

Firm to assist growth of distance learning

Auburn University has signed an agreement with Everspring, a nationally prominent higher education support company, for assistance in developing new distance education programs.

The agreement, which came out of a faculty-led process, aligns with several goals outlined in the university's 2013-18 Strategic Plan, including, primarily, the goal to enhance student success by developing a select number of fully online degree programs.

"The development of new distance education programs is a critical aspect of Auburn's mission to provide educational opportunities to our students," said Provost Timothy Boosinger.

He added, "Through our partnership with Everspring, Auburn will strategically create online degree programs that are innovative, accessible and relevant. More importantly, our faculty will have the opportunity to deliver a high-quality academic experience that parallels our on-campus instruction."

Beginning this spring, representatives from the Provost's Office and Everspring will engage campus stakeholders to identify high-demand academic programs. Working alongside Auburn faculty, Everspring academic specialists will support a university target of identifying three undergraduate academic programs and select master's programs that offer the greatest potential for success.

"Providing fully online undergraduate distance education completer programs will help Auburn University expand our land-grant mission by providing instruction to Alabamians who cannot attend Auburn's on-campus programs," said Associate Provost Emmett Winn.

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Five from Auburn awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

Five Auburn University students and alumni have been awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships and two students have received honorable mention.

The National Science Foundation announced this week the Auburn recipients: Casey Ruark, a 2013 Honors College graduate in biological sciences; Chris Bartel, an Honors College senior in chemical engineering; Zack Coker, a 2013 Honors College graduate in software engineering; Alex Roman, an Honors College senior in chemical engineering; and Jacob Clary, an Honors College senior in chemical engineering.

Receiving honorable mention were Alex Wolff, an Honors College senior in aerospace engineering, and Ryan Weaver, a graduate student in biological sciences.

The fellowship provides three years of support at \$30,000 annually and an additional \$10,500 cost of education allowance. The purpose of the fellowship program is to help ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce in the United States.



April flowers

Azaleas that began blooming late last week, such as these across from Haley Center, were the first clear signal that spring has finally come to the Plains after the coldest, longest winter in decades.

Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Campaign asks faculty, staff to give back for favorite Auburn programs

With a goal of maintaining an overall participation rate of more than 70 percent, volunteers across campus are ramping up for Auburn's 2014 Faculty Staff Campaign.

Last year's strong finish – with more than 72 percent participation – once again placed Auburn No. 1 among SEC institutions for faculty staff participation. In addition, Auburn is one of the top schools in the nation for faculty staff participation in an annual campus campaign.

The Faculty Staff Campaign, which runs through May 31 in its public phase, is an annual fundraising campaign through which faculty and staff members make gifts to support those programs or activities at the university that are of special importance to them.

Rather than suggesting a minimum or maximum gift amount, volunteers ask all faculty and staff members to choose the gift level that is appropriate for them and to make their philanthropic investment in Auburn either through payroll deduction or other mecha-

nism. In the past, gifts benefiting Auburn, which are accepted by the Auburn University Foundation on behalf of the university, have ranged from \$10 to \$10,000.

"We are asking everyone to help tell Auburn's story through their participation in the Faculty Staff Campaign," said Jane DiFolco Parker, Auburn's vice president for development and president of the Auburn University Foundation. "When you choose to give back to Auburn you are sending a powerful signal to alumni, donors and others that you believe in it enough to invest your own resources, and that they should consider joining you in supporting Auburn too."

"The teaching, learning, research and discoveries that are occurring at Auburn have a positive impact, not only locally and within our state, but nationally and globally as well," Parker said. "We want to help people identify how they can satisfy their philanthropic passion through investing in Auburn. It is not 'how

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Melissa Humble, Photographic Services

Swiss diplomat

Auburn University faculty and administrators recently hosted Andreas Markus Maager, consul general of Switzerland for 12 Southern states and the Cayman Islands. Maager, who is based in Atlanta, visited the campus as part of a university program to enhance the international education of Auburn students. Shown from left are Bob McGinnis, newly retired special counsel to the university president; Maager; Anna Gramberg, who succeeded McGinnis as special counsel on April 1; and Auburn University President Jay Gogue.

Auburn to release book on food systems during Research Week

Auburn University will release its new book, "Auburn Speaks: On Food Systems," during the university's third annual Research Week. A panel discussion with the editors, writers and researchers is set for 10 a.m. April 17 at The Hotel at Auburn University.

"The book traces the university's exceptional, food-related research across many disciplines," said John Mason, Auburn's vice president for research and economic development. "Each year we select a topic that captures Auburn's land-grant role in addressing the increasingly complex issues facing our state, nation and world."

"Auburn Speaks: On Food Systems" is the third book in the Auburn Speaks series, following previous editions that covered the university's research pertaining to "The Gulf Oil Spill of 2010" and "Water."

This year faculty members penned articles or were interviewed on their food-related research in areas such as nutrition, engineering, economics, marketing, horticulture, poultry science, veterinary medicine, fisheries and many others.

"It is a visually engaging publication that offers readers insight into just how complicated the modern food system is and into the types of research and outreach that are happening from farm to fork, pond to plate," said guest

issue editor Patricia Curtis, director of the Auburn University Food Systems Institute, who worked with managing editors Jay Lamar and Jacque Kochak and faculty to develop the articles.

Examples of articles include "Fruits of Labor" about identifying ways to enhance fruit production in the Southeast; "Beekeeping in Kenya" which describes how Auburn researchers are using bees to help Kenya with nutrition, income and river protection; and "The Promise of Probiotics" about innovative ways that Auburn experts are fighting foodborne infections.

Articles also cover food processing, packaging, yield, delivery and economics, as well as the sustainability and growth of poultry, beef, seafood and food crops.

"We present research results that provide information to food industries, governmental policymakers and humanitarian organizations," Curtis said.

Auburn's Research Week is set for April 14-17 with a focus on food systems, safety and security, as well as many other disciplines. The talks and presentations are free to the public. More information is available on the Research Week website at www.auburn.edu/researchweek.

— Charles Martin

Museum adds artistic twist to kicking a habit

A North Carolina artist is breathing new life into retired cigarette machines with Art-o-mat and the nonprofit group, Artists in Cellophane. With a \$5 token and the pull of a lever, visitors to the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University can purchase an original work of art and discover a new artist.

The creator of Art-o-mat, Clark Whittington, will share his effort to combine the worlds of art and commerce in a public lecture at the museum at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 10. Music by Cullars Improvisational Rotation and tapas with cocktail service in the Museum Cafe will follow from 6 to 8 p.m.

Although more than 120 active Art-o-mat machines have been converted to vend art and are located across the United States in art galleries, museums, cafes, restaurants, art houses and other venues, the location of Alabama's first Art-o-mat will be the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

"The very first converted machine I made almost 20 years ago was intended to be a one-time art piece," Whittington said.

On view in a coffee shop, the machine was filled with Whittington's black-and-white photographs mounted on blocks. He said he came up with the idea for the art installation piece when he noticed his response to the sound of crackling cellophane as his friend opened a vending machine snack – he immediately wanted a snack, too.

In 1997, Artists in Cellophane was born, and other artists began submitting their work. Whittington said now their Las Vegas locations dispense nearly 1,500 pieces a month.

"The small scale of the artwork allows people to wrap their mind around something representational or conceptual," Whittington said. "The machine is approachable and the experience interactive. Something this small and at this price point is easy to manage."

Whittington said that people are often surprised about the quality of work. "You would think that at this point, we've seen it all, but artists continue to show us new and innovative things."

Sometimes he finds old cigarette machines on sites like Craigslist, or sometimes people with machines find him. Whittington welcomes artists who want to be involved in the project to review the submission guidelines at www.artomat.org/guidelines/.

Museum director Marilyn Laufer first saw an Art-o-mat machine on a visit to Winston-Salem, N.C. "I visited the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, and there it was," she said. "Then I saw one on my next stop at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art. It was such a cool way to talk about art as fundamental and something a vending machine would offer – that it didn't have to be about elitism and big expense. It could be simple and direct in a compact way."

Laufer said the Art-o-mat will be installed outside of the Museum Gift Shop and ready for people to enjoy in April. The sales revenue goes towards the Artists in Cellophane and Art-o-mat project, the artists and the hosting venue.

To check on available seating for the lecture, see www.jcsm.auburn.edu/programs.

— Charlotte Hendrix



Hill receives SEC's Auburn Faculty Achievement Award

Professor Geoffrey Hill of the College of Sciences and Mathematics has received the Southeastern Conference's Auburn University Faculty Achievement Award for 2013-14.

Hill, an Alumni Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and curator of birds for the Auburn University Museum of Natural History, will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and represent Auburn as the university's nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year. The SEC Professor of the Year will be selected from 14 nominees representing each of the SEC universities.

"I am pleased to recognize Dr. Hill as Auburn University's SEC Faculty Achievement Award recipient," said Auburn University Provost Timothy Boosinger, who announced the award today concurrently with the SEC.

"As a researcher, scholar and professor, Dr. Hill personifies excellence across all aspects of our institution's land-grant mission," Boosinger said. "Through his dedication to our academic community, Dr. Hill has generated new knowledge and created new perspectives that have transformed our campus."

Presidents and chancellors of member institutions established the SEC Faculty Achievement Awards program to recognize faculty accomplishments, scholarly contributions and discoveries. Administered by the SEC provosts, the awards were first presented in 2012.

Each recipient must be a full professor at an SEC university, have a performance history of extraordinary teaching and a record of scholarship that is recognized nationally or internationally. The SEC Professor of the Year receives an additional \$15,000 honorarium.

Hill's research focuses on the function and evolution of ornamental traits in birds and on the co-evolution of hosts and pathogens. His research has garnered \$8.8 million in external grant support, including grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

He was recently appointed director of the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems at the National Science Foundation, which is the largest of the four divisions within the Biological Sciences Directorate at NSF.

Faculty Staff Campaign

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much' but 'what for' that matters."

Development officers who raise funds on behalf of Auburn say feedback from alumni and friends of Auburn, as well as from colleagues at other universities, underscores that donors are more willing to support the institution and to make larger gifts when they see a significant proportion of faculty and staff contributing to the university.

The campaign reaches every division on campus as well as the Agricultural Experiment

Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

Campaign volunteers are distributing campaign information packets across campus, which include details on ways of participating. Additional information about the campaign is available at <https://develop.auburn.edu/facultystaffcampaign> or by contacting the Office of Development's Auburn Fund at 844-1142 or aubfund@auburn.edu.

— Katie Wilder

Distance Learning

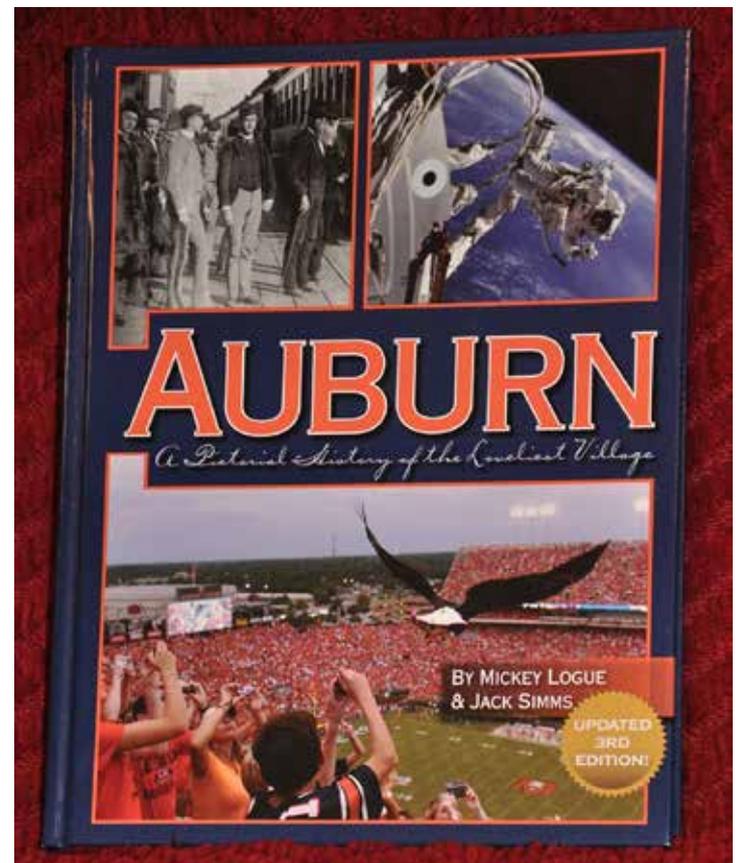
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Under the agreement for distance learning support, Everspring, which is based in Evanston, Ill., will advise and assist the academic programs with instructional design, program marketing, student recruitment and student services.

Through developing high-quality distance learning programs, as envisioned by participating faculty and academic administrators, Auburn will seek to further expand its ability to reach prospective students, including degree

completers and working professionals, who desire an Auburn degree. Academic administrators say these programs will use advanced pedagogical practices and adhere to high standards of quality.

In its work with Auburn University, Everspring will also support the university's efforts to develop online marketing and admission materials that are consistent with Auburn's unique brand and image.



Simms, Logue to present scenes of Auburn history

Journalism Professors Emeriti Jack Simms and Mickey Logue will participate in a Discover Auburn event at Draughon Library on Tuesday, April 15, highlighting images from their recently published third edition of "Auburn: A Pictorial History of the Loveliest Village."

At the 3 p.m. program in the library's Special Collections and Archives Department, Simms will present slides and discuss additions to the book, which chronicles the history of the city from 1836 and the university from 1856 to 2013. Afterward, Simms and Logue will sign copies of the book.

The new edition updates Auburn's history with pictures and text since the previous editions were published in 1981 and 1996. At 458 pages, the book is 80 percent larger than the 1981 edition.

For the new edition, Logue and Simms have supplemented the text and added new pictures illustrating the earlier eras of town and university life. Bringing Auburn's history into the 21st century, they added a new chapter with pictures illustrating events, people and changes since 1996, including the Tigers' 2010 National Championship in football.

A limited edition with only 2,000 copies in print, the book is on sale at the Auburn University Bookstore and other local bookstores.

Logue and Simms will also participate in book signings at J&M Bookstore from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on April 18, at the Auburn University Bookstore on May 3, prior to commencement, and at Anders Bookstore on August 29, before the Auburn-Arkansas football game.

Auburn to dedicate new Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital at College of Veterinary Medicine on Friday

Auburn University will dedicate the new 208,000-square-foot Wilford and Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital at the College of Veterinary Medicine at 2 p.m. Friday, April 11.

The ceremony will include comments from Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Board of Trustees President Pro Tempore Jimmy Rane, Provost Timothy Boosinger and College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Calvin Johnson.

The facility is named for the late Auburn University President Wilford Bailey and his wife, the late Cratus "Kate" Bailey. Their son, Edward Bailey, will speak on behalf of the family.

Auburn graduates and family friends John and Rosemary Brown will also speak. The Browns made a philanthropic investment through the Auburn University Foundation to benefit the College of Veterinary Medicine and to name the teaching hospital for the Baileys. The gift was in appreciation of their friendship with the Baileys, which began when the Browns were students at Auburn in the 1950s.

Wilford Bailey, a 1942 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine, had 50 years of continuous academic and administrative service to Auburn, including being Auburn's 13th President.

The \$47 million teaching hospital, one of the largest and most technologically advanced teaching and referral hospitals in the country, serves a growing caseload of 15,000 new cases each year. The College of Veterinary Medicine's Teaching Hospital includes the Bailey Small Animal and the J.T. Vaughan Large Animal facilities and is the largest academic outreach program at Auburn University.

Inside the new small animal facility are 12 clinical services: Cardiology, Critical Care, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Oncology, Radiology, Orthopedics, Physical Therapy/Rehabilitation, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, and Theriogenology.

The new building also houses a centralized pharmacy, serving both small and large animal teaching hospitals, a Clinical Pathology department and an 82-seat high-tech conference room, as well as smaller meeting spaces to expand the college's instructional and outreach capabilities; and the Auburn University Veterinary Clinic, which is providing veterinary students real experience in operating a small animal practice. The clinic is open to the public.

The facility was designed by Foil Wyatt Architects of Jackson, Miss. Principal architects E. Bowden "Skip" Wyatt and Mike Foil are 1968 Auburn architecture graduates. Birmingham-based Brasfield & Gorrie served as general contractors.

The Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital is the third major project in a master plan for the development of the College of Veterinary Medicine campus. Other facilities include the John T. Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital and the Veterinary Education Center.

—Janet McCoy

University Theatre presenting new take on Shakespeare this week

The Auburn University Theatre in the College of Liberal Arts continues its 2013-14 season this week with a contemporary take on Shakespeare in "Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief."

Directed by Assistant Professor Tessa Carr, the play at Telfair Peet Theatre opened Tuesday, with additional 7:30 p.m. performances through Saturday and a 2:30 matinee on Sunday.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.auburnuniversitytheatre.org, or by phone at 844-4154. Admission is free to Auburn University students with ID.

"Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief," by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, is a contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello." Vogel reimagines the tale of an innocent bride's betrayal as a funny, provocative and feminist take on women living in a world ruled by men.

"Vogel's play upends the simple caricatures of Shakespeare's original work," said Carr. "Her characters are fully formed with opinions on sex, power and class. Like Vogel, I believe these topics are still relevant despite the circulating idea that we are living in a post-feminist world. Her script is funny and poignant and raises important questions about the possibilities of female-actualization, friendship and freedom amidst a patriarchal power structure."

The cast includes Diana Freeberg, Savannah Renfrow and Kaye Stuckey. The production features scenic and lighting design by Fereshteh Rostampour, costume design by Jennifer Salter and sound design by Scott Waters.

—Kelly Walker



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Spirit of Excellence

Auburn University Human Resources has announced four staff members as Spirit of Excellence winners for March. They are, from left, Lorene Carden of Veterinary Medicine Pathology, Harold Cummings of Facilities Management, Jennifer Salter of the Department of Theatre and Lisa Whitmore of Liberal Arts Administration. Each month, Auburn University selects up to four staff members for Spirit of Excellence awards, which recognize outstanding service to the university. Employees of the Year will be selected from the monthly winners over the previous 12 months and will be announced at the Auburn University Employee Recognition Program at 2 p.m. April 29 at The Hotel at Auburn University.

Theatre professor to discuss multicultural poetry

Theatre Professor and CLA Engaged Scholar Daydrie Hague will discuss multicultural poetry performance on Tuesday, April 15, at 11:45 a.m. in Tichenor 310.

For the past several years, Hague and senior performance majors in the Department of Theatre have collaborated with students in the extended day pro-

gram at Loachapoka Elementary School. The "Lift Every Voice – A Celebration of Multicultural Poetry" program leads students to research, rehearse and perform a variety of African American and Latino praise poetry for the public.

Sponsors encourage attendees to bring their lunch; drinks and desserts will be provided.