Campaign swells ranks of endowed professorships

Fifty Auburn faculty members received endowed professorships Aug. 26 in a campus ceremony as part of the university’s strategic initiative to expand recognition of faculty for exceptional merit.

During a targeted one-year campaign, the university’s goal to fund 81 professorships was exceeded by more than 17 percent, with a total of 95 professorships being funded. Recipients will receive salary enhancements of approximately $14,000 when fully funded.

“Faculty are vital to the future of this university,” said President Jay Gogue. “Their knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment provide a foundation for all learning central to Auburn students’ success. Endowed professorships recognize the important roles our professors play and help Auburn retain faculty of the highest caliber.”

Walt Woltosz, chairman and CEO of Simulations Plus Inc., was one of more than 200 donors who participated in the initiative.

“Supporting these endowed professorships is an excellent way to have a lasting impact on the quality of education provided by Auburn,” said Woltosz, who funded professorships in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

“You can’t have an outstanding university without outstanding faculty and students. Competition for exceptional faculty is a fact,” Woltosz said. “If we don’t recognize and reward the best of the best, we will not be able to retain them. By providing these endowed professorships, we’re pleased to help support Auburn Engineering in doing so.”

Academic disciplines represented by the newly endowed professorships include agriculture, architecture, education, engineering, forestry, human sciences, liberal arts, nursing, pharmacy, provost (university-wide), sciences and mathematics and veterinary medicine.

“An endowed and named professorship is one of the highest honors that the university bestows on members of the faculty,” said Donna Bohanan, who is the Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor in the Department of History and a 2010 recipient of the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. “By their very nature they bring recognition to those who have excelled in research and teaching. It is an acknowledgment that is both humbling and gratifying.”

— Neali Vann

For a list of the new professorships, see page 2.

Students win honors in Common Book writing challenge

Auburn University Provost Mary Ellen Mazey and the Office of University Writing have announced the winners for Auburn’s first Common Book writing contest, in which students read “Three Cups of Tea” and submitted essays or other writings expressing a personal connection to the best-selling book.

The top three winners submitted essays about the book’s meaning to them. First place went to Rebecca Lin, a pre-engineering student from Birmingham, for “A Slice of Life.” Second place was awarded to Emily Kim, a pre-med student in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, also from Birmingham, for “The Margins.” Kevin Laferriere, a pre-engineering student from Lee County, Fla., placed third with “Futures.”

The winners received gift cards from the Auburn University Bookstore and will dine with Greg Mortenson, coauthor with David Oliver Relin of “Three Cups of Tea,” when he visits Auburn in October. In addition, all students who submitted entries will be invited to join a discussion of the book with Mortenson.

The book charts Mortenson’s mission to build schools for children in remote, underserved areas of Pakistan which have been severely impacted by the current political upheaval in that part of the world.

Mazey said the Common Book Writing Contest provides an opportunity for students to benefit from writing outside the classroom. “A writing contest is one way to emphasize the importance of writing for all of our freshmen students and linking the contest to the Common Book places an emphasis on reading, analyzing and writing about what they learned through Three Cups of Tea,” she explained.

Nineteen students submitted entries to the contest which was judged by a panel that included Auburn students, faculty and alumni.

The students with the winning essays revealed personal connections to the writing process, demonstrating the special purposes writing has for each of them.

“We’re so pleased that students were engaged enough with the book that they took the time to write about their experiences,” said Margaret Marshall, director of the Office of University Writing. “We intentionally kept the contest open-ended and engaged with students’ writing processes throughout.”

— Neali Vann

For a list of the new professorships, see page 2.
Winning writers

continued from page 1

to solicit different forms of writing and we were delighted to see poems, creative essays, position papers and academic arguments.”

A second Common Book contest for Auburn students is planned for the 2010-11 academic year. Students who win the second contest will be able to shadow University President Jay Gogue, Provost Mazey or Athletic Director Jay Jacobs for the day and then join the other winners and their academic hosts for a dinner. Additional details are available online at https://fp.auburn.edu/writing/contestsAwards.

Common Book essayists

Provost Mary Ellen Mazey, left, congratulates the winners of Auburn’s first Common Book student-writing contest. The winners, from left to right, are Emily Kim, Kevin Laferriere and first-place winner Rebecca Lin.

Recipients of new endowed professorships for 2010

See related story, page 1

Below are the names of faculty members who recently received new professorships, followed in each case by the name of the professorship and, where identified, the name of the college, school, department or program:

Sharon Roberts, Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professor in the Office of the Provost; Constance Smith Hendricks, Charles W. Barkley Professor; Curtis Jolly, Charles W. Barkley Professor; Joseph W. Kloepper, Becker Underwood Professor in Entomology and Plant Pathology; Charles H. Gilliam, William A. Jr. and Cecelia Dozier Professor; Harry Glenn Ponder, Ronald L. Shumack Professor in Horticulture; Nan-nan Liu, Faculty Professor in Entomology and Plant Pathology.

Joe Eakes, Jimmy and Chris Pursell Professor in Horticulture; William D. Goff, Dwight and Ruth Ann Nunn Bond Professor in Horticulture; William Alfred Dozier, Harry G. Ponder Professor in Horticulture; Gary Keever, Thomas H. Dodd, Jr. Professor in Horticulture; Jeff L. Sibley, Barbara and Charles Bohman Professor in the Department of Horticulture; Michael Hein, William A. Hunt Professor in Building Science; Tin-Man Lau, Ulm Professor in Industrial Design; P. Michael Robinson, R. Hugh Daniel Professor in Architecture, Design and Construction.

Bret Hunter Smith, Bauhaus Professor in Industrial Design; W. Gary Martin, Emily R. and Gerald S. Leischuck Professor in Education; Brian S. Throw, W. Allen and Martha Reed Professor in Engineering; Ram B. Gupta, Walt and Virginia Woltozs Professor in Chemical Engineering; Roy J. Hartfield, Walt and Virginia Woltozs Professor in Aerospace Engineering; Bryan A. Chin, McWane Professor in Mechanical Engineering; Hareesh V. Tippur, McWane Professor in the Mechanical Engineering; Mario R. Eden, Joe T. and Billie Carole McMillan Professor in Engineering; Kevin R. Gue, Tim Cook Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Y. Y. Lee, Uthlaut Family Professor in Chemical Engineering; Chan S. Park, Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden Professor in Engineering; Mark E. Byrne, Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden Professor in Engineering; Thomas S. Denney, Ed and Peggy Reynolds Family Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering; Bruce J. Tatarshuk, Charles E. Gavin III Professor in Engineering; David M. Bevly, Albert Smith Jr. Professor in Mechanical Engineering; Hanqin Tian, Solomon and Martha Dixon Professor in Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Mona El-Sheikh, Leonard Peterson & Co. Inc. Professor in Human Development and Family Studies; Lenda Jo Connell, Under Armour Inc. Professor in Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production Management.

Theodore Lewis Becker, Alma Holladay Professor in Liberal Arts; Isabelle Thompson, Jean Wickstrom Liles Professor in English; Donna Jean Bohanan, Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor in History; Gerard S. Gryska, Curtis O. Liles, III Professor in Political Science; Cathleen M. Giustino, Mary Bernice Mills Carter Professor in History; Barbara Wilder, East Alabama Medical Center/ Dr. Bill Lazenby Endowed Professor in Nursing; Karen F. Marlowe, James T. (Jimmy) ’52 and Anne Klein ’50 Davis Endowed Professor in Pharmacy; David J. Riese, George Fulton Gilliland and Olga Hooser Gilliland Franklin Professor in Pharmacy; Richard Hansen, Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie Gilliland Professor in Pharmacy.

Minseo Park, Marguerite Scharnagel Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Raymond P. Henry, William P. Molette Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Ming-Kuo Lee, Robert B. Cook Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Chris Rodger, C. Harry Knowles Professor for Research Leadership in Mathematics Instruction in Sciences and Mathematics; D. Michael Tillson, Arthur and Louise Oriole Professor in Veterinary Medicine; Douglass K. Macintire, P.B. Griffin Professor in Veterinary Medicine; Ellen N. Behrend, Joezy Griffin Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
Art and Alabama natural history come together in library’s 3 millionth volume

The first edition of a sketchbook on Alabama insects, published 172 years after it was compiled, has become the 3 millionth volume in Auburn University Libraries.

The book, “Entomologia Alabamenis,” is a sketchbook of Alabama insects compiled in 1838 by Philip Henry Gosse, a naturalist from England who compiled the book in 1838, while he studied and painted in Dallas County, when the Black Belt countryside was in an early stage of transition from pioneer to plantation culture.

Over nearly two centuries, the work remained unavailable to most scholars and the public until this year, when Auburn University Libraries, Jule Collins Smith Museum and The University of Alabama Press jointly published it in time for Auburn to make a milestone edition to its library collection.

“We are quite proud to have been a part of making Mr. Gosse’s book available for study by today’s readers,” said Bonnie MacEwan, dean of Auburn University Libraries. “The acquisition of this book… the 3 millionth volume of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, makes it very special to us.”

Marilyn Laufer, director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum, noted, “The collaboration of art and science was eloquently embodied in the 1838 Alabama sketchbook of naturalist, Philip Henry Gosse. It is reinvigorated by this collaboration of university art museum and library and our distinguished writers from the disciplines of arts and science.”

Philip Henry Gosse was a mostly self-educated naturalist who learned to paint from his father, a miniaturist. During eight months in sparsely settled early 19th century West Alabama, Gosse extensively studied region’s wildlife, took copious notes and made many detailed watercolors of the insect and plant life.

After returning to England, Gosse published his notes and sketches describing his experiences in the state. First published in a scientific journal as a series of articles, they were published in 1859 as a book, “Letters From Alabama.” In his life, Gosse would write more than 40 books and 270 articles on science and religion, but his color sketchbook of paintings of Alabama insects languished unpublished.

Following his death in 1888, the Gosse family loaned the sketchbook to the British Library in London. There it remained until Gary Mullen, an emeritus professor of entomology from Auburn persuaded the British Library to allow a series of transparencies to be made of the pages of the book for Auburn’s library.

Caroline Marshall Draughon, widow of Ralph Brown Draughon, who was Auburn’s 10th president and namesake of Auburn’s main library, left a bequest to the library when she died in 2005. As dean of Auburn University Libraries, MacEwan, decided acquisition of Gosse’s sketchbook would make the perfect use of the bequest and the ideal 3 millionth volume for the RBD Library.

When attempts to buy the sketchbook from the Gosse family were declined, MacEwan and Laufer began working to put together a museum exhibit of reproductions made from the color transparencies that Mullen arranged for the library to obtain. They also pursued the idea of publishing a book that would bring these magnificent images to the people of the region that inspired them.

Prompted by Auburn’s attempt to purchase the original sketchbook, the Gosse family had decided to make a gift of the book to the British Library. In turn, the British Library gave permission to allow the publication of the book using the previously-made transparencies.

Included with the 49 pages from Gosse’s sketchbook, Mullen and Taylor D. Littleton, Auburn University’s Mosley Professor of Science and Humanities Emeritus, have coauthored an essay on the life, art and studies of Philip Henry Gosse. All of the notes that accompanied the sketches have also been updated with current taxonomic names.

In addition to the hardcover edition of the book, there will also be a version of the volume available online in the Auburn University Digital Library.

Copies of Philip Henry Gosse’s Entomologia Alabamenis are available from local bookstores, the JCSM Shop and the University of Alabama Press for $29.95 each. JCSM members receive a 10 percent discount when purchasing the book from the JCSM Shop.

— Colleen Bourdeau
Campus Calendar

**Monday, September 6**

**Labor Day** No classes, offices closed for holiday

**Tuesday, September 7**

**Public Lecture** “The Business of Ecosystem Markets,” John McGuire, senior project manager for Wetservelt Ecological Sciences, 11 a.m., School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Room 1101; part of SFWS Seminar Series

**AAUP Fall Reception** for new and returning faculty, 4-6 p.m., Auburn Alumni Center

**Multicultural Center Film** “The Messenger, Part I,” public viewing, 4:30 p.m., Student Center 2222-2223

**Wednesday, September 8**

**Multicultural Center Film** “The Messenger, Part II,” public viewing, 4:30 p.m., Student Center 2222-2223

**Thursday, September 9**

**Public Lecture** “France: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” Pascal Le Deunff, consul general and head of economic mission of France in Atlanta, 3 p.m., Student Center 2326

**Wednesday, September 15**

**Public Lecture** “Nurses Without Borders: The Mary Lightfine Story,” first-person account by a nurse who provided medical aid in war-torn Somalia and Afghanistan, 11:30 a.m., Student Center, Room 2222, sponsored by Women’s Studies Program

**Thursday, September 16**

**Public Lecture** “Auburn History, 1900 to 1920,” Dwayne Cox, university archivist and head of special collections, 3 p.m., Special Collections Suite, ground floor, Draughon Library; part of Discover Auburn Lecture Series

**Friday, September 17**

**Next Auburn Report**

**Tuesday, September 21**

**Meeting** University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall Auditorium

**Thursday, September 30**

**Awards Ceremony** honoring faculty recipients of university awards for teaching, research, outreach, 5 p.m., The Hotel at Auburn University

**Visiting Art Exhibitions**

**Julie Collins Smith Museum** “As Above, So Below,” recent works by American artist Suzanne Scherer and Russian-born Pavel Ouporov, on loan from several private collections, through Nov. 27; “Audubon’s Final Achievement: The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America,” through Oct. 30; “Old Master Drawings From the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art,” through Nov. 6

---

**Music professor, orchestra win The American Prize for quality**

Howard Goldstein of the Department of Music at Auburn University and Auburn University/Community Orchestra recently received two national awards for musical excellence.

Goldstein was awarded a 2010 special citation for Excellence in Music Education from The American Prize. He is one of six conductors nationwide to receive the honor this year. The award recognizes Goldstein as being among America’s finest teachers of music, recognizing his work with the Auburn University/Community Orchestra, Auburn University and the Auburn community.

The Auburn University/Community Orchestra received third place honors in the community orchestra division of the 2010 competition for The American Prize in Orchestral Performance. This honor recognizes the orchestra as being among the finest community orchestras in the country.

The American Prize is a series of non-profit, national competitions designed to recognize and reward the very best in the performing arts in the United States at school, community and professional levels. The American Prize was founded in 2009 and is awarded annually. Through a competitive selection process, a panel of judges selects the winners based on the criterion of excellence.

Goldstein is an associate professor of music in Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts and music director of the Auburn University Community Orchestra.

In 2009, the Caroline Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University appointed Goldstein as the university’s Breeden Eminent Scholar in the Humanities.

The Auburn University Community Orchestra performs several concerts each year in various Auburn venues. Participation is open to university students and Auburn community members, based on an audition and instrumental needs.

— Vicky Santos

**Spirit of Excellence**

The Division of Human Resources has announced recipients of Spirit of Excellence Awards for outstanding performance by staff members last spring. The top four in May were, Amanda Malone, seated, of Human Sciences, and, standing, from left, Marcella Harrison of Liberal Arts, Lamar Finley of Facilities Plumbing Shop and David Floyd of Facilities Mechanical Shop.
Quality of Life

Public gets first view of center to help people overcome disabilities

At a grand opening on Aug. 27, faculty and staff in Auburn’s College of Education gave state education officials and members of the public their first comprehensive view of a recently established center that expands the college’s capabilities for research and services to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

Located in the Dawson Building, the new Center for Disability Research and Service is a research hub for autism and conducts research on the most significant disabilities that can impact a person’s access to education, employment, housing, transportation, health care and leisure.

The center is an extension of the college’s Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology. Department Head E. Davis Martin said the center’s multifaceted nature will enable it to provide meaningful assistance to individuals with significant disabilities as they seek to live independently and realize their career and educational goals.

“We’re trying to develop a model that will allow us to better assist those with the most significant disabilities to work, live and play in the communities of their choice,” Martin said.

Martin also said the center will strive to build a national reputation for advancement in each of the fields it serves, and will be interdisciplinary in nature with many of its research and service activities to include counseling, kinesiology, speech, psychology and human services.

Research conducted during the recent Summer Program for Students with Disabilities focused on using the Apple iPad to meet the communications needs of children with autism and development disabilities who possess limited language skills.

The center maintains a partnership with the Department of Industrial and Graphic Design in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction to develop innovative technology that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities while simultaneously developing ideas that benefit everyone through universal design. It has contracted with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services to conduct consumer satisfaction surveys and needs assessments, which will enhance the services provided to Alabama citizens with disabilities.

— Troy Johnson

McDaniel assisting U.N in global employment efforts for disabled

Randall McDaniel of Auburn’s College of Education will share his expertise in vocational evaluation and rehabilitation counseling with a United Nations agency this fall as part of a U.N. program to help create more employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities worldwide.

McDaniel, a Wayne T. Smith distinguished professor of rehabilitation in the College of Education, is spending a semester-long professional development sabbatical in Geneva, Switzerland, working with the International Labour Organization. The ILO is a United Nations agency that creates collaboration between governments, employers and workers to improve workplace conditions and promote labor rights globally.

“I’m going to be doing different projects with them,” McDaniel said. “It will involve anything to do with disability. They may send me to different places to help if they are shorthanded.”

McDaniel said he expects to conduct a disability awareness training program for United Nations field agents who work in different parts of the world.

“We will try to sensitize them to people with disabilities in other cultures,” said McDaniel, who directs the distance education program in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology.

Through the ILO, McDaniel has received an invitation to work in Oman on the Arabian Peninsula.

Individuals with disabilities face increased risk of poverty, social exclusion and marginalization throughout the world; in response the ILO’s Disability Program provides services and support in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, training and employment.

The ILO, which operates with 183 member nations, works to build knowledge and understanding worldwide on the training and employment of individuals with disabilities. Founded in 1919, the ILO became the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946. It is the organization’s only “tripartite” agency, responsible for bringing together government, employers and employees.
After the spill

NSF awards grants for Auburn research on longterm effects of BP oil spill

Auburn researchers have been awarded five National Science Foundation rapid response grants to study the environmental impacts of the recent Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

While signs of the spill are far less obvious than in the early weeks of the spill, policymakers are seeing scientific evidence about the spill’s potential long-term effects. Critical to understanding the long-term impacts of the spill on the Gulf Coast economy and residents, say the Auburn researchers, is a more thorough scientific understanding of what is happening to crude oil components and dispersants and their impact on water quality, sediments and seafood, along with the overall coastal ecosystem.

An NSF Major Research Instrumentation, or MRI, grant will enable development of a laboratory facility where environmental engineering researchers Prabhakar Clement, Clifford Lange, Ah Jeong Son and Dongye Zhao from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will characterize dispersant-mixed crude oil contaminants in various soil-water environments.

Another MRI grant went to biological sciences researchers Anthony Moss, Kenneth Halanych and Mark Liles of the College of Sciences and Mathematics and Alan Wilson of the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures in the College of Agriculture to fund a FlowCAM, a water analysis system, to examine how long oil droplets persist in the water column, to what degree organisms accumulate oil into lipid-rich regions of the body, both initially and long-term, and the effect of the oil on invertebrate larval populations.

“The FlowCAM is a laser-based, portable microscopy system that we will use to detect the presence of oil in the water and count plankton, including the microscopic larvae of economically important food species such as oysters, blue crabs, shrimp and many fish,” Moss said.

Moss continued, “Oiled plankton endanger large food fish, which concentrate plankton-derived petroleum in their tissues, thereby becoming toxic to humans. We will follow changes in the plankton as the oil disperses, and will establish a time line that reveals when shellfish and game fish are once again fit for human consumption. This will allow us to predict the impacts of future spills on the coast, and how long the impacts will last.”

Ming-Kuo Lee and James Saunders from the College of Sciences and Mathematics and Ben Okeke from Auburn University at Montgomery are collaborating with Alison Keimowitz from Vassar College to investigate the effects of the spill on the coastal wetlands. Long after the more obvious signs of the spill are gone, the total organic matter content of the waters and surrounding ecosystems will be increased, the researchers explained.

“Coastal wetlands are efficient traps of trace metals derived from atmospheric deposition and crude oil. Crude oil could contain varying levels of toxic metals like mercury and arsenic. Those metals are not biodegradable, thus they can remain in the marine and coastal ecosystems longer than oil,” Lee said. “Our goal is to monitor the concentration, speciation and releases of metals in impacted marine and coastal environments that may have concentrations above regulated levels for seafood safety concerns.”

Halanych of Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics is also collaborating in another NSF study. In that one, he is working with researchers at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Texas at San Antonio to better understand the biodiversity of benthic communities of small animals living in the Gulf of Mexico, their structure and the effect of disturbances like the spill on these communities.

“This funding will aid the long-term characterization of biodiversity, using cutting-edge molecular tools to understand the response of organisms to the oil and dispersants. These small animal communities influence the rate oil is buried in, or resuspended from, the sediment,” Halanych said.

Stephen “Ash” Bullard from the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures in Auburn’s College of Agriculture and George Benz from Middle Tennessee State University are studying parasites of fish as biosensors to learn how the toxic effects of the spill impact the marine and coastal environment of Alabama.

“Our focus is on the health of the aquatic environment in Alabama and adjacent states,” Bullard said. “We plan to use each parasite species as a natural biosensor to examine the impact of the spill on fish health and ecosystem functioning.”

The NSF RAPID funding program is used for proposals with a severe urgency regarding availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

Outreach program helps bring netbooks to Loachapapoka High

The entire senior class at Loachapapoka High School is receiving HP netbooks as part of a partnership between the school and Auburn University’s Outreach office. The initiative provides academic support and mentoring to help students enter and perform better in college, and ultimately qualify for better jobs.

The distribution of 100 netbooks, coordinated by Auburn’s Office of University Outreach with the Lee County School System, is being conducted for the first time this school year. Funding for the netbooks is part of a grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board to develop this college prep initiative. The mini-laptops are part of a wide range of educational enrichment opportunities now available to the students at Loachapapoka.

“These laptops are part of the ‘Advanced University Experience’ component of the initiative,” said Christiana Russell, outreach coordinator for K-12 Initiatives. “They will not only enrich the students’ learning process for their remaining year of high school but will also help prepare them for post-secondary education.” ACT test preparation and development of technologically-based research skills for college are some of the major goals of the initiative.

Initially, the senior class will use the devices to compose their senior writing project. However, the netbooks will help students build their computer and technological skills, while increasing their competencies in math, reading and writing.

Netbooks will also support new academic programs, such as an online math enrichment course currently under development by Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics.

The overall partnership between Loachapapoka High School and Auburn University is part of a strategic initiative launched last year by the University Outreach office. “Building high quality, high impact partnerships between Auburn and school systems in Alabama is a key objective of the university’s strategic plan,” said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. “Our goal is to help the students increase their academic performance and, more importantly, expand their view of the possibilities of college and career.”

The initiative is supported by a number of internal and external partners. In addition to University Outreach, Auburn’s Truman Pierce Institute in the College of Education, and the College of Sciences and Mathematics will support program development and administration. Verizon has agreed to partner with the project for technological support. The Lee County School System and Loachapapoka High administrators will oversee the involvement of students in the program.

— Ralph Foster
International guests
Auburn University President Jay Gogue welcomed visiting officials from Colombia and Belgium from their consulates in Atlanta during the past two weeks. Vice Consul Elissa Bernal of Colombia, in top left photo, visited Auburn on Aug. 23 and Benoit Standaert, in top right photo, consul general of Belgium, visited on Aug. 30. They were the first visitors this fall in a continuing series to bring international dignitaries to Auburn for meetings with students, faculty and administrators. Bob McGinnis, at left in top right photo, senior counsel to the president, is coordinating the visiting dignitaries program.

Photos by Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Aubie and lip-synching, dancing pharmacy scholars show fun-loving side of their school in music video

Auburn’s colorful mascot Aubie may be the least colorful character in a video from the Harrison School of Pharmacy that takes the costumed tiger and YouTube viewers on a most unusual musical tour.

In “Video PHANTASTIC,” a modern-day mix of “Alice in Wonderland” and “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” dozens of wildly dressed characters lead Aubie and the audience on a fun-filled dancing tour of the school, paced by a soundtrack of high-energy rock and hip-hop songs.

The video, posted last spring, begins with Aubie being chauffeured in the school’s “Drug Bug” vehicle to the front door of W.W. Walker Building, through which he enters to get a prescription filled in the university’s employee pharmacy. The “Drug Bug” is a golf cart that delivers medications across campus to university employees. But the employee pharmacy is only the first stop as the video sweeps through halls, labs and classrooms inhabited by dozens of energetic dancers.

“Video PHANTASTIC” may be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/AuburnPharmacy.

The video involved more than 100 faculty members, staff and students from the Auburn and Mobile campuses. Participants included students from all four class levels of the school, along with faculty and staff, as they lip-synched songs while dressed in a wild array of costumes.

“Video PHANTASTIC” may be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/AuburnPharmacy.

The video involved more than 100 faculty members, staff and students from the Auburn and Mobile campuses. Participants included students from all four class levels of the school, along with faculty and staff, as they lip-synched songs while dressed in a wild array of costumes.

“Video PHANTASTIC” may be viewed online at www.youtube.com/user/AuburnPharmacy.

Participants say these goals were achieved through preparation for the video, as well as during weekly committee meetings and during the making of shorter videos to promote the video, or VPVs.

In addition to being fun for everyone involved, “Video PHANTASTIC” (an acronym for Promoting, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Auburn, Networking Technology, Advocacy, Students, Teamwork, Innovation and Curriculum) seeks to educate the public on the school’s technologically advanced and innovative curriculum, Fox said.

“The idea came from an e-mail that I received with a link to a lip dub, which is a video that combines lip synching and audio dubbing,” Fox said. “I got approval from our dean and approached a group of students about the idea. They thought the idea would be fun for our school; they took it and made it their own, and that is how Video PHANTASTIC began.”

Production started with Fox and a committee of 11 students meeting once a week for three months to discuss ideas and make plans. The students included Joshua Hollingsworth, Charlie Darling, Aravind Chodavarapu, Jarrod Pescatore, Shanna Howard, Chris Hindsman, Anthony Riccardone, Ben Ingrum, Maryann Birch, Brittany Ponder and Chris Newlin.

The production crew also made VPVs to inform and get viewers excited about the main video. “These short videos sparked a lot of interest and excitement, and really influenced the turnout we had on the day of filming,” said Hollingsworth, the video editor and student committee member.

“The response has been very positive in and outside of Auburn University,” Fox said. “There have already been around 7,400 hits and talk of another video this upcoming school year.”

— Ashley Tatum
Campus News Briefs

Center offers new program to help parents, children overcome separation anxiety

The Auburn University Psychological Services Center is now offering a program designed to help parents with children ages 3-7 who are experiencing separation anxiety.

This 12-week program will include information on bravery skills, parent-child communication and effective use of behavior management strategies such as behavior contracts and time out. The first session will be in Cary Hall in mid-September. Participation requires a one-time $20 fee. To fill out an eligibility questionnaire, or for more information, call the Psychological Services Center at 844-4889.

Liberal Arts classes help City of Valley win state honors for tourism promotion

The Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel recently presented its 2010 award for Best Theme Campaign to Valley, Ala., for the city’s first Cotton Mill Reunion, which became a featured part of the Bureau’s Year of Small Towns emphasis.

Public relations students from Auburn in Assistant Professor Susan Waters’ spring semester course helped create publicity materials for the event, including a logo that became the design for the reunion’s T-shirts.

Valley was also cited for celebrating its 30th anniversary as a city with a 32-page publication, “Valley Vision,” produced by students in College of Liberal Arts Associate Professor Nan Fairley’s spring community journalism course, with assistance from Associate Professor Judy Sheppard’s advanced feature writing students. The city received funding from the Alabama Historical Commission to publish 10,000 copies of the paper, which features interviews with citizens, detailed local history and a vision for future growth and prosperity.

Auburn Alumni Association presents Minority Achievement Award to Carla Jackson Bell

The Auburn Alumni Association has presented its Minority Achievement Award for 2010 to Carla Jackson Bell, director of multicultural affairs, in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

The annual award honors an individual who has contributed to improved race relations and fostered a sense of community within the university. Bell was cited for leadership in recruiting, retaining, mentoring and supporting more open educational environment that encourages students to share their cultural experiences, understandings and aesthetics. The graduation rate of under-represented students in the college has increased approximately 5 percent since 2006.

Engineering, Agriculture professors receive $1.2 million grant for pest control research

Dong-Joo “Daniel” Kim, an associate professor in Materials Engineering, and David Held, an assistant professor in Entomology and Plant Pathology, have won a grant of more than $1.2 million from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture through its highly competitive Specialty Crops Research Initiative.

The grant, which includes non-federal funds, supports efforts to design and develop advanced technologies to combat invasive Ambrosia Beetles in commercial nurseries. Less than 10 years ago, this destructive beetle was unknown in nurseries of North America. Today Ambrosia Beetles threaten to destroy thousands of acres of existing trees and whole crops of ornamental plants.

Index

1 New professorships awarded to 50 members of Auburn faculty
3 Book by local art historians becomes 3 millionth volume in Auburn library
4 Goldstein, community orchestra win national honors for quality of work
5 College holds grand opening for new center to aid persons with disabilities
6 NSF awards five grants to Auburn faculty to study oil spill’s impact
7 Music video presents another side of Harrison School of Pharmacy

Winners of Common Book writing challenge to meet author of “Three Cups of Tea.” See Pages 1 and 2.

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

The AuburnReport 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.