

# Auburn Report

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FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services



Facilities Management photo

## Major new buildings greet returning students

Auburn University started a new academic year this week with a grand opening for the new Recreation and Wellness Center, above left, which serves all students and offers memberships for a fee to faculty, staff and Auburn retirees. In addition, a new 245,000-square-foot residence hall, above right, provides a campus home to more than 400 students. Both buildings, featuring state-of-the-art design and construction, are in the athletic quadrant between Jordan-Hare Stadium and Samford Avenue. The most popular place on campus this week was the Recreation and Wellness Center, where hundreds turned out for the opening ceremony and their first view of the 240,000-square-foot facility that features, among other amenities, the nation's longest indoor running track, rock-climbing walls, athletic courts, workout rooms and an outdoor pool. More information on the center, including membership opportunities for faculty, staff and retirees, is available online at <https://cws.auburn.edu/campusRec>. Meanwhile, the new 209-suite residence hall – shown in early August during now-finished landscaping around the entrance – welcomed its first residents during move-in for fall semester.

For students, university

## In first five years, program gains national prestige

Auburn University is earning a national reputation for its growing number of national prestigious scholars as students consistently earn top postgraduate scholarships, bearing names such as Rhodes, Fulbright, Gates-Cambridge and Goldwater.

"Our students are wonderful," said Paul Harris, Auburn's associate director for national prestigious scholarships in the Honors College. "They do the hard work and earn the top grades needed for the scholarships. I just get them to believe in themselves as I mentor them throughout the process."

Harris joined the Auburn faculty in 2008 to help students earn national awards and to recruit high school students who have the potential to excel at Auburn. He also serves as a professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts.

Since 2009, Auburn students have been selected for several of the nation's top scholarships. These include: A Rhodes Scholar and four finalists; four Fulbright Scholars for research in Germany, Spain and Belgium; three Fulbright-French Ministry of Education English teaching assistantships in France; and two Gates-Cambridge Scholars.

Also, three Barry M. Goldwater Scholars and three honorable mentions; a George Mitchell Scholar; a Harry S. Truman Scholar; a Udall Scholar; eight National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellows; a Marcus L. Urann

Fellowship winner; and a Phi Kappa Phi Fellow, the honorary's top honor.

Plus, six NCAA Postgraduate Scholars; three finalists for the NCAA Walter Byers Award, the NCAA's highest academic award; three winners of the Southeastern Conference's H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Award; four Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholars; and a Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Bobby Bowden Award winner.

"The best preparation is to work hard and study hard," said Harris, who is available to work with all undergraduates and graduate students, in addition to Honors College students.

"I encourage our applicants to think about the Auburn Creed and to exemplify those characteristics," Harris said. "I am honest with all the students and let them know that each scholarship is very competitive and that the odds of winning are very low. Even if our applicants are not selected, the experience of applying will help guide them as they apply for other scholarships, graduate school, law or medical school or other educational endeavors."

Each scholarship is very selective. For example, the Gates-Cambridge Scholarship had approximately 1,000 applicants this year, of which only 90 were invited to interview and only 40 were selected. Auburn had one winner and another finalist.

See Helping student scholars attain higher goals, Page 3

## Auburn Common Book this year puts focus on dark side of global economy

Auburn University's 2013-14 Common Book program "Auburn Connects!" will feature the book "Nobodies: Modern American Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy" by award-winning journalist John Bowe.

By creating a shared reading experience for students, faculty, staff and the wider Auburn community, "Auburn Connects!" seeks to promote intellectual engagement with current issues and ideas through classes, public lectures and special programs.

Bowe will give the keynote "Auburn Connects!" Common Book Lecture at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 in Foy Hall Auditorium.

In "Nobodies," the author examines three illegal workplaces where employees are literally or virtually enslaved. Bowe notes that although many find it shocking that such conditions can exist in contemporary America, his extensive research identifies a multitude of reasons it can happen. Among them are outsourcing, subcontracting, immigration fraud and the desire for inexpensive consumer products. In Bowe's words, these create opportunities for "man to be a wolf to men."

Bowe suggests that most Americans just don't know the facts. If the new global economy does indeed have a dark side, he notes, awareness is the first step toward change.

Over the course of the 2013-14 academic year,

## Campus sustainability activities gain national recognition by higher education association

Auburn University is one of 40 institutions featured in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's recently published 2012 Sustainability Review.

The report, which examines progress over the past year, highlights Auburn's partnership between Facilities Management and the Office of Sustainability, who together funded a pilot project for the installation of 24 solar panels on top of the stadium parking deck.

The system is designed to offset the energy used for powering 10 electric charging stations that have been installed on the lower level of the parking deck.

The solar panel system is capable of producing 6.6 kilowatts of power per day or about 13,250 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy per year. All of the power generated by the solar panels is fed back into the Auburn University master power grid as an offset to other energy used on campus.

"Our inclusion in the report is an acknowledgment of the value of this project by the higher education sustainability association and recog-

lectures, film screenings, exhibitions, public discussions and other programs will explore the social, economic and political factors that allow forced labor to exist. Ranging from workers' rights to economic justice to career choices, programming will take a deep look at "Nobodies" in the context of civil and human rights.

Funding is available for programming related to "Nobodies." For an application form, as well as for more information resources and a calendar of events, visit the "Auburn Connects!" website at [www.auburn.edu/auburnconnects](http://www.auburn.edu/auburnconnects). Instructional materials and training opportunities are also listed on the site. For details, call Jay Lamar at 844-8453 or Valerie Bagley at 844-5822.

AU Connects! Common Book Program is an initiative of the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

— Jay Lamar

## Hankes to assist with Olympics

Doug Hankes, director of Student Counseling Services, has been selected for membership in the U.S. Olympic Committee Sport Psychology Registry for the 2013-16 quadrennium.

The USOC Sport Psychology Registry is a roster of sport psychology and mental training specialists who serve as resources for the National Governing Bodies of Olympic, Paralympic and Pan American Sports.

nizes Auburn at a national level for our sustainability efforts," said Mike Kensler, director of the Office of Sustainability. "On campus, this project is a statement about our commitment to innovative and forward-looking approaches to providing energy on campus. It is a visible example of our sustainability commitment that has already inspired student academic projects and sparked conversations about sustainable energy and sustainability in general."

The AASHE Sustainability Review outlines trends in three areas: new developments, including sustainable investment, affordability and access, and global sustainability initiatives; changing dynamics, particularly in the areas of curriculum, research, funding and staffing; and areas of prevalence, including energy, buildings and measurable outcomes.

In addition to highlighting trends, the review celebrates significant, innovative and high-impact campus sustainability achievements. The full report can be found online at [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org).

— Carol Nelson



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

### Banners highlight new theme

Eye-catching banners along College Street carry a common theme, "THIS IS AUBURN," that will tie together many messages about Auburn University in coming months. Part of Auburn's new marketing campaign, the theme will be repeated in much of the advertising, website stories and other communications that highlight the university's academic power, research expertise, outreach to the community and world, the value of an Auburn degree and the unique bond of the Auburn Family.

## NSF grant supports child-sleep study

Professors Mona El-Sheikh and Brian Vaughn, in the College of Human Sciences' Department of Human Development and Family Studies, have received a National Science Foundation award for nearly \$600,000 to study normative changes in sleeping patterns of children from 30 to 66 months of age at the Harris Early Learning Center in Birmingham.

The center is owned by Auburn University and managed by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

Vaughn and El-Sheikh will also study the impacts of variations in sleep duration and sleep quality on young children's adaptive functioning in social/emotional and cognitive/academic development. The 36-month study will produce new information concerning the importance of sleep duration and quality for normal growth and well-being during the preschool years.

## Campus Calendar

CONTINUING

ART EXHIBITION "Drawn Upon Stone: Lithographic Prints from the Permanent Collection," through Sept. 7; "Full Circle: The Sculptures of Jean Woodham," through Oct. 12; both at Jule Collins Smith Museum

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

LABOR DAY Holiday, no classes, offices closed for the day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

NEXT Auburn Report

# Helping student scholars attain higher goals

Continued from Page 1

The Rhodes Scholarship had approximately 1,000 applicants, but a little more than 200 were selected for an interview and only 32 winners were named. In the past four years, Auburn has had a Rhodes winner and four finalists.

"All of our scholarship recipients and applicants are to be commended for their success in the classroom and for participating in worthwhile service proj-



Charles Martin

## Advising top scholars

Paul Harris, left, Auburn's associate director for national prestigious scholarships in the Honors College, talks with Tyler Sutherland, who received honorable mention during the 2013 Goldwater Scholarship selection process.

ects and outside endeavors," said Timothy Boosinger, Auburn provost and vice president for academic affairs. "National selection committees are well aware of Auburn students. These students exemplify the qualities we encourage all Auburn students to strive for: leadership, scholarship and service."

Auburn faculty and several campus units, as well as members of the Athletics Department, refer outstanding students to Harris as possible applicants. Some students directly contact Harris as well to discuss possible scholarship opportunities.

Most applicants need at least a 3.8 grade point average, but other factors are important, as well. These include academic experience beyond the classroom of at least one semester, ideally at least a year, involving undergraduate research or creative scholarship; commitment, again beyond the classroom, to service projects, either abroad or in local communities; and "all-around character." The latter category includes a commitment to intellectual development and, in the case of Fulbright Scholars, study of a foreign language.

In addition, Harris says all applications require an essay and that the best essays are usually from students who have experience and a compelling story. "I am grateful to have the assistance of Michelle Cook, a doctoral student in the Department of English, who provides valuable feedback on early drafts of student essays," Harris said.

All applicants must be endorsed by the university's national prestigious scholarships committee chaired by Paula Bobrowski, associate dean for research and faculty development in the College of Liberal Arts.

"I identify applicants at least one year in advance of their application and I meet with them once or twice a semester, most often when they are juniors," said Harris, who teaches an invitation-only course in leadership and scholarship each fall designed specifically for scholarship applicants.

In addition to working with current Auburn students, Harris recruits high school students to Auburn. "We look for their potential," he said. "They still have to do the work and earn stellar grades. I want the students to say, 'I can get a top undergraduate education at Auburn, but someone can help me realize the dream of competing for these top awards.'"

— Charles Martin

## Museum of Fine Art expands evening hours, weekend activities

Beginning Sept. 3, visitors to the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University will have more evening and weekend opportunities to explore art and enjoy special events.

The museum will be open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays with new hours of operation. The new daily schedule will be from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and from 1-4 p.m. on Sundays. Extended hours will be offered on Thursdays, with closing time at 8 p.m.

The museum will be closed to the public on Mondays when it will offer school and university tours by appointment.

The new Thursday schedule will provide not only an after-work weekday opportunity to visit the museum, but also small-plate dining and specialty beverage service from 5-8 p.m. at the Museum Cafe. The cafe will continue to offer lunch Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Museum Director Marilyn Laufer said visitor and member feedback influenced the decision to change the days and hours of operation. "By offering extended hours each Thursday and adding Sunday after-

noons to the schedule, we have more opportunities to share the transformative power of art with existing and new audiences," Laufer said.

The 2013 fall exhibition includes "JCSM@10: A Decade of Collecting," featuring a selection of artwork acquired during the museum's first decade of serving the campus and community.

Also featured this fall will be David Henderson's installation, "A Brief History of Aviation," and "Out of the Box: A Juried Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition." For more information about the museum's exhibitions, go to <http://jcsm.auburn.edu/exhibitions/index.html>.

## NASA grant supports study of animal origins

Kenneth Halanych, the Stewart W. Schneller Endowed Chair, and postdoctoral scholar Kevin Kocot, both in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, have received a four-year, \$810,829 grant from NASA.

The grant is for research into the evolution of multicellular organisms. With the funding, Halanych and Kocot will use a genomic approach to better

understand the origins and early history of animals. The team will focus on extant animal lineages that branched off near the base of the animal tree, including sponges; cnidarians such as anemones and jellies; ctenophores including comb jellies; and placozoans which are microscopic, sponge-like animals. The researchers will sequence at least 12 genomes and 30 transcriptomes of basal animal groups.

"Museum memberships help support our efforts to keep these education programs free," Laufer said. For information on museum benefits and levels, go to [www.jcsm.auburn.edu/join](http://www.jcsm.auburn.edu/join). Admission to the museum is free, courtesy of JCSM Business Partners.

— Charlotte Hendrix

# Campus News Briefs

## Buskist receives Lifetime Achievement Award for teaching of psychology

William Buskist, a professor in the Department of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts, received a lifetime achievement award Aug. 3 from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology at the American Psychological Association Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The award cited the Auburn professor for extraordinary lifetime contributions to college and university teaching.

Buskist has been a member of Auburn's Psychology Department for 31 years. In 2005, he was one of two recipients of Auburn University's inaugural Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He has published more than 60 articles, books and book chapters on college and university teaching. In the last 10 years, seven of his graduate students have been recognized with national teaching awards.

## Auburn professor heads U.S.-Canada panel for black agricultural economists

Norbert Wilson, an associate professor of agricultural economics at Auburn, was selected chair of the

Committee on the Opportunity and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics during the joint annual meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society recently in Washington, D.C.

The association established the committee in 1980 to promote the welfare of black agricultural economists by representing their interests and by engaging in activities that encourage their professional advancement.

## COSAM's Childress to receive group's national student advising award

Beverley Childress, student advisor and director of the Pre-Health Professions Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, has been named the recipient of a national advising award, the CIG Service Award – Advising in Academic Programs II, by the National Academic Advising Association.

The award recognizes an individual who has provided outstanding service, leadership and commitment to a specific commission, interest group or cluster, of the association's Commissions and Interest Groups which provide members an opportunity to join others with similar academic or specific student population interests in advising.

Childress was chair of the association's Health Professions Advising Interest Group for five years, has given numerous presentations at conferences and has been published in two journals. She will receive the award during the association's annual conference this fall.

## Bradley publishes book about new technologies in the life sciences

James Bradley, professor emeritus of biological sciences, recently published the book, "Brutes or Angels: Human Possibility in the Age of Biotechnology."

The book includes basic information on an array of new technologies in the life sciences and the ethical issues raised by each. Bradley says the book seeks to facilitate informed decision-making about the personal use of biotechnologies and the formulation of public policies governing their development and use.

Ten biotechnologies that impact humans are discussed: stem cell research, embryo selection, human genomics, gene therapies, human reproductive cloning, age retardation, cognition enhancement, the engineering of nonhuman organisms, nanobiology and synthetic biology

## Auburn Report

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