Prize-winning sculpture
This sculpture, titled “Large Tractor Wing,” by Texas artist Kurt Dyrhaug won first place in a recent nationwide competition at Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. This is one of several sculptures on display for a year on the museum grounds. Two other winners are shown on Page 2.

Museum displays winning sculptures
Auburn University’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art has named sculptors from Texas and North Carolina as winners of the “Out of the Box: An Outdoor Juried Sculpture Exhibition.”

More than 120 artworks were entered in the national large-scale sculpture competition and the winners were named Oct. 4 at a grand opening celebration. The competition was judged by nationally prominent artists Carol Mickett and Robert Stackhouse.

The works of the 10 finalists will be on display around the Lethander Art Path and lake on the museum grounds for a year, until October 2014. Each finalist received $1,000. First place, second place and honorable mention carry additional cash awards of $3,000, $1,500 and $500, respectively.

Texas sculptor Kurt Dyrhaug won first place for his sculpture, “Large Tractor Wing.” Sculptor Bill Brown of North Carolina won second place for “The Mediator.” Robbie Barber, also a sculptor from Texas, received honorable mention for “Dreams of Flying.”

First place winner Dyrhaug said, “Originally, I am from Minnesota, and the work I was producing then referenced farm implements and things you’d find in the field. Being a city boy, I had no idea what those things were for and how they were used but they did have some wonderful forms.”

In moving to Texas to teach at Lamar University, Dyrhaug brought that visual perspective with him, adapting it to a new place with a different aesthetic.

Mickett said Dyrhaug’s piece takes something familiar and pushes the boundaries. “You recognize it as a tractor, but it’s not the sort of tractor you would see on a farm. It’s elongated, but it’s that John Deere color green,” she said. “It has a seat but its positioned way out so it has the whimsical aspect to it.”

For “The Mediator,” Bill Brown said he looked at the strong architectural form of the arch and thought of how he might create a form that could bring people together from different viewpoints.

“I was thinking about the lack of communication between people right now, whether it be religious or political. I see these arches as bridges,” Brown said. “If we could bridge our thoughts and we

See Winning sculptures at museum, Page 2

Project seeks to help blind with navigation
David Bevly, the Albert Smith Jr. Professor in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, is leading a team of Auburn University researchers in a project to build a prototype Extended Mobility System to help the visually impaired navigate to their desired locations.

The team is investigating the use of cameras, inertial sensors and communications devices to track the movements of the visually impaired wearers. GPS data, as well as wireless information available from future Department of Transportation wireless communication devices, will be integrated into the device to guide users to their destinations. The system will include technology developed for soldiers and unmanned vehicles by Draper Laboratory, a not-for-profit engineering research and development organization.

Members of the Auburn research team include industrial and systems engineering faculty members John Evans and Richard Sesek and graduate student Tenchi Gao, mechanical engineering graduate students Robert Cofield and Christopher Rose, and consultant Richard Bishop.

The system will be designed with the help of blind individuals from the National Federation of the Blind; researchers say these volunteers are crucial to ensuring the system is both accessible and useful.

“Commercial products have been created that primarily use GPS in conjunction with voice-over communication as a means of telling the visually impaired where they are and which way to go,” Rose said. “Unfortunately, these products often suffer from poor positioning. That is, they are not accurate enough to tell the difference between a sidewalk and a road, or going in the wrong building or doorway.”

Rose added that utilizing Draper Laboratory’s robotics expertise in vision navigation and Auburn’s GPS and pedestrian dead-reckoning capabilities allows the system to provide blind people with more precise positioning, as well as indoor navigation. This enables people to do more of what they want to do in an intuitive and readily available way, from attending concerts to taking the subway to visiting friends.

A prototype device is projected to be available in 2015.
Winning sculptures on display at art museum

“On museum grounds”

The sculpture “The Mediator,” above, by Bill Brown of North Carolina, won second place in the recent competition at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. At left, “Dreams of Flying,” by Texas sculptor Robbie Barber, won honorable mention. They are among sculptures on display on the museum grounds.

Continued from Page 1

could each cross a little bit of the arch – it doesn’t have to be in the center; the arch will hold you up where you are. People coming from opposite directions could work something out. The wagon wheels show the arch could be moved physically or psychologically.”

Mickett and Stackhouse said they saw things in Brown’s actual piece not seen in the photograph. They described the finish as very lovingly done, the form as classic and the sculpture having characteristics of farm implements and also of something wrought by a blacksmith.

Honorable mention winner Robbie Barber brought “Dreams of Flying” from Texas and had conversations with travelers along the way. “They would tell me ‘I used to remember going to visit my aunt in this old house that looked just like that, and I remember great times there.’ It’s a great kind of triggering point working with this subject.”

“Dreams of Flying” is made of welded steel and found objects. “The thrusters that are on the back of the house are from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. I had this real simple idea of people sitting on the porch and dreaming ‘what if?’ What if we went to the moon?”

That storytelling feel was not lost on the jurors.

“You can’t look at it without having a story. Where’s it going to go and whose house is it? There’s something uplifting about the piece, as it is one of the first sculptures you encounter from the College Street entrance,” said Mickett. “There’s something very nice about art and a museum flying off to the heights.”

Stackhouse said there is folksiness as well as a side of sophistication to Barber’s sculpture. “The house has a gesture of movement because the base is not a straight line; you have a tangential moment which gives the sculpture a real presence to the eye.”

Barber encouraged viewers to have fun with his work. “The outdoor work is an opportunity to do larger work so it’s different, not only for the artist but for the viewer.”

“Most viewers when they go into a gallery or museum it’s a very quiet atmosphere.” Barber added. “You can’t touch anything and you don’t want to talk very loud. And it’s a different kind of experience outdoors in the sense that you can participate with it, walking around it and, sometimes, underneath the piece.”

“Out of the Box: A Juried Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition” is sponsored by Julian Roberts Haynes in memory of Lucile McGehee Haynes and Grace K. and David E. Johnson. The Susan Phillips Educational Gift Fund provided additional funding.

The exhibition was organized by Andy Tennant, the museum’s assistant director, and Jessica Hughes, curatorial assistant. Admission is free courtesy of JCSM Business Partners.

– Charlotte Hendrix

Publisher translating Barth book on financial regulation into Chinese


Barth, Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance, gave a presentation on “Coping with the Rapidly Changing Financial and Regulatory Landscape” at the Global Los Angeles Venture Association meeting in Century City, Calif., in September.

In addition, his article on “The Fed’s Rough Road Ahead” was published in the Milken Institute Review: A Journal of Economic Policy, Third Quarter 2013.
Profiles in Excellence

In studying rural poverty, Bailey examines impact of agricultural technologies, policies on state residents

Auburn University faculty member Conner Bailey says he became concerned about the environment many years ago. Bailey’s recent work as a professor has included social aspects of forestry and international work related to aquaculture and fisheries.

His first 10 years at Auburn University were spent examining the environmental injustices relating to the siting of solid and hazardous waste facilities in Alabama and the South.

Throughout his teaching and research, Bailey has encouraged students and faculty to look at things university researchers do that either foster or hinder a more fully democratic society.

In recognition of his success in his research and teaching, Bailey received the 2013 Auburn University Award for Excellence in Creative Research and Scholarship, the university’s top research award. Bailey is one of two winners of the award for 2013; the other is Pradeep Lall in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

“This award recognizes not only the performance of a single researcher but the focus and style of research in which I have been involved,” said Bailey.

Most of Bailey’s work and research is focused on the sociology of natural resources and the impact of technology on both resources and people. The issues of hazardous and solid wastes helped shape his views on environmental injustices.

Bailey said that these injustices often were caused by the perversion of science and the institutionalized relationships of power that shapes natural resources and environmental policy.

“This award recognizes that I play well with others,” said Bailey. “I pursued my research interests with teams of faculty and students.”

Much of his research over his career has been directed toward forestry issues, particularly those consisting of technological and ownership changes. Bailey says he thinks that these changes are what have added to a legacy of rural poverty in Alabama.

“I have pursued these research interests as part of interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students, and to these colleagues I owe an enormous debt,” said Bailey.

A professor of rural sociology in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn, Bailey received his Ph.D. in development sociology from Cornell University in 1980.

An authority in rural sociology, Bailey joined the Auburn faculty in 1985. Before that he worked at the Marine Policy Center at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and at the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management. Bailey is now married to Lisa Brouillette and has two daughters, Rebecca and Rachel.

Bailey said his daughters and wife are his biggest inspiration.

“My two daughters, Rebecca and Rachel, who have grown into intelligent and good hearted young women, have inspired me with their love and the potential they represent. My wife, Lisa, did more than her fair share in helping create the conditions that made this possible and for that she, too, has inspired me,” said Bailey.

Bailey is also a recipient of these three recent awards: the Distinguished Diversity Research Award, Auburn University, 2008; Excellence in Research Award, Rural Sociological Society, 2007; and the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, 2007. He also received teaching awards from the College of Engineering at Auburn in 1994 and 1998 and recently served as president of the Rural Sociological Society from 2011-12.

Bailey said what he likes best about Auburn is that most of the serious researchers he knows are equally committed to their teaching.

– Katelyn Sides

Fisheries specialists confront spread of algae in state waters

The head of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s aquaculture resources team and a fellow Auburn University faculty member are working to gain a deeper understanding of algal blooms.

Those prolific aquatic organisms are increasingly causing headaches not only for water treatment facilities, parks and zoos but also for pond owners and others exposed to these blooms. The researchers will use this heightened understanding to educate people about how they can prevent the spread of harmful blooms and to reduce exposure to them.

This effort is made possible with funding from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Russell “Rusty” Wright, an Extension fisheries specialist, aquaculture resources team leader and associate professor in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, and Alan Wilson, an associate professor of fisheries, are especially interested in blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, taxa known to produce off-flavors in public drinking water.

The two recently worked with a Southeastern municipal water supplier to address taste issues stemming from the presence of blue-green algae. “Some of these algae can produce compounds that make water taste muddy,” Wright said.

“In this case, we determined that the city was drawing water from a depth where the blue-green algae happened to be most concentrated — which was surprising to us given that most bloom-forming algae form scums found primarily on the water’s surface.

So our first suggestion was to draw the water from shallower depths away from the heavy concentration of algae.”

Wright and Wilson are also investigating how some chemical compounds associated with these blooms, particularly methylisoborneol and geosmin, work to compromise the taste of catfish and other aquaculture products. “The aquaculture industry has been very concerned about taste-related issues for a very long time, because if you’re exposed to one bad fish, you’re likely not going to eat another,” Wright said. “And with enough people reacting this way, it can lead to adverse economic effects.”

The research team also wants to gain a deeper insight into the natural factors and human practices that contribute to the growth of toxic algal blooms, especially in freshwater systems throughout the Southeast.

“Some of these blooms can produce toxins at high enough levels to threaten animals,” Wright said. “Dogs are typically the most vulnerable because of their natural inclination to jump into water in pursuit of ducks or other animals.”

In addition, because of their small body size, children exposed to toxic algae are considered especially susceptible.

Wright and Wilson also are monitoring the growing number of invasive species, particularly Lyngbya, a cyanobacterium native to Asia. This algae forms large surface mats on the bottom of lakes that quickly cover and smother native species.

While Alabama’s warm, sunny climate is highly conducive to algal growth, Wilson said this project represents the first sustained effort to build a comprehensive picture of algal blooms in Alabama as well as throughout the Southeast.

– Jim Langcuster
Research team developing artificial tissue to use in testing of anti-cancer drugs

A team of Auburn University researchers is engineering artificial breast cancer tissue that they expect will provide fellow cancer researchers with a 3-D model on which cancer-fighting drugs can be tested.

The project by Assistant Professor Elizabeth Lipke and doctoral student Shantanu Pradhan in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Chemical Engineering is part of a growing focus worldwide on engineering cancer tissue in a 3-D format, rather than the 2-D format biologists have traditionally used to grow cancer cells.

The research in Lipke’s lab has historically focused on engineering cardiac tissue and developing cardiac regeneration techniques, but Pradhan found a link between that research and cancer-related angiogenesis, which is the growth of new blood vessels.

“Cancer is an area that biomedical engineers, and in particular tissue engineers, are just starting to get into modeling, but people have been working on tissue engineering for cardiac and other applications for a lot longer,” Lipke said. “In terms of understanding cancer biology, we’re really at the beginning of applying the things we know from other organ systems to understanding cancer in three dimensions.”

The researchers say modeling the cancer tissue in a 3-D format is important because it simulates how cancer grows in the human body. Certain cancer drugs may kill cancer cells grown in a 2-D format, “but when the same drug is applied to a tumor growing in a 3-D format in the human body, it might not have the same effect,” Pradhan said. “It might be much weaker. It might not be able to kill off all the cells as it did in the 2-D format.”

The researchers create the cancer tissue using a biomaterial called PEG-fibrinogen, which is made of the synthetic polymer poly(ethylene glycol) and fibrinogen, a protein produced by the liver that is critical to the blood-clotting process. After combining the cancer cells with the PEG-fibrinogen biomaterial in a substance called a hydrogel, they keep the sample at a temperature similar to that of the human body and observe over a period of time that the cancer cells grow, much like a cancerous tumor in the human body.

The researchers are performing various tests to examine how the cells respond to the surrounding environment and to characterize the different properties of the cancer cells, such as specific genes or proteins that cause the cancer-like behavior.

Other cancer researchers at Auburn have expressed interest in testing the cancer drugs they are developing on the 3-D breast cancer model. One of the biggest advantages to testing on the artificial tissue is that drug trials performed on animals may eventually become redundant, Pradhan said.

Under the current trial system, cancer drugs are tested on mice or rats that have cancerous tumors, and if the drug has a positive effect, it may then be applied to human trials. Pradhan said a better model would be to test the cancer drugs on the artificial tissue, which is designed to simulate human tissue, rather than on an animal whose physiology is much different than that of a human.

Testing the cancer drugs on the artificial tissue could potentially reduce drug costs and the amount of time it takes cancer drugs to come to market in the future. The researchers say that will be a big public health benefit as cancer continues to be one of the leading causes of death in the United States each year.

The American Cancer Society estimates that one in eight women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during her lifetime.

Research like that being conducted in Lipke’s lab is a big reason why the Auburn University Research Initiative in Cancer, or AURIC, was founded in 2012, said Bruce Smith, the initiative’s director. AURIC, housed in the College of Veterinary Medicine, utilizes a “One Medicine” concept that sees human and animal health as a single field where discoveries in one species advance health in both species.

Three named to fellowships with SEC faculty development program

Three Auburn University faculty members have been named fellows in the 2013-14 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program.

The program identifies, prepares and advances academic leaders for roles within Southeastern Conference institutions and beyond.

Jennifer Wood Adams, director of the School of Communication and Journalism; Sushil Bhavnani, the Henry M. Burt Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering; and Richard Burt, head of the McWhorter School of Building Science, are joining 46 faculty and administrators from Southeastern Conference universities at academic workshops this week at the University of Georgia and Feb. 5-7 at the University of South Carolina.

Each of the 14 SEC universities also has a university-level development program designed by each institution for its own participants.

“They have excelled at Auburn University and will represent our university well in their roles as SEC fellows,” Auburn Provost Timothy Boosinger said. “We look forward to their exchanging of knowledge with our SEC colleagues and to the ideas they will bring back to Auburn.”

The SEC, through its academic initiative SECU, sponsors, supports and promotes collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty and students at its member universities.

“The individuals selected by their SEC universities to participate in the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program represent the future of higher education administration,” said Torie Johnson, SECu executive director.

Johnson added, “The leadership skills they already possess are sure to be enhanced by the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program experience.”
Guidebook links Audubon prints to Davis Arboretum walking tour

Art and nature experts from Auburn University have produced a field guide that links the artistic works of 19th century naturalist John James Audubon with native plants at Auburn’s Donald E. Davis Arboretum.

The guide is available at the university’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, where the exhibit “Audubon in the Arboretum” is on view until Dec. 14. Both the museum and the arboretum are on South College Street in Auburn.

With research support from Auburn University Libraries and the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the museum is releasing a field guide to accompany the exhibition with permanent native plant markers at the arboretum, which correspond with prints on view at the museum.

“In the age of digital photography and observations sent in 140 characters or less, this exhibition and walking path encourages people to slow down, look closely and put pencil to paper to make notes on or drawings of what they see and hear in the available spaces of the field guide,” said Scott Bishop, education curator and curator of the Louise Hauss and David Brent Miller Audubon Collection, who co-authored the publication.

Bishop said Auburn’s collection, comprised of more than 150 prints, is one of the largest collections of John J. Audubon prints in the Southeast. Bishop said that while Audubon’s drawings, prints and engravings have been known for well over a century for providing accurate depictions of wildlife, his artistic achievements are now becoming widely accepted by art historians.

“Natural History was strictly a scientific pursuit in some ways, but as late as the 19th century, it was a focus of these ‘gentleman scientists’ who, while being perhaps professionally untrained, studied the natural world with great focus,” Bishop said. “There was a market for books in the aristocracy and rising middle class that were beautiful objects, but were also educational and scientific. Audubon’s ‘Birds of America’ sold better in Europe partly because it recorded birds and plants from North America.”

Dee Smith, curator of the Davis Arboretum and co-author on the field guide, said Audubon’s work brought a different focus to the native plants he presented, many of which are found in the arboretum. “These are the native plants he presented, many of which are found in the arboretum. These are American plants. This is what our country was and is, and that connection meant a lot to me.”

Although the arboretum opened officially in 1963, Smith noted that the field guide includes images of plant species that were in the area as far back as 1885, when Audubon was painting.

Smith said she hopes the interdisciplinary project will raise awareness of ecosystem service in visitors’ minds. “Most people think a green plant is a green plant, and it has nice flowers that are pretty. What native plants provide insects and all kinds of herbivores and wildlife is something that could be missed, so we hope with this project we put it in a different way so that people can look at it with a whole new approach.”

Noting that Audubon marketed to his audience in his time, Smith said this publication is marketed to a 21st-century audience. “The path markers and museum labels include QR codes, so that visitors may use their tablets or devices to hear bird calls of those species depicted in the print or attracted to the native plants.”

“Audubon in the Arboretum: A Field Guide” was edited by Candis Birchfield and Jay Lamar with design by Janet Spivey Guynn and forwards from author Andrea Wulf and museum director Marilyn Lauffer. Admission to the museum is free courtesy of JCSM Business Partners.

The field guide, on sale in the Museum Shop for $7, was produced with the support of the Louise Hauss and David Brent Miller Audubon Endowment at Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. For more information, visit www.jcsm.auburn.edu or call 844-1484.

– Charlotte Hendrix
Auburn University has announced its student nominees for three of the nation’s top postgraduate honors: the Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell scholarships.

“These students evoke the core values of Auburn University,” said Melissa Baumann, assistant provost for undergraduate studies and director of the Honors College. “They have succeeded through hard work in their courses and extracurricular activities and they are men and women of character. We are pleased to nominate them for these prestigious scholarships.”

Rhodes Scholarship nominees

Five seniors and one recent graduate will compete for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which gives 32 of the most outstanding young scholars in the country an opportunity to study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. The scholarship, one of the oldest in the world, aims to nurture public-spirited leaders for the world’s future as it promotes international understanding and peace.

Patrick Donnan of Auburn is a double major in physics and music (bassoon) with a minor in mathematics, an editor for the Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Studies and a Goldwater Scholar. His major professor is Francis Robicheaux in physics.

Hunter Hayes of Jacksonville, Fla., is a triple major in music (piano), finance and accounting, a classically trained pianist and a member of the track and field team. His major professor is Jeremy Sameolesky in music.

Spencer Kerns of Mobile is a double major in chemistry and Spanish and a 2012 U.S. Swimming Olympics Trials finalist. His major professor is Anne Gorden in chemistry.

Ashton Richardson of New Orleans, La., is a 2012 Auburn graduate in animal sciences, a former football linebacker, Bobby Bowden Award Winner and currently a first-year student in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. His major professor at Auburn was Dale Coleman in animal sciences.

Jennifer Waxman of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, is a political science major with a minor in Spanish and a First Team Academic All-American member of the equestrian team. Her major professor is Jill Crystal in political science.

Alyssa White of Auburn is a double major in anthropology and Spanish with a minor in East Asian Studies (Japanese), an editor for the Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Studies and a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Her major professor is Kristina Schuler of anthropology.

Marshall Scholarship nominees

Auburn’s nominees for the Marshall Scholarship, an equally respected honor, are Patrick Donnan and Alyssa White again and Mary-Catherine Anderson of Huntsville, a cellular, molecular and microbial biology major, a folk music singer and songwriter and an album co-producer. Her major professor is Mike Squillacote in chemistry.

The scholarship, named for General George C. Marshall, former Army Chief of Staff and Secretary of State, provides 40 of the most outstanding undergraduates in the country an opportunity to study at any university in the United Kingdom.

Mitchell Scholarship nominee

The university has endorsed Lauren Little of Decatur for the Mitchell Scholarship. She is a 2013 graduate in human development and family studies and is pursuing an MBA in Auburn’s Raymond J. Harbert College of Business. She is a past president of Auburn’s Committee of 19 that seeks solutions to world hunger. Her major professor is Kate Thornton in hunger studies.

This scholarship gives 12 students nationwide the opportunity to study in Ireland and is named in honor of former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell’s contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process; it is sponsored by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance.

“Our students must be endorsed by the university’s national prestigious scholarships committee to receive a nomination,” said Paul Harris, director of national prestigious scholarships, who worked with the students, along with their faculty mentors, to help prepare them for the application process. “As part of their applications, they were required to submit a personal essay and letters of recommendation which highlighted their scholarly potential and their character and suitability for the award.”

– Charles Martin

Museum of Natural History holds open house in its new home

The Auburn University Museum of Natural History opened its doors to the public for the first time, last weekend. On homecoming Saturday, Oct. 12, the museum hosted an open house, offering the community the opportunity to meet the curators and explore the more than one million specimens found in the museum’s eight collections.

Located between Rouse Life Sciences Building and M. White Smith Hall, the Biodiversity Learning Center is the new home for the Auburn University Museum of Natural History, which features collections of specimens representing the rich history of Alabama, the Southeast and beyond. Sponsored by the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the museum is used primarily by Auburn professors and students as well as researchers from around the world conducting biodiversity research.

Periodically, museum curators will extend the collections beyond campus and provide specimens to outside researchers and K-12 outreach programs. However, the museum is not ordinarily open to the public.

“The new Biodiversity Learning Center is a state-of-the-art collections facility that allows, for the first time, all of Auburn’s natural history collections to be housed under a single roof. The new building provides much needed space for the growth of collections and will greatly enhance our ability to share the collections with the public and further serve the needs of Auburn’s land-grant mission of education and outreach,” said Jason Bond, director of the Museum of Natural History. “We are incredibly proud of our museum collections and the Biodiversity Learning Center, and we hope everyone will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity to see more of what Auburn University has to offer.”

For more than 25 years, the Museum of Natural History was located in Funchess Hall and the Physiology Building on campus, and Auburn has maintained natural history collections for more than 50 years. The museum has eight collections including: fishes; mammals; arachnids and myriapods; aquatic invertebrates; plants; amphibians and reptiles; birds; and insects. Some of the specimens in the museum were first described by Auburn professors. These species include Myrmekiaphila tigris, also known as the “Auburn Tiger Trapdoor Spider,” a spider species that was recently discovered by Bond and Charles Ray, a research fellow in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

“Visitors get to see the collections firsthand, have the opportunity to interact with the curators and collections staff, and experience the rich biodiversity of Alabama and the world,” said Bond.

For more information on the Auburn University Museum of Natural History, visit the website at www.auburn.edu/cosam/mnh.

The mission of the Auburn University Museum of Natural History is to conduct biodiversity research, preserve and document our region and planet’s biodiversity, and to lead and promote activities related to natural history education and outreach for Auburn University and all citizens of Alabama.

– Candis Birchfield
Paula Bobrowski elected president of Alabama Fulbright Association

Paula Bobrowski, associate dean for research and faculty development in the College of Liberal Arts, is the new president of the Alabama Fulbright Association.

The Fulbright Association engages current and former Fulbright exchange participants in lifelong experiences that advance international understanding through volunteer service to communities, people-to-people diplomacy, and dialogue on global issues.

Bobrowski was awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship for research in Japan, in 1995-96.

Agriculture professor honored for 50 years of nematology research, teaching

Plant pathologist Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana, Distinguished University Professor in Auburn University’s College of Agriculture, will receive special recognition for 50-plus years of service in the field of nematology during the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America’s annual meeting later this month in La Serena, Chile.

A native of the Canary Islands, Rodriguez-Kabana earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agronomy and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Louisiana State University. He began his work in nematology in 1962, joining the faculty at Auburn in 1965.

In his career thus far, he has published more than 200 journal articles, been granted multiple patents and received more than 50 awards, fellowships and other academic and professional distinctions. Rodriguez-Kabana’s colleagues in the organization call his 50 years of service “singular and exceptional” and say nematologists worldwide have benefited from his contributions in research and teaching.

Koo takes garment design to wearable computers symposium in Switzerland

Helen Koo, an assistant professor in the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences in the College of Human Sciences, presented a poster and garment design at the International Symposium on Wearable Computers in Zurich, Switzerland, in September.

The annual event is an academic conference dedicated to cutting-edge research in wearable technologies, incorporating clothing with advanced electronics. Koo’s garment design, “Play the Visual Music,” is a dress embedded with EL wire that reacts to sounds by blinking.

Koo’s poster, “Nanostructural Gas Sensors Integrated into Fabric for Wearable Breath Monitoring System,” was co-authored with Dong-Joo (Daniel) Kim in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. Their research presents a technology to design and fabricate nanostructured gas sensors in fabrics for continuous monitoring of gas levels in the wearer’s exhalation that can indicate the wearer’s health status.

Professor delivers keynote address at international design forum in China

Tin Man Lau, Alumni Professor of Industrial Design in the School of Industrial and Graphic Design, was a keynote speaker at the fourth International Innovation Design and Education Forum at Nanjing University of Science and Technology in Nanking, China.

He delivered his talk, “My Experience in Design Education: Industry vs. Academia,” on Sept. 19 and also spoke Sept. 23 to a combined graduate and undergraduate design class at Nanjing University about industrial design education at Auburn and about culture and design.

Twelve schools from around the world participated in the forum and in the Portfolio of “Nanjing Innovation” International Universities’ Design Exhibition. More than 30 individual Auburn student projects were displayed in the exhibition.

Southern Management Association honors College of Business professor

The Southern Management Association has named Kevin Mossholder, C.G. Mills Professor of Management in Auburn University’s Raymond J. Harbert College of Business, as winner of the SMA’s 2013 Hunt Sustained Service Award.

The award honors individuals who have consistently helped the association fulfill its mission of offering value to “members, organizations and society through professional development, high-impact scholarship and teaching, engaging programs and deliberate and social responsible acts” over an extended period of time.

The SMA membership consists of approximately 1,000 management professors, doctoral students and executives representing more than 200 colleges, universities and business firms in 43 states and several foreign countries. The SMA honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the organization through elected and volunteer positions or other extraordinary contributions.

Professor receives NSF grant for study of wildfires and climate variability

Hanqin Tian, Solon and Martha Dixon Professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, has been awarded $455,984 to study wildfire and climate variability.

The award is part of a four-year, $2.5 million collaborative research grant from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the USDA Joint Program on Decadal and Regional Climate Prediction, using Earth System Models.

The project is “Wildfires and regional climate variability – mechanisms, modeling and prediction.” The goal is to improve understanding and modeling capability of the two-way interaction between regional climate variability and wildfire. In addition to his academic post, Tian is director of the International Center for Climate and Global Change Research at Auburn.

New night scene

Auburn’s new Recreation and Wellness Center adds to the dramatic view of the southwest quadrant of campus at dusk. As evidenced by its parking lot, the recently opened center is proving popular with students, faculty and staff as a favored place to shed pounds and work off the stresses of the day through its exercise facilities, climbing wall, indoor track, athletic courts and other amenities. With the old coliseum behind the center slated for demolition, the area will undergo additional changes in the near future.