



# 9th ANNUAL **FACULTY AWARDS**

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



**THIS IS EXCELLENCE.**

# Order of Events

## **Presiding**

*Donna Bohanan*

*Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor of History*

## **Dining**

## **Welcome**

*Timothy Boosinger*

*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## **Congratulations**

*Jimmy Rane*

*President Pro Tempore*

*Auburn University Board of Trustees*

## **Presentation of Awards**

### **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship**

*Presented by Debbie Shaw, Vice President for Alumni Affairs and  
Executive Director of Auburn Alumni Association*

### **Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards**

*Presented by Dr. Shaw*

**Alumni Professors**

*Presented by Dr. Shaw*

**President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Auburn University's Departmental Award for Excellence in Education**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach**

*Presented by Chippewa Thomas*

*Director of Faculty Engagement*

**Research and Creative Scholarship Award**

*Presented by Zhanjiang (John) Liu*

*Associate Vice President for Research and Associate Provost*

**Provost Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Closing Remarks**

*Dr. Boosinger*

# Faculty Awards

**The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching:** *honors two full-time, tenured faculty members who have demonstrated effective and innovative teaching methods and a continuing commitment to student success through advising and mentoring inside and outside the classroom.*

**Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach:** *honors the engagement of exemplary faculty members and demonstrates the tremendous impact Outreach has on our community, state, and nation.*

**Research and Creative Scholarship Award:** *honors the research achievements and contributions of Auburn University faculty who have distinguished themselves through research, scholarly works, and/or creative contributions to their fields.*

**President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award:** *presented to those Auburn University units whose collaborative efforts result in unique exemplary service or academic excellence within the university and the community.*

**Auburn University's Departmental Award for Excellence in Education:** *presented by the University Senate, this award recognizes the efforts of departmental faculty for their commitment to improving education at both the undergraduate and graduate level.*

**Provost Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship:** *recognizes sustained efforts to promote excellence in undergraduate scholarship through research.*

**Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award:** *recognizes the outstanding teaching of undergraduates from nominations made by department heads, deans, alumni, and students. A committee of retired faculty selects the recipients.*

**Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship:** *recognizes faculty for service in support of graduate education and excellence in research.*

**Alumni Professor:** *recognizes 25 faculty members for research, publishing, and teaching by awarding five-year, non-renewable professorships through the Auburn Alumni Association. The Alumni Writer-in-Residence, a creative writer from the English faculty, is the only ongoing appointment.*

# The Commemorative Awards

Orbix Hot Glass created the commemorative awards specifically for the Faculty Awards Ceremony. The photos below show the process in which the awards are made.





# Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship



**Paula R. Backscheider**  
Philpott-Stevens Eminent Scholar,  
Department of English  
College of Liberal Arts

PhD, BA – Purdue University  
MS – Southern Connecticut State University

**"Graduate education is a serious commitment and one that requires each student be treated as an individual. The work of a graduate teacher does not often end with the degree, but often includes being a source of advice and encouragement as the graduate student's career unfolds and develops. This award validates the hard work and the value of being a graduate faculty member."**

Paula R. Backscheider specializes in Restoration and 18th-century literature, feminist criticism, and cultural studies. She is the author of several books including *Daniel Defoe: His Life*, winner of the British Council Prize, *Spectacular Politics*, *Reflections on Biography*, and *Eighteenth-Century Women Poets and their Poetry: Inventing Agency, Inventing Genre*, winner of the Modern Language Association Lowell Prize. Two of her books have been selected for the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award. A former president of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, she has held fellowships in the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Guggenheim and is one of the few American members of the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Edinburgh. Her most recent book is *Elizabeth Singer Rowe and the Development of the English Novel*. An award-winning teacher, she says she is dedicated to discussion courses and creating an atmosphere in which students can be themselves and feel free to take risks. Backscheider and her husband, Nick, have two children: Andrea and Nick.

# Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award



## **Brian L. Connelly**

**McWane Family Professor and Associate Professor, Department of Management  
Raymond J. Harbert College of Business**

PhD – Texas A&M University

MBA – Indiana University

MS – Johns Hopkins University

BS – Rutgers University

**"This award motivates me. In fact, having achieved this milestone, I now have a new goal. Stated simply, 'will I be a teacher they will remember?' I want students to come back two, five, 10 years after they have had my course and tell me how it changed them. That isn't easy, and it requires that I think differently than I have in the past; it requires that I seek to interact with students in new ways, elevate my teaching to new levels, and approach teaching in ways I haven't thought about in the past."**

Brian L. Connelly teaches strategic management and international business to undergraduate and graduate students and is also involved in teaching and mentoring in the PhD program. He says his teaching is marked by three key principles: care, interaction, and continuing development. Known for his colorful storytelling, one recent student evaluation compared him to "Bill Nye the Science Guy." He has 15 years of experience in engineering and business development with Westinghouse and Hughes Network Systems. He recently led a study abroad trip to Spain and Hungary and will lead students to Chile and Brazil this year. Connelly's research explores how boards of directors and shareholders affect competition between companies and the key theoretical mechanisms used to describe such influence as signaling theory and social network theory. Connelly has published in journals such as the *Academy of Management Journal* and *Strategic Management Journal* and sits on the editorial boards of several top-tier journals. Connelly is married to Cora, and they have four children: Joshua, Heather, Kaitlin, and Jessica.

# Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award



**Stephen P. Schmidt**  
Professor,  
Department of Animal Sciences  
College of Agriculture

PhD, MS – University of Wisconsin  
BS – University of Idaho

**“Winning this award is a humbling experience. It is gratifying to think that those who nominated me thought I was worthy of the award, and that those who wrote letters on my behalf felt I touched their lives in some small way.”**

Stephen P. Schmidt joined the faculty at Auburn University in 1976. He was one of the early adopters and promoters of instructional technology during the time of rapidly changing technology. Throughout the years, Schmidt has taught 10 different animal science courses and currently teaches Introductory Animal Science, as well as undergraduate and graduate animal nutrition and beef production. He is an academic advisor for undergraduate students and a mentor to MS and PhD students. His previous awards for teaching include: Teacher Fellow, National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture; Auburn University College of Agriculture Award for Teaching Excellence; Auburn University College of Agriculture Award for Excellence in Advising; and Block and Bridle Club Outstanding Teacher. Schmidt is currently serving as chair of the national examination board for the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists and on the university's Faculty Grievance Committee. Schmidt is married to Professor Emerita Margaret Craig-Schmidt, and they have two daughters: Rebecca and Kimberly.

# Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award



**Rod E. Turochy**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Civil Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

PhD – University of Virginia  
MS, BS – Virginia Tech

**“Many people have influenced my interest in teaching. Throughout my years as a student, I was fortunate to have known many professors for whom teaching, and seeing students enjoy learning, was important. More recently, helping my wife home-educate four children, and seeing how she tailors her approach to the different learning styles and needs of each child, has been an inspiration and has made me proud.”**

Rod E. Turochy came to Auburn in December 2001 and teaches courses in transportation engineering, traffic engineering, roadway design, transportation planning, and intelligent transportation systems. His current research activities are in the areas of traffic engineering, highway safety, traffic characterization for pavement design, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Turochy also has four years of work experience with the Virginia Department of Transportation. In his last position with the Virginia DOT, he was responsible for traffic design and work-zone safety for the Salem District. Turochy has received the William F. Walker Teaching Award for Excellence from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering; the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Department of Civil Engineering; and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southern District of Chi Epsilon, the national Civil Engineering Honor Society. He has been married to Kathy Gregory for 16 years, and they have four daughters: Elizabeth, Kayla, Caroline, and Rebecca.

# New Alumni Professor



**Ellen N. Behrend**  
Joezy Griffin Professor,  
Department of Clinical Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine

PhD – Auburn University  
MS – Colorado State University  
VMD – University of Pennsylvania

**“There have been, in fact, many people in my life who have inspired me: my parents and family, friends, colleagues, and teachers. Most especially, inspiration has come from my students and the owners of all the pets I have had the privilege of treating. They all provide encouragement and expect me to perform my best, both in my profession and as a human being.”**

Ellen N. Behrend's research interest lies in clinical endocrinology with an emphasis on diagnostic testing and diseases of the canine adrenal glands. She has authored numerous scientific publications and book chapters, served as endocrine section editor for editions of *Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine* and *Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy*, and was the editor for the canine chapters of *Clinical Endocrinology of Companion Animals*. Behrend has been on the review board for two journals and is currently serving on the Small Animal Advisory Panel for Morris Animal Foundation and holds a position on the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Board of Regents. She has provided numerous continuing education lectures at national and international conferences. Behrend received the Daniels Award for Excellence in Small Animal Endocrinology and has twice won the Zoetis Distinguished Teaching Award in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Behrend is married to Charles Markle, and they have two children: Elise and Stephen.

# New Alumni Professor



**Virginia A. Davis**  
**Mary and John H. Sanders**  
**Associate Professor,**  
**Department of Chemical Engineering**  
**Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD – Rice University  
Master of Engineering, BS – Tulane University

**"I believe everyone has an inspiring story to tell. I have been very blessed to be surrounded by many incredibly inspiring people who were willing to share their stories with me. Some have inspired me with their intellect, some with their talents, some with their persistence, some with their faith and optimism, some with their kindness, and others with their ability to overcome obstacles."**

Virginia A. Davis' research is primarily focused on using fluid-phase processing to assemble cylindrical nanomaterials into larger functional materials. Targeted applications include sensors, optical coatings, antimicrobial surfaces, high-strength and light-weight composites, and thermal interface materials. Her national awards include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2010, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum's Young Investigator Award in 2012, and a National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 2009. Other Auburn University awards include the Engineering Alumni Council Awards for Senior and Junior Faculty Research in 2013 and 2009, respectively, Faculty Women of Distinction Award in 2012, and the Mark A. Spencer Creative Mentorship Award in 2011. Davis serves as the secretary/treasurer of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum and is the advisor for Auburn's Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers Student Chapter. She is married to Edward W. Davis, senior lecturer in Auburn's Department of Polymer and Fiber Engineering, and they have one son, Benjamin.

# New Alumni Professor



**Valentina Hartarska**  
**Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics**  
**and Rural Sociology**  
**College of Agriculture**  
**Joint appointment in the Department of Finance**  
**Raymond J. Harbert College of Business**

PhD – The Ohio State University  
MA – Central European University, Hungary and  
University of Essex, United Kingdom  
Management Certificate – Vienna University of  
Economics and Business Administration, Austria  
BA – University of National and World Economy,  
Sofia, Bulgaria

**"Today, I strive to set a good example of a professional, a wife, and a mother for my daughter. This award motivates me to strive for excellence in my research, teaching, and outreach and to contribute to promote Auburn University as an institution that recognizes and nourishes excellence."**

Valentina Hartarska acquired her higher education in six countries and speaks five languages. Her research and outreach efforts are in the areas of microfinance, rural finance, economic development, and banking. She has published in high-impact finance and economics journals. Her work has been funded by and presented at the World Bank, the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Farm Credit Council, Fulbright, Borlaug, the United States Agency for International Development, and universities and industry groups in more than 10 countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Hartarska is the master's program officer, has advised more than 30 graduate students, and her doctoral students have found jobs in academic institutions and in commercial banks. Next spring, Hartarska will be on sabbatical at the Free University of Brussels in Belgium to study how changes in financial regulation post-2008 have affected microfinance institutions' efficiency and impacts. She is married to Denis Nadolnyak, and they have one daughter, Nikita.



# New Alumni Professor



**Peter D. Johnson Jr.**  
Professor,  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD – University of Michigan  
BS – Brown University

**"I take this award to be an honor bestowed upon my 'tribe' – my college, my department, and especially my research group, without whom I would not have accomplished much."**

Upon completing his PhD in 1973, Peter D. Johnson Jr. spent one year at Emory University, then 1974-80 at the American University of Beirut. He returned to the United States in 1978-79, where he says he spent his time making connections. Those connections led to a temporary position at Auburn University in 1980, which became a tenure-track position in 1982. He's been at Auburn since, except for two-and-a-half years in the 1980s that were spent at the University of Reading in England. Johnson was named a Foundation Fellow of the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications in 1992 and received the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Faculty Research Award in 2006. He also received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teacher in 2009. Johnson says his colleagues, especially those in the combinatorics research group, are his favorite thing about Auburn, and that without them his academic career would have been much less fruitful.



# New Alumni Professor



**Lisa Jean Samuelson**

**Dwain G. Luce Endowed Professor of Forestry  
School of Forestry and Wildlife Science**

PhD – Virginia Tech  
MS, BS – University of Georgia

**“My biggest source of inspiration has been my MS, PhD, and post-doctoral advisors who shared with me their love of science and education and gave me many opportunities to succeed in my career. I also am inspired by the creativity, humor, and resilience of the students I teach.”**

Lisa Samuelson is the director of the Center for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems at Auburn University. She joined Auburn’s faculty in 1994, after working with the Tennessee Valley Authority, where she studied air pollution effects on forests. Her general research interests focus on tree physiological responses to environmental and silvicultural influences. Her current research projects include examining climate change response and carbon cycling in southern pine forests. She is also studying genetic variation in ecophysiological traits of longleaf pine to improve future deployment of different seed sources in longleaf pine ecosystem restoration. Samuelson has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications on tree physiology, three tree identification texts, and a popular *Trees of Alabama* website. Her teaching responsibilities include undergraduate and graduate courses in tree physiology. She previously was named the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Forestry Club Teacher of the Year and received the Harold E. Christian Award for service to teaching.

# Current Alumni Professors

Chantel Acevedo.....	English
Art Chappelka.....	Forestry and Wildlife
Chris Correia.....	Psychology
D. Allen Davis.....	Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
Henry Y. Fadamiro.....	Entomology and Plant Pathology
Narendra K. Govil.....	Mathematics and Statistics
John Andrew Hamilton Jr*.....	Computer Science and Software Engineering
Jay M. Khodadadi.....	Mechanical Engineering
Dong-Joo-Kim.....	Mechanical Engineering
Henry Kinnucan.....	Ag. Econ. and Rural Sociology
Tin-Man Lau.....	Industrial Design
Yu Lin.....	Physics
Nannan Liu.....	Entomology and Plant Pathology
Kenneth W. Noe.....	History
Margaret Ross.....	Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology
Herbert Jack Rotfeld.....	Marketing
Aleksandr Simonian.....	Mechanical Engineering
Haroldo Toro.....	Veterinary Pathobiology
Bill Trimble*.....	History
Daowei Zhang.....	Forestry and Wildlife

*\* Left Auburn University before end of term*

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### Mark Byrne

Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden  
Associate Professor, Director  
of Pharmaceutical Engineering,  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

PhD, MS – Purdue University  
BS – Carnegie Mellon University

**"My biggest source of inspiration has been my mother, Joan Byrne. She raised two boys quite well, as my father died when I was young, and she always put others, including me, first in her life. She made me a better person striving to always do my best. I find inspiration in people being passionate about their life's work, especially in cases where they do as much as they can behind the scenes with regard to the greater good rather than personal adulation."**

Mark Byrne teaches undergraduate and graduate engineering courses and is a recognized leader in the field of biomaterials engineering, controlled therapeutic delivery, pharmaceutical engineering, polymer engineering, and biomedical devices. In his 10 years on the Auburn faculty, he has won awards for his teaching and research and licensed a number of technologies. His research work has appeared in the popular press and television on a number of occasions. Byrne has published more than 75 peer-reviewed publications and has given more than 210 scientific conference presentations and invited lectures. He is an inventor on eight issued patents with another four pending. Byrne has received more than 25 awards for his teaching and research, including all major teaching and mentoring awards at Auburn University as well as the highest teaching distinction, the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, in 2011. He is married to Susan, and they have four children: Katherine, Charlotte, John, and Jack.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### **Robert D. Arnold**

**Associate Professor, Department of  
Drug Discovery and Development  
James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy**

PhD – University at Buffalo, SUNY  
BS – State University of New York at  
Plattsburgh

**"Throughout my life, I have had many individuals who have motivated me, but my biggest inspiration comes from the interactions I have with my students. Their enthusiasm and desire to learn and approach challenges from different perspectives has advanced my research program and have been instrumental in what success my laboratory has achieved."**

Robert D. Arnold completed postdoctoral training in cancer therapeutics and non-invasive imaging at the University at Buffalo, SUNY and Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Georgia before coming Auburn University. The overall focus of his research is to improve the treatment of primary and metastatic cancers. Currently, his laboratory is pursuing approaches that exploit differences in tumor microenvironment to improve drug targeting and imaging of prostate and breast cancers. Arnold's research is supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, National Institutes of Health, and a variety of private and public institutions. He has worked and consulted for a number of pharmaceutical companies and currently serves as an ad hoc member of the NIH Nanotechnology study section and on a number of NIH special emphasis panels. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children: Drew and Emily.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### Allan E. David

John W. Brown Assistant Professor,  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

PhD, BS – University of Maryland

**"The great problems we face today require an interdisciplinary approach to solve. This award is proof that this type of collaboration does occur at Auburn University, and that it is recognized and encouraged."**

Allan E. David received his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, and then continued his training at the University of Michigan as a postdoctoral fellow in the College of Pharmacy. He also served as an adjunct assistant professor of pharmacy at the University of Michigan for several years, leading a research group that produced more than 20 peer-reviewed papers. David directed the biomedical R&D group for ISTN Inc., a nanotechnology start-up for which he helped raise more than \$12 million in research funding from industrial and governmental sources. Prior to entering graduate studies, he also worked in the aerospace industry, primarily on a project for the International Space Station, and for the World Bank. He currently holds an EPSCoR grant from the National Science Foundation and an Idea Development Award from the Department of Defense's Prostate Cancer Research Program. David is married to Helen, and they have two sons: Matthew and Philip.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



**Ram B. Gupta**  
Walt and Virginia Woltosz Professor,  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

PhD – University of Texas at Austin  
MS – University of Calgary  
BE – Indian Institute of Technology

**"I really appreciate the  
recognition from Auburn  
University for our  
collaborative work."**

Ram B. Gupta spent nearly two decades as a professor of chemical engineering at Auburn and served as the energy for sustainability program director with the National Science Foundation. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *American Chemical Society Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering* journal, and he previously served as president of the Auburn chapter of the National Academy of Inventors. Gupta received the Wright A. Gardner Award, which acknowledges the outstanding work of researchers, educators, clinicians, and industrialists in the state of Alabama; the Auburn University Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecture award; and a DuPont Science and Engineering Award. He is a fellow of the Alabama Academy of Science. Gupta's research interests lie primarily within the categories of nanomedicine, energy, and fuels. He was recently named the associate dean for research in the School of Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University and also serves as a professor in the university's Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



**Douglas R. Martin**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Anatomy, Physiology,  
and Pharmacology  
College of Veterinary Medicine

PhD, BS - Auburn University

**"I have always valued teamwork and the importance of making a contribution to a team. This award is important because it encourages our faculty to work together as collaborators towards a team goal."**

Douglas R. Martin's research focuses on basic mechanisms and therapy of storage diseases, inherited neurologic disorders of children and adults. Martin co-founded the Tay-Sachs Gene Therapy Consortium, an international group of scientists devoted to developing successful treatments for storage diseases. His research has been funded at more than \$4 million by the National Institutes of Health and private foundations, and recently he received the Above and Beyond Award from the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association for his commitment to treating the fatal disorders. Martin says he is privileged to meet and know the heroic parents of affected children, and is fortunate to collaborate with investigators from the U.S. and England, as well as Auburn faculty in the areas of agriculture, engineering, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. He is married to Susan, and they have two daughters: Madeline and Lillian Goodman.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### Valery A. Petrenko

Professor, Department of Pathobiology  
College of Veterinary Medicine

PhD, DSc – Zelinski Institute of Organic  
Chemistry and Moscow State University

**"During my study at Moscow State University and the Academy of Science in Russia, I received not only the fundamentals of science, but also the ability to identify and conceive a challenging scientific problem, to find the most important related information, and to propose a plan for solving the problem. My teaching is grounded on this philosophy, which, I believe, helps students in their future careers to be on the front line of science and to be actively involved in the research process."**

Valery A. Petrenko graduated from Moscow State University in 1972. He received his PhD and doctor of science degrees in chemistry from the Zelinski Institute of Organic Chemistry, Moscow, U.S.S.R. and Moscow State University, as well as honor ranks of Senior Scientist in Bioorganic Chemistry and Professor in Molecular Biology from the Supreme Attestation Committee of the Government of the U.S.S.R. In 2000, Petrenko joined the Auburn faculty and was appointed to the graduate faculty in 2001. He established a research program focused on the development of diagnostic and therapeutic probes using directed evolution of phage. Petrenko has received grants from the Army Research Office, the National Institutes of Health, and Calvert Research LLC. He was the recipient of the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence in 2006 and is CoPI on several collaborative grants. He is a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and Phi Zeta Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine.



# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



**Jay Ramapuram**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Drug Discovery and Development  
James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy

PhD, Master of Pharmacy – Banaras Hindu University, India  
Bachelor of Pharmacy – Madras Medical College, India

**“This award  
encourages and  
motivates me to  
work harder and  
even better.”**

Jay Ramapuram's research interests include formulation development of nanoparticle-based formulations for topical and oral delivery, solubility improvement of insoluble drugs, percutaneous penetration enhancement techniques, and transdermal drug delivery systems. He is currently major/co-major advisor to six PhD students and has successfully graduated five students under his guidance. Ramapuram has authored and co-authored 50 research papers and four book chapters and has presented his work in 60 poster and oral presentations at several national and international conferences. He has served as chair and co-chair of scientific sessions at the annual national meetings of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and Society of Toxicology. He serves as an editorial board member for two journals and as a peer reviewer for more than 25 journals. He received the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award from Auburn's Graduate Student Council in 2011 and the Faculty Research Excellence Award from the Harrison School of Pharmacy in 2012 and 2013. Ramapuram is married to Sharmila Kurapati, and they have two children: Teja and Sreehita.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### **David J. Riese II**

**Associate Dean for Research and**

**Graduate Programs**

**George Fulton Gilliland and Olga Hooser**

**Gilliland Franklin Professor**

**James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy**

PhD, Master of Philosophy – Yale University

BA – Wabash College

**"This award is recognition of the need for multidisciplinary solutions to the major problems of the world and the need for multidisciplinary educations that will equip Auburn graduates with the skills and training needed to solve these problems."**

In 2010, David J. Riese II was named the inaugural associate dean for research and graduate programs for the Harrison School of Pharmacy and the inaugural George Fulton Gilliland and Olga Hooser Gilliland Franklin Professor. His responsibilities include supporting and fostering research and graduate education in the Harrison School of Pharmacy and at Auburn University. His personal research program is focused on hormonal regulation of tumor cell behavior and the discovery of novel strategies for treating human malignancies. Riese has mentored five doctoral and three master's degree students and has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers that have garnered more than 3,500 citations. His research has been supported by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Breast Cancer Research Program and Prostate Cancer Research Program, the U.S. Department of Education, several private philanthropies, and numerous Auburn University internal awards. He is married to Gail.

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## PHARMACEUTICAL ENGINEERING



### Jacek Wower

Professor, Department of Animal Sciences  
College of Agriculture

PhD, MS – Adam Mickiewicz University,  
Poznan, Poland

**"Research is a difficult pursuit. Not all experiments lead to new discoveries. It is increasingly difficult to secure funds necessary to carry out our experiments. Getting an award is important; it tells me that some people care about my research."**

Jacek Wower came to Auburn in 1997 and began work on transfer-messenger RNA and trans-translation. As a part of his research project, Wower and his collaborator, Christian Zwieb of the University of Texas, created a tmRNA database, an online resource available to all researchers. Currently, Wower and his collaborators are developing novel RNA-based nanotechnologies for drug delivery and pathogen detection. His work is supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and U.S. Department of Agriculture grants. Wower received the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Research Award in 2008 and the College of Agriculture Dean's Grantsmanship Award in 2011. He was born and educated in Poland, where in 1978 he was named Most Distinguished Young Biochemist by the Polish Biochemical Society and earned a research fellowship to study at the Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin. He is married to Iwona, who works with him in his lab and is a co-author on the majority of his publications.

# Auburn University's Departmental Award for Excellence in Education

## MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical engineers focus on the design and operation of machinery and the prediction of machine behavior in industries such as transportation, power generation, energy conversion, environmental control, materials processing, and materials. Materials engineers focus on problems associated with the design of materials and materials processes to meet specific needs in a wide range of industries. Career opportunities abound with traditional manufacturers. Students also go on to graduate school or professional programs.

Auburn University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, established in 1885, offers two undergraduate degrees: bachelor of mechanical engineering (with specializations in automotive engineering and pulp and paper engineering) and bachelor of materials engineering. The department offers graduate courses leading to a master of science (thesis), master of mechanical engineering (non-thesis,) and a doctor of philosophy in either mechanical or materials engineering.

Faculty and students are involved in a wide variety of research and outreach activities. Research expenditures in 2003 were just under \$5.5 million, with support from DOD, DOE, NSF, NASA, and a variety of industrial partners. Faculty and students are also involved with on-campus centers, including the Space Power Institute and the Alabama Microelectronics Technology Center.



Abdel-Hadi



Ayasoufi



Baumann



Beale



Bevly



Bhavnani



Burch



Cheng



Chin



Choe



Crocker



Dyer



Falkenberg



Fergus



Flowers



Harris



Jackson



Jones



Kang



Khodadadi



Kim



Knight



Lall



Mackowski



Madsen



Marghitu



Mishra



Overfelt



Payton



Prorok



Ragan



Raju



Roberts



Simonian



Sinha



Suhling



Thakur



Tippur



Williams



Zee

# Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach



**Allen L. Landers**  
Howard Carr Professor,  
Department of Physics  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD, BS – Kansas State University

**"Outreach at Auburn University has provided a mechanism for me to be a proselytizer of science, and even more importantly the philosophy of science. This award is recognition by my peers that the work has merit, which is wonderful. However, the work is its own reward. Seeing the look in a student's eyes when they understand a new concept is award enough for me."**

After working as a postdoctoral scholar and assistant professor at Western Michigan University, Allen L. Landers joined Auburn's Department of Physics in 2003. His area of research is atomic, molecular, and optical physics, and his work is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. Landers has co-authored numerous publications on the fundamental interaction of ionizing radiation with atoms and molecules through the use of quantum dynamics imaging, including works in high-impact journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. In addition to a vigorous research program, Landers teaches at all university levels, from introductory science for non-science majors to graduate courses in physics. He founded and leads the Summer Science Institute, an intense program designed to enable outstanding high school students to experience science and mathematics at the university level. He has worked on various K-12 STEM education outreach projects throughout his career at Auburn, focusing primarily on mechanisms to engage students in the process of scientific inquiry. He has two children: Alyssa and Nathan.



# Research and Creative Scholarship Award



**F. Stephen Dobson**  
Professor,  
Department of Biological Sciences  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD – University of Michigan  
MA – University of California, Santa Barbara  
BA – University of California, Berkeley

**"I'm humbled to be chosen among my many fine colleagues. In giving awards like this, I think we honor the best in all of us. We all try, every day, to do a little bit better than we did the day before to meet the challenge of reaching our full potential. From this viewpoint, it is truly an honor to be asked to represent research creativity at Auburn University."**

After completing his PhD at the University of Michigan in 1984, F. Stephen Dobson held a NATO post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta in Canada, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Lethbridge. He returned to the University of Michigan as a visiting assistant curator in the Museum of Zoology and came to Auburn in 1988. Upon his arrival at Auburn, he received National Science Foundation funding to work in Tibet each summer for four years. He also conducted four years of summer research at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. In 1995, he began a long collaboration with French researchers, first at the University of Paris and later at the University of Montpellier. In 2002, he was named a Chevalier of France, spent six summers as an invited professor at the University of Paris, was given two "Poste Rouge" scholarships, and was later appointed director of research in the French National Center for Scientific Research. He is married to Julia D. Kjelgaard.

# Research and Creative Scholarship Award



**Brian E. Vaughn**  
Professor, Department of Human  
Development and Family Studies  
College of Human Sciences

PhD, MA – University of Minnesota  
BA – Arizona State University

**“Over the 25 years since I joined the faculty at Auburn University, the aspect that has given me the most satisfaction is the collegiality and support presence in my department and the College of Human Sciences. Members of this faculty respect and appreciate each other as scientists, scholars, instructors, and friends. This respect and appreciation is demonstrated by the strong mentoring of students and junior faculty as they move through their academic careers. It is also demonstrated by the collaborative research and scholarship carried out in the department and college.”**

Brian E. Vaughn trained in child development with special emphasis on the social/emotional development of infants and young children. His published research has made contributions for understanding the development and consequences of social attachments between children and their major caregivers and to the literature on social competence and peer relationships in early childhood. Over the past decade, he has conducted research on peer relationships at Auburn University's Harris Early Learning Center of Birmingham. Most recently, his research has expanded to include the role that sleep may play in the child's cognitive and social/emotional development and adaptive functioning for preschool children. This work is providing fundamental information about how sleep, social/emotional, and cognitive domains grow and mutually influence each other over early childhood. Vaughn says he takes pleasure in mentoring students and is most proud of being able to mentor minority graduate students through their PhD programs in the department. He is married to Lauren Jolly Roberts, and they have one daughter, Meghan.



# Provost Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Award



**Alan E. Wilson**

Associate Professor, School of Fisheries,  
Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences  
College of Agriculture

PhD – Georgia Institute of Technology

MS – Michigan State University

BA – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**“Training undergraduates has been a passion of mine since I started graduate school. Once I realized how amazing the world of science is, I knew that I needed to excite others, especially undergraduates, about considering careers in science. Watching my students become independent, successful scientists is unbelievably rewarding.”**

After spending a year as a research investigator at the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research, jointly housed at the University of Michigan and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Alan E. Wilson joined the faculty at Auburn University in 2007. In July, he went to the National Science Foundation where he helps manage the Population and Community Ecology Cluster in the Division of Environmental Biology. Wilson’s research interests center on the ecological mechanisms mediating harmful algal blooms. He is particularly interested in understanding how intraspecific genetic and phenotypic variation influences the promotion and control of toxic cyanobacterial blooms. Wilson is also initiating projects aimed at understanding how toxic algal blooms influence human and livestock health. He said his proudest Auburn moment was when his graduate student, Michael Chislock, was awarded a \$126,000, three-year EPA STAR graduate research fellowship. Wilson is married to Kristi, and they have two children: Lily and Jackson.

# The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Debbie R. Folkerts**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Biological Sciences  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD – University of Georgia  
MS, BS - Auburn University

**“At Auburn, like most academic institutions, tangible rewards for teaching are not as prevalent as those for research endeavors. We, as teachers, look to our students for validation of our work and encouragement to improve. This award is important to me because it shows that others recognize the value of our work and highlights Auburn University as an institution that emphasizes teaching as our number one mission.”**

Debbie R. Folkerts began her career as an undergraduate student teaching lab classes at Auburn. She then worked as a graduate teaching assistant and learned to love the craft. In 1986, she became a full-time instructor at Auburn and was promoted to assistant professor in 1993. Folkerts has now been at Auburn for 28 years and has taught 17 different courses in the Department of Biological Sciences. In her classes, she emphasizes the study of the natural world and enjoys bringing live organisms into the classroom, as well as taking students on field trips to natural areas. Her research focuses on the biology and conservation of rare species, particularly those found in southeastern pitcher plant bogs. Folkerts has received the College of Sciences and Mathematics Outstanding Teaching Award, the Alumni Association Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award, and was named the Honors College Teacher of the Year three times, most recently in 2012. Folkerts was married to the late George Folkerts, who also was an Auburn professor and researcher, has one daughter, Molly, and recently married David C. Mitchell.

# The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Stuart David Loch**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Physics  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD, BS – University of Strathclyde

**"I put a lot of work and energy into my teaching, so to get recognition for that means a lot to me. I get excited about teaching physics to the students and enjoy the interaction. The Leischuck award shows that the university puts a lot of value in high-quality teaching at Auburn."**

Stuart David Loch grew up in Scotland and has spent time at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the JET laboratory near Oxford, England. He came to Auburn as a post-doctoral researcher from 2002-06, and then was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Physics. In 2011, he received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. He says the first time he taught was very special to him and that he discovered teaching was going to be something that he found to be very rewarding. Loch's research focuses on modeling the light emitted from astrophysical and laboratory plasmas. Much of his research centers on fusion plasma experiments aimed at developing a clean energy source for the future. His astrophysical research in recent years has involved investigating the light given off from exploding stars called supernovae. Loch is married to Jessica, a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and they have two children: Samuel and Norah.

# Master of Ceremonies



## **Donna Bohanan**

**Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor of History,  
Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, Emory University  
MA, Emory University  
BA, Hendrix College

Donna Bohanan is the Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor of History. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on early modern Europe, which include her course on daily life and popular culture, “Private Lives and Public Places in Early Modern Europe” and her course on “Fashion, Consumption, and the World of Goods in Early Modern Europe.” In addition, she regularly teaches in the world history program. For her role in the classroom, she has been honored with the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Award, and twice she has been chosen to deliver the “Final Lecture” to the senior class. Dr. Bohanan’s research concerns the nobility of seventeenth-century France. Her first book, *Old and New Nobility in Aix-en-Provence, 1600-1695: Portrait of an Urban Elite*, appeared in 1992, and her second, *Crown and Nobility in Early Modern France*, came out in 2001. More recently she published the book, *Fashion Beyond Versailles: Design and Consumption in Seventeenth-Century France*. In this book, she explores consumption patterns among noble families in the frontier province of Dauphiné; here consumption became for local elites a crucial means of defining their position in provincial society. Specifically, Bohanan uses notary inventories of noble estates to reconstruct the contents and decorative schemes of their homes.

# Commissioned Artist for Awards



**Cal Breed**  
**Owner, Orbix Hot Glass**

BFA, The Ohio State University

**"It is always special to have the opportunity to give back where you have been given so much. Making these awards has given me such an opportunity. It has been an honor to have been chosen for such a project."**

Cal Breed came to Auburn University with the intention of receiving a degree in marine biology. However, in 1994, he attended a stained-glass class in Opelika and felt the need to be expressive with his hands, initially assembling stained glass windows which led him to glassblowing. He says that Auburn was a place of transformation for him and he is glad to have spent his time here. Breed first apprenticed under Cam Langley, one of the South's leading hot glass artists. He went on to earn his bachelor of fine arts at The Ohio State University. He also received scholarships at both Haystack and Pilchuck Glass Schools. In 2002, Breed and his wife, Christy, opened a private studio, Orbix Hot Glass, in Fort Payne, Ala. Today, Cal leads a team of glassblowers who hand-craft each piece.

# Special Thanks

Office of the Provost  
Office of Communications and Marketing  
War Eagle Girls and Plainsmen

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