



Roy Summerford

## Finishing touches

While interior work nears completion on the east-side addition to Telfair Peet Theatre, landscape crews are applying the final touches to the grounds around the university theatre in the College of Liberal Arts. The addition contains a "Black Box," experimental theatre that allows more flexibility for productions than a traditional stage. The addition also includes a 1,500-square-foot dance studio and additional lobby and office space.

## Soil erosion at construction sites

# Auburn, state agency building test facility

The Department of Civil Engineering in Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is working with the Alabama Department of Transportation to construct the Auburn University-Erosion and Sediment Control Testing Facility at Auburn's National Center for Asphalt Technology Test Facility in Opelika.

The joint effort is underway in Alabama as part of an increasing nationwide focus within the construction industry on erosion and sediment control. Planners say national and state environmentalists have geared their attention toward emphasizing a need for reducing the amount of sediment-laden stormwater runoff discharging into local waterways from active construction sites.

The new facility was designed to assist the state Department of Transportation in meeting its environmental commitments to protect state waterways from polluted stormwater runoff associated with construction activity.

Among the challenges facing the construction industry is a lack of scientific understanding of traditional

best management practices for erosion and sediment control and the utility of new technologies.

Researchers at Auburn's Erosion and Sediment Control Testing Facility are developing standardized large-scale testing methods for evaluating erosion and sediment control measures typically employed on highway construction projects. The testing facility seeks to provide information that can be adopted by state departments of transportation, as well as tested and improved practices to DOT Standard Specifications that can assist designers and contractors in minimizing the environmental impacts of sediment-laden stormwater emanating from construction sites.

Research and development activities at the test facility seek to minimize impacts to the surrounding environment by establishing a scientific understanding of erosion and sediment control practices. The product evaluation aspect provides performance-based testing of manufactured products or systems seeking ALDOT approval for inclusion on qualified approved product lists.

# PEMBA doctors study health care systems in Britain

How do health care systems in the United Kingdom deal with budget challenges or integrate information technology? Twenty Physicians Executive MBA students from Auburn's Harbert College of Business recently spent 11 days in Scotland and England exploring these issues and more.

"I really got to learn about – and get a good feel for – another health care system different than the one that I have practiced in for over a decade," said Dr. Paul Richardson, owner of Carolina Internal Medicine in Conway, South Carolina.

"There is no question that this perspective is going to make me a better leader here in my own system," Richardson said. "I think witnessing the common problems that we all face being managed from a totally different outlook will benefit me and help to shape my own strategies going forward."

The 21-month PEMBA program is a blend of five residencies, lectures on DVDs, internet discussion among professors and classmates, and two study trips – one overseas and another to Washington, D.C. The purpose of the United Kingdom trip, split between Edinburgh and London, was to:

- ◆ Inform students how to analyze a country's health care system using a matrix of critical and universal elements.
- ◆ Identify the benefits and liabilities of a country's health care system. Compare the country's health care system elements, including cultural, governmental, educational, delivery of care and financing to those of the United States health care system.
- ◆ Select and list elements of a country's health care system which might be beneficial to the United States' healthcare system.
- ◆ Explain how a country's history of economics, values, and culture tends to determine the development of its health care system in its current status.

Students were provided a series of classroom lectures from health care professionals, and they took tours of the University of Edinburgh Medical School, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London and HCA Wellington Hospital.

"The trip was a well-organized experience and

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# Vatella named Madison Scholar for graduate study

During the July 4 weekend, when most Americans were celebrating the holiday without a lot of thought about the history it represents, Erica Marie Vatella was immersed in the study of American history as she pursues her master's degree at Auburn University in secondary social science education.



Erica Vatella

Vatella was recently awarded a James Madison Memorial Foundation Fellowship, which assists teachers earning a master's degree with a focus on Constitutional studies. Named for James Madison, the nation's fourth president and the acknowledged "Father of the Constitution and Bill of Rights," the fellowship is funding up to \$24,000 of Vatella's graduate studies.

The award goes to just one outstanding student in each state and supports the graduate study of American history by aspiring and experienced secondary school teachers of American history, American government and social studies.

"I graduated in May and started right in to graduate school at Auburn," Vatella said. "I could have gone to different places, but I love Auburn and the faculty in the College of Education. I also have a job

starting in August at Auburn High School where I will be teaching American history to 10th and 11th graders so it works well in several ways for me to stay here in Auburn."

Vatella said she always thought she wanted to be a teacher, but decided to see if anything else felt right. She began her studies at Auburn as a history major, but after one semester, switched to the secondary social science education program.

"By my second semester I was a social science education major. My advisors Dr. (John) Saye and Dr. (Jada) Kohlmeier were there on my first day and have been a big part of my educational experience ever since," she said. "In fact, it was Dr. Kohlmeier who suggested I apply for the Madison Fellowship. She herself had been a recipient as an undergrad, so I'm really indebted to her for working with me on that."

Vatella interned at Auburn High during her senior year at Auburn University.

"They could see how well prepared I was because of my undergraduate experience," she said. "We have 150 hours of field experience by the time we graduate, plus our 15-week full-time teaching internships, and the professors really push us to work hard and be great teachers. So we are ready to lead and excel in the classroom when we graduate. I got a good evaluation from Auburn High and interviewed for an open posi-

tion and was hired just like that. I feel really fortunate to be going to such a great school. I'm very excited."

Previous Auburn students who received the Madison Fellowship are Julie Bryan Payne in 2004 and William Blake Busbin in 2006, both from the secondary social science education program.

"I am excited about a career in teaching because this is a place I can really make a difference," Vatella said. "Children are the future. I want to be a positive influence in people's lives and help them grow up to be productive citizens. What better way to do that than to learn about the history of our country?"

— George Littleton

## CGS to offer training on security issues

The Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University has joined with the Intelligence and Security Academy to offer education, training and consulting in national security issues on the roles, functions and activities of the intelligence community.

Beginning in October, the center will offer courses designed for current or upcoming managers, policy makers, law enforcement officers, military personnel and IT professionals through its Intelligence and Security Certification and Training Institute.

Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services, an agency of University Outreach, said governments and businesses have operated under a heightened awareness of intelligence and security since the events of 9/11. He said the need to secure data and information and protect resources is essential for the urban and rural communities within Alabama and across the United States.

"The center has recognized this need and has been able to identify and engage resources at the highest level to provide training that is designed to provide tools that, when properly utilized, will protect the interests of governments and businesses," Veal said. "This type of information should not be used to protect only Washington, D.C., and the larger metropolitan areas, but it also has application to the more rural communities."

The program focuses on the information, systems, resources and tactics organizations need to deal with dynamic issues and new threats. The first two courses, Introduction to U.S. Intelligence and Intelligence for Policy Makers, will be offered Oct. 22-23 on the Auburn campus.

The instructor for the two courses will be Mark Lowenthal, president of the Intelligence and Security Academy. Among other posts, Lowenthal has served as assistant director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production and as vice chairman for evaluation, National Intelligence Council.

— Maria Tamblyn



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

### Free pass for Rec Center

Campus Recreation is offering fulltime faculty and staff a complimentary, all-access pass to the university Recreation and Wellness Center through Sunday, July 20. Access includes group fitness classes, a PGA golf simulator, a 200,000 gallon pool, more than 250 cardio and strength machines and a third-mile indoor track, plus complimentary day-use lockers, fully appointed locker rooms and equipment rentals.

# Small part in film provides student with fresh perspective on struggles for voting rights, racial equality in the South

*Editor's Note: Lowery McNeal is a history major spending the summer in Selma as part of the College of Liberal Arts Living Democracy initiative. In this account, originally published on the Living Democracy website (<http://www.cla.auburn.edu/livingdemocracy/>), McNeal describes her experience as an extra on the set of the film "Selma."*

(Earlier this summer,) I stood in front of Alabama's Capitol building and listened to Martin Luther King Jr. deliver a roaring speech on voting rights. Women with beehive hairdos and cat-eye glasses and men sporting skinny ties and penny loafers surrounded me. Anyone would have believed it was 1965 all over again.

But it wasn't. It was 2014 – almost 50 years after the Selma to Montgomery march.

I was on the set of "Selma," a Paramount Studios film that is set for release early next year. The movie follows Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through events that led up to the marches in Selma and the passage of the Voting Rights Act. The movie also features storylines of other fascinating figures – President Lyndon Johnson, attorney Fred Gray, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Gov. George Wallace, Amelia Boynton and many others. I should also mention that it is being produced by Oprah Winfrey and Brad Pitt.

The film will commemorate one of the most important events in the 20th century, the Civil Rights Movement, and show the drama and significance of the Selma marches. Hopefully, this movie will share this still-amazing 50-year-old story with a new generation.

I had the privilege of being cast as an extra in the movie in the role of "anonymous white marcher" (glamorous, I know) and was on set for scenes filmed at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and in Montgomery.

Simply having the chance to visit these historic landmarks can be moving. However, cheering for MLK's speech at the steps of the Capitol, and singing "We Shall Overcome" as I marched across the bridge amidst a crowd of hundreds. These are experiences I will never forget.

While this was clearly not the same as marching for civil rights in the tumultuous 1960s, it was still very thought provoking and emotional for me and many others.

Throughout the week, I talked with several people who participated in the original marches, and many others who remembered seeing and hearing about them. They all said how realistic the filming seemed and how glad they were to be a part of telling this story for the world to see again.

The emotion hit when these people began comparing stories of their childhoods and young adulthoods in the segregated South and how the real marches affected them. One man recalled stories of Ku Klux Klan action in his neighborhood in the 1960s. Another lady remembered walking in the march to Montgomery with a handful of her ninth grade classmates. They snuck out of school and walked 10 miles to the bridge along railroad tracks to avoid policemen and truant officers waiting for them in the streets.

Another woman told a powerful story about her experience in the "Bloody Sunday" march at the bridge. She, like many others, left her high school and



Jay Soovers, Selma Times Journal

## Reliving history

While in Selma for an Auburn academic project in the College of Liberal Arts, Lowery McNeal was in the cast of extras during filming of this scene from the re enactment of a pivotal moment of the Civil Rights Era in the South.

walked the almost 12 miles to downtown Selma. She said they knew the event would be too momentous to miss, but they were afraid. The fear only increased when herds of state troopers and policemen began chasing the crowd back across the bridge, using billy clubs, tear gas and barbed wire to force the retreat. This woman remembered falling down by the railing of the bridge and looking up to a horse-mounted policeman who told her he ought to throw her over the edge into the river.

Stories like this circulated among the crowd of film extras all week. Younger folks listened intently to accounts they might not have believed true a week earlier. And older groups shared and compared stories, some exclaiming that they never knew how bad things really were in the '60s.

After hearing these stories, it took a little imagination to envision the bridge full of film extras as fearful marchers and angry policemen. After all, the extras had cordially shared lunch tables just hours ago. Imagination is part of the film experience, though, and was a really big part of the 1965 marches as well.

Civil Rights activists dared to dream of a society where all people were afforded their "undeniable" rights, children had equal opportunities and citizens had the same democratic impact, regardless of race. Only in their wildest dreams could many of the residents of a 1965 Selma have imagined the camaraderie, empathy and kindness shared between folks on the Edmund Pettus Bridge last week.

I saw people from all walks of life share jokes, opinions and prayers at lunch tables, replace bobby pins in one another's hairdos, huddle under umbrellas to escape the searing June sun, bring each other water, offer to drive one another home and share personal stories of pain and joy. This was community at its finest, and it happened at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Some of the most progressive thinkers of 1965 might have found it difficult to ever imagine this kinship in Selma.

Now Alabama, and the United States for that matter, are well away from being completely democratic, prejudice-free societies, but we have come a long way from 1965. It is this progress that tells the real story of the Selma marches. The efforts, blood, sweat and tears of citizens 50 years ago changed our country for the better, and that change has continued to roll on into the 21st century. Their actions impacted future generations more than they could have ever imagined.

– Lowery McNeal

## Doctors in the UK

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made to fit the comparative health systems class – no organizational detail was left to chance," said Dr. Francisco Suarez, otolaryngology, from Puerto Rico. "We felt safe and it was a great opportunity to establish friendships that probably will last for many years to come. It is important not to forget the advantage that a good network of friends and colleagues implies in the business world."

The trip wasn't all work and no play. Students had the opportunity to visit Edinburgh Castle, the Scottish Highlands, Stirling Castle, St. Andrews, Falkland Palace, Stonehenge and historic sites in London.

Stan Harris, associate dean for international and graduate programs who made the trip, noted another issue related to current events.

"Scotland will soon vote for independence," Harris said of the Sept. 18 referendum. "What does that do to its system and tax base? They will be facing some real budgetary issues."

– Joe McAdory