Linda Ruth to lead Human Sciences program in Italy

A faculty member in Auburn’s McWhorter School of Building Science has been named executive director of the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program in Auburn’s College of Human Sciences.

June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences, announced the appointment of Linda Ruth, an associate professor in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, to the position, effective Aug. 16. Ruth will also carry the title of Joseph S. Bruno Chair.

“Linda Ruth brings a wealth of knowledge and creativity in study abroad programming and, no doubt, will continue in the tradition of her predecessor Marilyn Bradbard by offering students a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Henton.

Bradbard was executive director from 2006 until her recent retirement. In 2000, Ruth joined the Building Science faculty, where she has been active in outreach initiatives and study abroad programming.

The Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad program was launched in 2002 and became Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy in 2007, with a $3 million endowed gift from the Bruno family. Since its inception, more than 380 students have participated in the Italy program.

The semester-long program operates year-round in Ariccia, a small community less than 20 miles south of Rome. Students spend a semester deeply immersed in Italian culture through lectures, field trips and other experiences designed to enrich their knowledge base and broaden their world views.

— Amy Weaver

Physics professor has key role in international team’s antimatter breakthrough

Francis Robicheaux, Alumni Professor of Physics in Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics, is part of an international team of scientists that made a scientific breakthrough last year by trapping and holding the antimatter version of the hydrogen atom. An article in the June edition of the journal Nature Physics provides updated results of progress in that research.

When the discovery was initially announced, the team had captured 38 atoms of antihydrogen, storing each for a mere sixth of a second. Since then, the team known as ALPHA has made significant progress by trapping 309 antihydrogen atoms, with some held for as long as 15 minutes.

“Trapping antihydrogen is so difficult, we were excited about our first results that convinced us and our physics colleagues around the world that we had actually done it,” Robicheaux said. “We were even more excited by the work in this new report which showed we vastly improved the production rate and were able to hold them more than 1,000 times longer than our first report.”

He added, “Showing that we can hold the antihydrogen for more than 10 minutes and increasing the production rate vastly expands the types of experiments we will be able to perform. This makes it much more likely that we will be successful in measuring the fundamental properties of the antihydrogen atoms.”

The research collaboration is headquartered at CERN, Europe’s particle-physics lab near Geneva, Switzerland. ALPHA is mainly comprised of experimentalists who designed, built and ran the experiment, including scientists from Europe, Canada, the United States, Brazil, Israel and Japan. Robicheaux serves as a theorist to the team, providing computer simulations of how mirror-trapped anti-protons might mimic anti-atom annihilations, and how actual antihydrogen would behave in the trap.

— Candis Birchfield

Major legislation saved for session’s end

As the Auburn Report went to press on Wednesday, three major pieces of legislation relevant to Auburn University were pending before the Alabama Legislature for Thursday, the final day of the 2011 regular session.

Barring a last-minute setback for the proponents, legislative leaders were predicting final passage of three closely linked items: the 2012 education budget, an increase in health insurance fees for state employees who retire early and a measure to increase employee contributions to the State Teachers Retirement System in three stages from the current 5 percent to 7.5 percent by October 2012. The Senate and House approved a nearly $5.6 billion education budget in late May, but Gov. Robert Bentley sent the budget back until the retirement-contributions bills receive final passage. Those bills would provide funding for part of the 2012 budget.

Due to the time element, the obstacles were greater for a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the number of seats on the Auburn University Board of Trustees from 14 to 15, rearrange districts and return to a staggered system of filling seats. The Senate passed its version of the bill on May 31, and Thursday was the final day for action in the House in order for an amendment to go before the voters in a statewide referendum in March 2012.
National organization names Swaim its Outdoor Sportsman of the Year

Jann Swaim, adviser to the Auburn University Bass Sports Club, has been named American Outdoor Sportsman of the Year by the Legends of the Outdoors organization.

He will receive the award Aug. 14 at the group’s National Hall of Fame banquet in Nashville, which honors those who have blazed trails in the outdoor world and have set standards in their respective field.

Swaim, who retired in 2010 after 27 years with Auburn University, helped found the fishing club in 2007, after seeing a need for a competition outlet for interested students.

“The kids came to me and wanted a club patterned after collegiate sports,” Swaim said. “Using the collegiate format has allowed us to create a base in which to begin the process of learning team concepts and applications.”

In 2007, Swaim helped create the Southern Collegiate Bass Fishing Series, a trail which consists of three tournaments and a championship. The series is based on team competition, giving each school a win-loss record at the end of the season; this series is the only collegiate series that gives such a record. This year, more than 120 anglers representing 17 universities competed in the series championship.

“The Southern Collegiate Bass Fishing Series has quickly become the series in which all of the college bass teams want to participate and be involved with,” said Garry Mason, founder and executive director of Legends of the Outdoors.

He added, “Mr. Swaim and his staff have helped to create a truly remarkable atmosphere for these young college anglers to compete on a college level in the sport that they love. He is a true American outdoorsman.”

Swaim said he is flattered but also humbled to join the past winners of this award.

“Awards like this are given to people who are well-known people,” said Swaim. “These are people who have outstanding achievement and performance and I don’t feel like I’ve done that. I’m beginning to realize that, but all I was trying to do was get the kids able to compete for Auburn.”

Daniel Holland, a 2011 Auburn graduate and former bass club president, said he is not surprised by Swaim’s recognition. “He deserves this, hands down, for what he’s done for college fishing,” said Holland. “College fishing wouldn’t be where it is without him.”

— Katie Horn

College of Business retains high ranking for PEMBA program

The Auburn University College of Business remains among the nation’s top graduate business schools for physician-executives, according to Modern Healthcare magazine.

In the ninth annual survey of programs awarding MBAs, MHAs, or similar degrees, the Auburn Physicians Executive MBA program ranked 21st in the nation. Among MBA programs only, Auburn is ranked eighth.

The professional distance education program is provided via innovative online technologies combined with five campus residency visits over 21 months. As a result, the program allows physicians to further their education without career interruption.

“Auburn’s PEMBA program has appeared in the ranking every year since it was first published in 2003,” said College of Business Dean Bill Hardgrave. “Such recognition validates our commitment to innovative, yet practical, education. While we are certainly pleased to maintain our position among the nation’s top programs for physician-executives, we continue to look for ways to build and improve the program.”

The rankings reflect data from the 2010-11 academic year and are based on five criteria: length of program, tuition cost, days on campus, number of years since program inception and number of graduates. All institutions participating must be accredited.

“We are pleased to again be recognized,” said Dan Gropper, associate dean for MBA programs. “We are particularly pleased to be the top-ranked program in the Southeastern Conference in this specialty area. We are attracting excellent physicians from across the United States to Auburn University, and our faculty and staff do a great job delivering the program.”

Campus Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
FARMERS MARKET The Market at Ag Heritage Park, 3-6 p.m., adjacent to Ham Wilson Livestock Arena

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
MEETING Board of Trustees, The Hotel at Auburn University; committee meetings scheduled to start at 8 a.m., followed by meeting of full board at approximately 11:15 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23
FARMERS MARKET The Market at Ag Heritage Park, 3-6 p.m., adjacent to Ham Wilson Livestock Arena

HEALTHY TIGERS Screening clinic for employees and their spouses to save on health insurance premiums, 3-5:30 p.m., in conjunction with farmers market, cited above; bring your Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance card

FRIDAY, JUNE 24
NEXT Auburn Report

MONDAY, JULY 4
INDEPENDENCE DAY No classes, offices closed for holiday
Farmers Market
The Market at A&G Heritage Park is operating again this summer, with locally produced seasonal fruits, vegetables, honey and other seasonal products. Hosted by the College of Agriculture in cooperation with AAES and ACES, the market is open each Thursday from 3-6 p.m. and is adjacent to the Ham Wilson Livestock Arena.

Human Sciences grad students receive NIH, NSF fellowships

Kelly Tu and Larissa Ferrelli, graduate students in Auburn’s Department of Human Development and Families Studies in the College of Human Sciences, have received fellowships from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, respectively.

“I am so very happy to see two graduate students receiving such prestigious awards,” said Paul Harris, associate director of Auburn’s Honors College. “It is a direct reflection of the outstanding caliber of graduate-level teaching and research being conducted at Auburn.”

Tu, a doctoral student, will use the NIH Fellowship to support her dissertation research, which focuses on how parents can best help their children with peer relationships and coping with peer challenges around the transition to middle school.

College of Human Science Professor Jacquelyn Mize said the NIH Fellowship is highly competitive, as it is only awarded to a few students in the social-behavioral sciences nationwide.

“I am honored to receive this prestigious NIH Fellowship and excited about the opportunity to enhance my graduate training. I am hopeful that my research will help improve interventions to support children’s social development and psychological health,” said Tu.

“Being awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship is a true honor, one that speaks highly to the training and mentoring I have been privileged to receive here at Auburn as well as at my undergraduate institution, Elon University,” said Ferrelli. “For me, it validates the importance of child development research and motivates me to continue pursuing research as a tool to benefit not only the academic community, but more importantly to advocate for underserved populations.”

Tu was named one of the university’s top 10 doctoral students last year, and Ferrelli was named one of the top 10 master’s students this year.

– Amy Weaver

Business incubator added to Auburn Research Park

The Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, through its operating agreement with Auburn University, has established the Auburn Business Incubator.

The full-service, mixed-use business incubator is designed to help with commercialization of university- and community-derived technologies and services through new business ventures.

The Auburn Research and Technology Foundation is a university-affiliated, nonprofit corporation formed to support the mission of the university in the areas of research and economic development. The foundation is developing and operating the Auburn Research Park.

“This new incubator fills a void in the local economic development infrastructure for supporting the transition from concept to business development and commercialization,” said John Weete, executive director of the foundation.

Formation of the incubator reflects the collaborative initiatives between Auburn University, the City of Auburn and the State of Alabama, Weete said, adding that John Mason, Auburn’s vice president for research, and Mike Hubbard of Auburn, speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, played key roles in its development.

Hubbard said he expects the business incubator to be a critical part of the area’s economic development. “That next big idea that changes the world just might be hatched in the Auburn Business Incubator,” he added.

The goal of the incubator, as it grows and matures over time, is to provide a network of support services tailored to the needs of start-up and early stage companies.

Mason described the incubator as “a critical component of our efforts to leverage research expertise in order to facilitate technology transfer, develop industry partnerships, form and nurture new business ventures and attract knowledge-based companies to the Auburn Research Park.”

The first phase of the incubator is located in Building 570 in the Auburn Research Park, with subsequent phases to follow as the demand grows and resources become available.

– Brian Wright

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Senate honors Mazey
Claire Crutchley, right, chair of the University Senate presented Provost Mary Ellen Mazey on Tuesday with a Senate resolution and a plaque commending her leadership in academic administration and expressing appreciation for her support of faculty and shared governance during her two years at Auburn. Mazey is stepping down as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn on June 17 to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.
Campus News Briefs

Facilities crews replacing building identification signs across campus

Throughout the summer, Auburn University Facilities Management will place approximately 100 building identification signs, as well as signs for transit stops and pedestrian concourses throughout campus. While the work to install individual signs will have limited impact, the installation activity will be widespread throughout campus. Facilities personnel are advising everyone to use caution near construction activity.

Placement of the signs is part of the Auburn University Comprehensive Campus Master Plan. Contact Ben Chapman at 750-4635 or Jeffrey Dumars at 844-3211 with questions.

Economist Henry Thompson presents seminar on U.S. economy in Greece

Henry Thompson, an economics professor in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, presented a seminar in May at the University of Athens in Greece. In the presentation titled, “A Small Open Economy with Weak Macroeconomic Policy: The U.S. 1973-2009,” Thompson discussed an estimated model of the U.S. economy in the floating exchange rate.

Camellias, other plants offered for sale on campus each Friday in June

Hosta and camellia plants will be on sale each Friday through June 24 from 8-11 a.m. at the Paterson Greenhouse at 450 Duncan Drive.

Prices range from $40 for a three-gallon container of hostas, each of which holds about 25 plants, and $15 for containers of camellias. All customers will also receive a free coreopsis plant with their purchase. Cash and checks will be accepted. For more information, contact Delaine Borden by email at bordedp@auburn.edu.

Auburn Magazine wins Gold Award from national council for feature on alumnus

Auburn Magazine, the alumni magazine of Auburn University, has won a 2011 Gold Award for Best Articles of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the largest national organization serving educational institutions and their advancement professionals.

Auburn Magazine was one of two winners in the highest category from Districts III-V of the eight-district organization. Alumni magazines in this category were from universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mexico, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The award recognizes Auburn Magazine for a feature article in the fall 2010 issue by Candice Dyer about alumnus Valentin Abe, who has attained worldwide renown for establishing fisheries in Haiti as a source of food and income in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Betsy Robertson is the magazine’s editor.

Economist James Barth addresses Milken Institute Global Conference

James Barth, Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance, addressed the recent Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles.

The conference brings together entrepreneurs, executives, philanthropists, scientists and Nobel laureates. Together they explore solutions to today’s most pressing social, political and economic challenges. Among the participants were CEOs from international corporations, senior foreign and U.S. government officials, leading figures in the global capital markets, forward-thinking academic experts, top journalists, and leaders in education, health care and philanthropy.

Index

1 Auburn professor participates in scientific breakthrough involving antimatter
2 College of Business continues its high ranking for Physicians Executive MBA program
3 Joint effort by university, local, state officials leads to business incubator in research park

Farmers Market opens for summer, Page 3

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

The Auburn Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Deedee Dowdle. Auburn Report Editor: Roy Summerson. Communications and Marketing contributing editors, writers and photographers: Mike Clardy, Charles Martin, Carol Nelson, Neali Vall, Amy Weaver, Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble. Other contributors are based in colleges and schools throughout the university.

Issues of the Auburn Report appear every other Friday year-round, except for some semester breaks and extended holiday periods. Due to campus holiday schedules, the Auburn Report is published once in November and two consecutive weeks in early December. The publication schedule is online at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/2011AUArchives.html. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is noon on Monday before publication. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to the Auburn Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9984. Electronic mail: summerson@auburn.edu.

The Samford Tower and interlocking AU logos in this publication are registered trademarks of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Management and Licensing, 303 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849.

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

The Auburn Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each university office mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. The Office of Communications and Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.