author of six books on design and was inducted into the Interior Design Hall of Fame in 1996 for outstanding contributions to the field.

Michael Solomon, professor of consumer affairs in the AU College of Human Sciences and chair of the Grisham-Trentham Lecture Series, said Fisher can provide consumers with insight into design trends while giving students a broader perspective of what clients look for in a designer.

The Grisham-Trentham Lectures Series was established by retired Consumer Affairs Professor Gary Trentham to expose students to world-class designers and business leaders. In addition to Trentham, the lectureship also bears the name of renowned painter and textile designer Betty Grisham and her late husband, Charles, an Auburn graduate.



Signs of Spring

Last week marked the official beginning of spring despite cooler temperatures. As March comes to a close, many flowers, like these pansies, could be seen blooming all across campus. Faculty and staff who remain on campus this week will enjoy a more beautiful campus as numerous azaleas come into full bloom.

Auburn engineering research leads to medical uses for contact lenses

The vision-impaired have long appreciated the liberation that contact lenses provide from the annoyances associated with eyeglasses. However, this tiny vision correction marvel may soon also provide the wearer with relief from allergies and other eye diseases and irritations.

Researchers in the Department of Chemical Engineering of Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering have developed a technology that has proven in laboratory testing to enable the contact lens to hold medication in concentrated, renewable doses and release the drug in a controlled, timed and targeted manner. The result may be a significant improvement over the use of drops and ointments, says the lead investigator, Assistant Professor Mark Byrne.

Since its inception, the hydrophilic (soft) contact lens has been considered to have potential as an effective medication delivery medium, Byrne said. The largest obstacle has been its limited capacity to hold and release medication in an effective and controlled manner — which has prevented any viable product showing up in the contact lens market.

"We have overcome those problems by improving the structural properties within the polymer matrix of the gel that comprises the lens," Byrne said.

"A contact lens is mostly water," Byrne added. "To clean and rehydrate it, one needs only to soak it in a saline-based cleaning solution. When the lens is made of the right materials, this same process enables it to be loaded with concentrated amounts of medication. Because it is easily placed directly on the eye, the contact lens can thus become a very effective medium for drug delivery."

Byrne said the key lies in matching engineering technology with the science of biology. Although the AU technology uses materials no different from those found in commercially available contact lenses, Byrne says they have changed how

those materials are incorporated into the lens, but not in a way that requires changes in the lens manufacturing process.

"This technology has a fundamental link to biology," Byrne said. "We've been able to match chemistry with the biology that comprises binding properties and other biological mechanisms in the human body. The result is a biometric polymer that binds with the desired medications and provides a controlled, timed release of these medications. We have not changed the material to a large extent. We have mostly changed the synthesis of the material."

Byrne noted that 90 percent of the current eye treatment drugs available are either drops or ointments. Neither is as effective in targeting as is desired, he added.

"Typically, less than 7 percent of the applied drug is absorbed by the eye tissue," Byrne said, citing a problem with ointments and drops. "Because of that poor absorption rate, the drug has to be applied in very high, multiple dosages to be effective."

Using the contact lens as the delivery mechanism, he says, enables the drug to be administered at lower doses and with greater absorption by the affected tissue, and with less impact on other untargeted tissues.

Byrne began his research focused on using the contact lens as a delivery mechanism for antihistamine.

"We found quickly — based on analysis of histamine action in the body — that the contact lens could be made effective for antihistamine delivery," Byrne said.

Byrne and two student researchers — doctoral candidate Siddharth Venkatesh and senior chemical engineering student Parker Sizemore — have expanded their research to examine the use of contact lenses to deliver anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics and other medications.

Auburn has filed for patent protection on the new technology.

Scottish society inducts Szechi

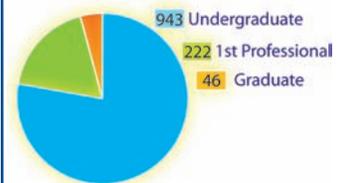
Daniel Szechi of the AU College of Liberal Arts was recently elected a Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

As a peer-elected member of the Royal Society, Szechi, a professor in the History Department, joins a diverse body of influential scholars, philosophers, writers and public servants, ranging from economist Adam Smith and philosopher David Hume in the 18th century to Alan Greenspan, who recently retired as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Szechi received his Ph.D. in history from Oxford University and has published several books and articles on Scottish history, with a concentration on the 18th century.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Net increase in AU enrollment by student level, 1995-2005



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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