



# Tenth Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony



**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**

*Bob Dumas*  
*Auburn University Board of Trustees*

## **Presentation of Awards**

## **Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship**

*Presented by Gretchen VanValkenburg*  
*Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director of Auburn Alumni Association*

## **Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards**

*Presented by Mrs. VanValkenburg*

## **Alumni Professors**

*Presented by Mrs. VanValkenburg*

**Gary Brown ePortfolio Project Faculty Cohort Award**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

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

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach**

*Presented by Chippewa Thomas*

*Director of Faculty Engagement*

**Research Advisory Board Advancement of Research and Scholarship Achievement Award**

*Presented by John Mason, Vice President for Research and Economic Development*

**Research and Creative Scholarship Award**

*Presented by Dr. Mason*

**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*

# Menu

## **SALAD**

Baby Spinach Salad with Candied Walnuts, Dried Cranberries,  
and Gorgonzola drizzled with Strawberry Feta Vinaigrette

## **ENTRÉE**

Grouper Imperial with Lump Crab, Potato Dauphinoise,  
Roasted Zucchini Medallions, and Marinated Dried Cherry Tomatoes

## **VEGETARIAN**

Roasted Vegetable Lasagna with Pesto Oil, Ricotta Cheese,  
and Provençal Tomato Sauce

## **DESSERT**

Key Lime Cake with Mini Calypso Cake  
surrounded by Chocolate Tuille and Key Lime Gelee

# Faculty Awards Committee Members

Timothy Boosinger.....Provost

Mike Clardy.....Communications and Marketing

Janie Echols-Brown.....University Outreach

Ralph Foster.....University Outreach

Julie Huff.....Provost Office

Kate Larkin.....Alumni Affairs

Leslie Parsons.....University Research

Teresa Whitman-McCall.....Communications and Marketing

# Faculty Awards

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

**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.*

**Gary Brown ePortfolio Project Faculty Cohort Award:** *Recognizes individuals or teams of two to five faculty members from a program, department, or college who have exhibited exemplary leadership in promoting the ePortfolio Project Faculty Cohort and have been engaged in practices that support the implementation of ePortfolios at Auburn University.*

**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 the undergraduate and graduate levels.*



**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.*

**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 Advisory Board Advancement of Research and Scholarship Achievement Award:** *Recognizes high quality, competitive research and scholarly activity that exemplifies and advances Auburn's research and scholarship mission.*

**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.*

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

**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.*

# The Commemorative Awards



# Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship



**Barry R. Burkhart**  
**Professor, Department of Psychology**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, Clinical Psychology; 1974 – Florida State University  
MS, Psychology; 1973 – Florida State University  
BA, Psychology; 1970 – Florida State University

Barry Burkhart has broad research interests in assessment and treatment of problems resulting from violence and victimization. He is a fellow of Divisions 12 and 29 of the American Psychological Association and is a fellow of the Academy of Clinical Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology. Beginning in the 1970s, he was instrumental in the development and implementation of psychological services for neglected and troubled children referred to the Lee County Youth Development Center. He was appointed to the board of the first adult sex offender treatment program sponsored by the Alabama Department of Corrections and is currently director of the Accountability Based Sex Offender Program. Burkhart received the AAUP Academic Freedom Award in 2000, the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in 2009, and the Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 2013. He and his wife, Mary Quinn Burkhart, PhD, have two sons, James David and John Quinn, and a granddaughter, Corrina Bloom.

"The university has provided a sanctuary for my being able to have a rich and full life of the mind. Auburn provides a culture supporting a true engagement with students, something I value."

# Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award



**Wallace Denver Berry, Jr.**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Poultry Science**  
**College of Agriculture**

PhD, Physiology; 1987 – North Carolina State University  
MS; 1984 – North Carolina State University  
BS, Poultry Science; 1981 – North Carolina State University  
BS, Zoology; 1981 – North Carolina State University

Wallace Denver Berry, Jr., associate professor in Auburn University's Department of Poultry Science, focuses his research on the reproductive physiology of commercial poultry, with the major objective of improving reproductive efficiency in poultry breeding operations. He earned bachelor's degrees in poultry science and zoology in 1981, a master's degree in 1984, and his doctoral degree in physiology in 1987, all from North Carolina State University. He joined the Auburn faculty in 1998. His many awards include the 2015 Novus International Teaching Award from Novus International Inc. and the Poultry Science Association; NASA Spacelab Life Sciences-2 Achievement Award in 1994; and the NASA Spacelab Life Sciences-1 Achievement Award in 1992. He is married to MaryJo Berry.

"In the College of Agriculture, and especially in the Poultry Science Department, we often maintain a life-long relationship with our former students. We get to take a little pride in their careers and life accomplishments. What could be better than receiving recognition from the people that I admire and care about?"

# Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award



**Tiffany A. Sippial**  
**Associate Professor, Department of History**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, History; 2007 – University of New Mexico  
MA, Latin American Studies; 1999 – University of New Mexico  
BA, Art History; 1996 – Southwestern University  
BA, Spanish; 1996 – Southwestern University

Tiffany A. Sippial came to Auburn in 2007 and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses covering Latin American history and historiography during the colonial and modern periods, the comparative history of women and gender, and world history. Her research focuses on the history of Latin America in the modern period, especially the history of Cuba, and on the experience of women in Latin America. Sippial was honored with an Early Career Teaching Excellence Award by the College of Liberal Arts in 2010 and the Auburn University Women's Studies Program Faculty Achievement Award in 2014. She is a member of the American Historical Association, the Conference on Latin American History, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. Her first book, *Prostitution, Modernity, and the Making of the Cuban Republic*, which explores the central role that the debate about regulated prostitution played in defining republican ideals in Cuba between 1840 and 1920, received the 2014 Alfred. B. Thomas Award from the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies. Sippial and her husband, Simuel Sippial, III, have four sons: Sean, Mackenzie, Joshua, and Rhys.

"Auburn University has been a wonderful place to grow and learn as a scholar and teacher. I have found tremendous support and encouragement at every step of this journey. This award means that I have made a positive impact, which is the highest calling of any teacher. I am deeply honored and moved by this award."

# New Alumni Professor



"This award is an honor and privilege. It is recognition of the hard work from students in my research group and my desire to improve the education experience of the students in biosystems engineering."

## **Oladiran Fasina**

**Professor, Department of Biosystems Engineering  
College of Agriculture**

PhD, Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering; 1994 –  
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada  
MS, Agricultural Engineering; 1988 –  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria  
BS, Agricultural Engineering; 1985 –  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

Since coming to Auburn in 2002, Oladiran Fasina has been involved in several teaching, research, and outreach collaborative projects that have generated about \$36 million in extramural funding and support. In addition to his responsibilities as a professor and undergraduate program coordinator, Fasina conducts research in biological materials process engineering, including biomass logistics, storage and handling, food engineering, and renewable energy. He has published 77 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, authored four book chapters, and given more than 90 presentations at national and international conferences. Fasina is the editor of the processing systems section of the three journals published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. The ASABE named Fasina a fellow in 2014 and also awarded him the Evelyn E. Rosentrater Standards Award. Auburn has recognized him with many awards as well, including senior and junior Faculty Researcher awards from the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Outstanding Biosystems Engineering Faculty.



# New Alumni Professor



"My proudest moment has been watching students graduate in biosystems engineering and take on challenges to solve energy, food, fiber, and water issues for the 21st century."

## **Sushil Adhikari**

**Associate Professor, Department of Biosystems Engineering  
College of Agriculture**

PhD, Biological Engineering; 2008 – Mississippi State University  
MS, Renewable Energy; 2003 –  
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand  
BS, Mechanical Engineering; 2000 – Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Sushil Adhikari teaches biosystems engineering classes and conducts research related to bioenergy and biofuels, especially in the field of thermochemical conversion. His research interests include production of fuels and chemicals from biomass such as trees, grasses, and agriculture residues. Adhikari has published 68 peer-reviewed journal articles and has been cited more than 3,200 times. Since beginning at Auburn in 2008, Adhikari has received the Alabama Distinguished Young Agricultural Engineer Award in 2010; the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Research Award in 2011; the Auburn University President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award in 2012; the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, or ASABE, New Holland Young Researcher Award in 2013; and the Auburn University College of Agriculture Dean's Grantsmanship Award in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Adhikari and his wife, Sangita Pokharel Adhikari, have one daughter: Arya.

# Current Alumni Professors

## Fall 2014

Ellen Behrend.....Clinical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine  
Virginia Davis.....Chemical Engineering  
Lisa Samuelson ..... Forestry and Wildlife Sciences  
Peter Johnson ..... Mathematics and Statistics  
Valentina Hartarska..... Agriculture Economics

## Fall 2013

Art Chappelka..... Forestry and Wildlife Sciences  
Dong-Joo Kim..... Mechanical Engineering  
Yu Lin ..... Physics  
Nannan Liu..... Entomology and Plant Pathology  
Haroldo Toro..... Veterinary Pathobiology



## Fall 2012

D. Allen Davis ..... Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures  
Henry Kinnucan..... Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology  
Margaret Ross\* ..... Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology  
Herbert Jack Rotfeld..... Marketing

## Fall 2011

Henry Fadamiro ..... Entomology and Plant Pathology  
Narendra K. Govil..... Mathematics and Statistics  
Aleksandr Simonian ..... Mechanical Engineering  
Bill Trimble\* ..... History  
Daowei Zhang..... Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

## Ongoing

Chantel Acevedo\* ..... English

*\*Left Auburn University before end of term.*

# Gary Brown ePortfolio Project

## Faculty Cohort Award



"As a professor, I'm most proud when I recognize the light bulb going off in my student's mind, when they become proactive and take responsibility for the importance of their work."

### **Chuck Hemard**

**Associate Professor**

**Department of Art and Art History**

**College of Liberal Arts**

MFA, Photography; 2004 – University of Georgia

BA, Psychology; 1999 – University of Southern Mississippi

Chuck Hemard joined the College of Liberal Arts in 2008 and developed a photography concentration in the Department of Art and Art History's Studio Art program. His current work in large format photography explores his interest in our relationship to place and the interaction between humans, time, and the contemporary landscape. Hemard's work has been exhibited at venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta, Opal Gallery in Atlanta, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, among others. His work is in public collections throughout the region including the Ogden Museum, the Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, Georgia, and the Columbus Museum in Columbus, Georgia. In 2014, Hemard was awarded the Individual Artist Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to produce work from his ongoing series that visually explores the remnant landscapes of old-growth longleaf pinelands across the Southeast.

# Gary Brown ePortfolio Project

## Faculty Cohort Award



**Jessye McDowell**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Art and Art History**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

MFA, Studio Art; 2011 – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
MA, Media Studies; 2004 – New School University  
BA, English; 2000 – DePaul University

Jessye McDowell is an artist working across digital platforms to examine the interworkings of lived experience and digital life. Her work has been exhibited in traditional and non-traditional spaces throughout the U.S. and abroad, including Essex Flowers Gallery in New York City; the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art; the DUMBO Arts Festival in Brooklyn, New York; StreeTVideOart in Sceaux, France; Mint Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia; Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky; and the Front Gallery in New Orleans, Louisiana. McDowell was elected a board member of the New Media Caucus in 2015, awarded a partial Fellowship for Artistic Merit by the Vermont Studio Center in 2015 and awarded an Artist Fellowship by the Alabama State Council on the Arts in 2016.

“I learn a lot, both personally and artistically, from the people around me, observing the ways they operate within and think about the world. Those relationships that are ongoing opportunities for creative exchanges represent a melding of creativity and living that I value highly.”

# Gary Brown ePortfolio Project

## Faculty Cohort Award



**Gary Wagoner**  
**Associate Professor Emeritus**  
**Department of Art and Art History**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

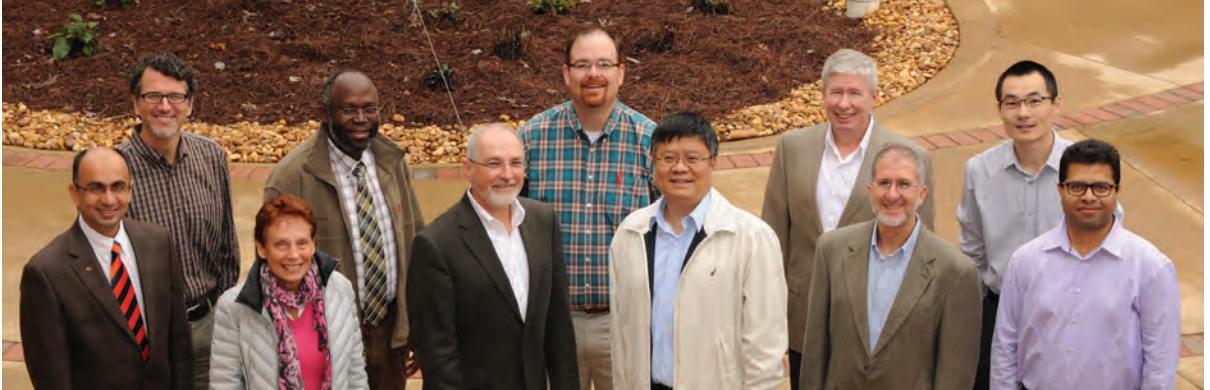
MFA, Ceramics ; 1980 – Alfred University  
BFA; 1978 – Wichita State University

Gary Wagoner came to the College of Liberal Arts in 1980 and recently retired after teaching for 35 years. Wagoner was the chair of the Department of Art and Art History from 2011 until 2015, and created the ceramic art curriculum while teaching undergraduate courses in the discipline. In recent years, the focus of his studio work has been clay sculpture for architectural installation, including several works on the Auburn campus. He and his wife, Scott Bishop, have two daughters, Lillian and Isabelle Wagoner.

"As an artist, my inspirations have been found across an enormous spectrum of historical expression and accomplishment. Much of the beautiful and profound work from which I've gained was created more or less anonymously by those whose aim was to create work of societal value or spiritual significance."

# Auburn University's Departmental Award for Excellence in Education

DEPARTMENT OF BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING



Biosystems engineers focus on finding ways to provide healthy and plentiful food, clean water, renewable fuel and energy sources, and an environment that will sustain future generations.

The Department of Biosystems Engineering teaches students in the focus areas of biological systems engineering, ecological engineering, forest engineering, bioenergy and biobased products, food engineering, production and process engineering, and automation and off-highway vehicles.

## Department Faculty:

**Steven Taylor**, *Professor and Department Head, and Director of the Bioenergy and Bioproducts Center*

**Sushil Adhikari**, *Alumni Associate Professor*

**William Batchelor**, *Professor*

**David Blersch**, *Assistant Professor*

**Gisela Buschle-Diller**, *Professor*

**Jesse Campbell**, *Extension Specialist, National Poultry Technology Center*

**Jeremiah Davis**, *Associate Professor and Associate Director, National Poultry Technology Center*

**James Donald**, *Professor and Interim Director National Poultry Technology Center*

**Mark Dougherty**, *Associate Professor*

**Oladiran Fasina**, *Alumni Professor*

**Jasmeet Lamba**, *Assistant Professor*

**Timothy McDonald**, *Professor*

**Puneet Srivastava**, *Professor and Butler-Cunningham Eminent Scholar, and Director of the Auburn University Water Resources Center*

**Yifen Wang**, *Professor*

**Yi Wang**, *Assistant Professor*

# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## WORKING LABS OFFICE INITIATIVE



**Anna Ruth Gatlin**  
**Interior Designer**  
**Office of Facilities Management**

MS, Consumer and Design Science; 2012 – Auburn University  
BS, Interior Design; 2009 – Auburn University

Anna Ruth Gatlin joined Design Services in Facilities Management in 2011 as an interior designer to work on construction projects across campus. She recently collaborated with Interior Design faculty in the College of Human Sciences and industry partners to transform faculty offices into “working labs.” Each space contains various types of furniture and carpet to enhance students’ education. Their work earned second place from the Association of University Interior Designers National Design Competition in 2014. Gatlin also earned a second place finish in 2013 for the South Donahue residence hall project. A two-time graduate of the College of Human Sciences, Gatlin serves on the college’s Interior Design Advisory Board and the National Board for the Association of University Interior Designers, as well as other committees within Facilities Management and Auburn. Her hobbies include pioneer arts such as quilting, weaving, and canning, as well as caring for her garden and chickens.

“I give a great deal of credit to my parents, who used homeschooling to engender a deep sense of self-motivation that has benefitted me tremendously at my current job.”



# President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

## WORKING LABS OFFICE INITIATIVE



"Teamwork and collaboration are how things get done in real life. To receive an award for doing a job you love with fabulous people makes your job so satisfying."

### **Paula Peek**

**W. Allen and Martha Reimer Reed Associate Professor and  
Coordinator of Interior Design  
Department of Consumer and Design Sciences  
College of Human Sciences**

MFA, Painting and Drawing; 1999 – Auburn University

BFA, Painting and Drawing; 1996 – Barton College

Paula Frances Peek is the W. Allen & Martin Reimer Reid Associate Professor in the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences and is the undergraduate coordinator and accreditation coordinator for the Interior Design program. Her academic interests include the manual and technical manipulation and presentation of images associated with products and spaces. Peek teaches coursework in the presentation of design and in image and personal branding, which includes the concepts of perspective drawing and rendering, color theory, BIM rendering, graphic design theory and application, and branding and identity manipulation. She was named the Auburn SGA Outstanding Faculty Member in 2004 and honored with the Auburn Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award in 2006. Peek is an active fine artist and graphic designer and has won "Best in Show" and first place rankings for multiple national fine art and design exhibitions.

# Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach



## **Virginia A. Davis**

**Alumni Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; 2006 – Rice University  
MS, Chemical Engineering; 1993 – Tulane University  
BS, Chemical Engineering; 1990 – Tulane University

Virginia A. Davis, professor in Auburn University's Department of Chemical Engineering, joined the faculty in 2005. She conducts research on making structures out of tiny building blocks called nanocylinders with potential applications for optical films, high-strength and light-weight materials, 3D-printed structures, and electronics. Her research has produced almost 40 refereed scholarly papers and book chapters that have garnered close to 2,000 citations. She earned her bachelor's degree in engineering in 1990 and master's degree in engineering in 1993, both from Tulane University. She earned her doctoral degree in chemical engineering in 2006 from Rice University. Davis worked for Shell Chemical Company from 1990 until 2001 before pursuing her doctoral degree. 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.

"One of the wonderful things about being a faculty member is that there are so many moments of victory: When a middle school or high school student gets that look of wonder and inspiration during an outreach activity, when a student finally grasps a concept that was eluding them, and when an exciting experimental result comes out of the lab. I get the most pride from the successes of my current and former students and mentees."



# Research Advisory Board Advancement of Research and Scholarship Achievement Award



“By awarding this highest research honor to a professor focused exclusively on understanding basic principles of nature, Auburn University shows a sincere commitment to basic research in the life sciences.”

## **Geoffrey E. Hill**

**Professor, Department of Biological Sciences  
College of Sciences and Mathematics**

PhD, Biology; 1991 – University of Michigan  
MS, Biology; 1986 – University of New Mexico  
BS, Biology; 1983 – Indiana University

Geoffrey E. Hill, an ornithologist and professor, came to Auburn in 1993. He has served as major professor to 30 graduate students who have earned doctoral and master’s degrees from Auburn. Hill was recently awarded the William Brewster Memorial Award for lifetime achievement in ornithological research. Other honors include the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award and Auburn’s Creative Achievement Award. Hill’s research focus is the nature of eukaryotic species and the process of speciation towards a better understanding of female mate choice for ornamental traits. Hill is co-editor on two scholarly volumes on bird coloration, as well as author of three books: *A Red Bird in a Brown Bag*, *Ivorybill Hunters*, and most recently, *National Geographic Bird Coloration*. He has published more than 230 journal articles on the behavior, evolution, and conservation of birds, with more than half on bird coloration.

# Research and Creative Scholarship Award



“This award is particularly important to me because it recognizes the accomplishments of my graduate students. I have truly been blessed with exceptional graduate students. Their creativity and hard work have taken our work to levels of excellence that I could not have imagined when I first started. This Creative Research Award is a credit to my students, and I am proud to share it with them.”

## **Mario R. Eden**

**Joe T. and Billie Carole McMillan Professor and Department Chair  
Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Chemical Engineering; 2003 – Technical University of Denmark  
MS, Chemical Engineering; 1999 – Technical University of Denmark

Mario R. Eden is the director of an NSF-IGERT program on Integrated Biorefining and the acting director of the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering. His main areas of expertise include chemical process design, integration and optimization, and molecular synthesis and product design. He has published one edited book and more than 100 refereed papers/book chapters, and has given more than 300 presentations at national and international meetings. He has been the principal investigator or significant co-principal investigator on more than \$17 million in extramurally funded research contracts and grants. Eden was elected director of the Computing and Systems Technology (CAST) Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and is a trustee of Computer Aids for Chemical Engineering (CACHE) Corporation. He is the recipient of several awards, including the AIChE CAST Outstanding Young Researcher Award, the NSF CAREER Award, the Auburn Engineering Research Award (both junior and senior), the William F. Walker Teaching Award (twice), the Fred H. Pumphrey Teaching Award for Excellence (twice), and has been selected as the Outstanding Faculty Member in Chemical Engineering four times. He is currently directing the research of six doctoral students and one postdoctoral researcher. He is joined by his girlfriend, Leeja Einglett, and her son, Dusty.

# Research and Creative Scholarship Award



**Donald R. Wehrs**  
**Professor, Department of English**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, English; 1986 – University of Virginia  
MA, English; 1981 – University of Virginia  
BA, English and History; 1978 – Williams College

Donald R. Wehrs has been at Auburn since 1988 and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on 18th-century British literature, 19th-and 20th-century comparative and postcolonial/post-national literature, critical theory, and world literature. He majored in English and history at Williams College, received his doctoral degree in English from the University of Virginia, and held non-tenure positions at Emory University and Illinois State University before coming to Auburn. Wehrs is author of three books on African 20th-century fiction; editor or co-editor of three collections; and has published 30 journal articles and book chapters on 18th-century British literature, 20th-century African, European, and Indian fiction, Shakespeare, Cervantes, medieval romance, and literary theory. He is on the executive committee for literature and neuroscience of the International Comparative Literature Association and has served as secretary-treasurer of the Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts. Wehrs received the Honors College Professor of the Year Award in 2008 and the Auburn University Distinguished Diversity Research Award in 2010. He and his wife, Lorna, have a daughter, Sylvia, and a son, William.

"This award reflects positive assessment of my work by leading scholars in a variety of research areas from three continents and is the occasion of some satisfaction and much gratitude. It is good that Auburn has such formal mechanisms for recognizing long-term scholarly efforts, and it is a real honor to be linked by association with previous winners of the award."

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



## **Leonardo De La Fuente**

**Associate Professor, Department of Entomology  
and Plant Pathology  
College of Agriculture**

PhD, Plant Pathology; 2005 – Washington State University  
MS, Microbiology; 2000 – University of the Republic,  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
BS, Biochemistry; 1996 – University of the Republic,  
Montevideo, Uruguay

Leonardo De La Fuente was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, where he attended public primary and secondary school and then enrolled at the University of the Republic as the first generation of biochemists of his country. He received his bachelor's degree in 1996 in biochemistry, and later his master's degree in microbiology in 2000. From 1993 until 2001, he conducted research at the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable. In 2001, he immigrated to the United States to pursue his doctoral degree in plant pathology at Washington State University. He was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Auburn University in 2008 and was granted tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2014. His research has been published in more than 45 scientific manuscripts and book chapters. He and his wife, Kristen De La Fuente, have one son, Marko.

"It is great that the provost is recognizing this work with undergrads in our department. Since we do not have an undergraduate program, it has been hard to attract students to my program. I hope this will help Auburn University pay more attention to interdisciplinary research and break the barriers across colleges that sometimes interfere in supporting undergraduate research."

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



## **Elizabeth A. Lipke**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Chemical Engineering; 2005 – Rice University  
BS, Biomedical Engineering; 2000 – Johns Hopkins University

Elizabeth Lipke is the Mary and John H. Sanders Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Lipke's research focuses on the use of cell-material interactions to guide tissue formation and direct cellular function. To better understand heart defect formation and advance cardiac regeneration, her research group employs biomimetic materials to direct stem cell differentiation and create engineered, developing human heart tissues. Lipke's research group also designs materials for capture of circulating endothelial progenitor cells that are important in blood vessel repair. To support cancer research, the Lipke lab is creating tissue-engineered tumor models that reproduce native tumor characteristics for improved drug testing. In recognition of her research, she has received several national awards including a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, a 3M Nontenured Faculty Award, and an American Heart Association Scientist Development Grant. In addition to the recognition of her research accomplishments, Lipke has received awards for teaching and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. She and her husband, Chris Valeri, have two sons: Christopher Allen and Andrew James Valeri.

"My proudest moments have been watching my students and children achieve their goals. There is nothing more rewarding than being a part of that journey."

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



## **Elaine S. Coleman**

**Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology  
College of Veterinary Medicine**

PhD, Biomedical Sciences; 1992 – Auburn University  
DVM; 1984 – The Ohio State University  
BS, Animal and Veterinary Sciences; 1980 – West Virginia University

Elaine S. Coleman is an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a native of West Virginia, received her undergraduate training at West Virginia University, and obtained a DVM from Ohio State University in 1984. Coleman moved to Auburn in 1984 with her husband, Dale, where she completed a small animal internship followed by a clinical residency in small animal neurology/neurosurgery. She then pursued graduate studies in biomedical sciences with Jim Sartin and received her doctoral degree from Auburn University in 1992. Following postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Marie Wooten, she took a faculty teaching position at Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine. She returned to Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001, where she currently teaches small animal anatomy and neuroscience. Coleman integrates clinical and basic sciences in classroom interactions with her students as an endeavor to facilitate learning. She passionately enjoys teaching and has received numerous teaching awards over the years.

"Teaching is my passion, with the hopes that in some small way I make a difference for our students. The students are my pride and joy. Every year at graduation, I find myself feeling like a proud parent, full of excitement for their accomplishments and future careers. It is an extraordinary honor to teach at Auburn University, and it is very special to be recognized for something you love to do."



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



**Jeffrey S. Katz**  
**Professor, Department of Psychology**  
**College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, Experimental Psychology; 1998 – Tufts University  
MS, Experimental Psychology; 1996 – Tufts University  
BA, Psychology; 1989 – Ithaca College

Jeffrey S. Katz teaches classes in comparative cognition, cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and sensation and perception. His research focuses on the comparative mechanism of learning and cognition. Katz has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and is on three editorial boards. Since joining the faculty at Auburn in 2000, Katz has been honored with the American Psychological Association's Division 3 Young Investigator Award in 2001; the Outstanding Professor Award from the Auburn University Panhellenic Council in 2003; Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2002, 2004, and 2005; College of Liberal Arts Early Career Teaching Award for 2004-05; APA Fellow Status in Experimental Psychology in 2007; APA Fellow Status in Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology in 2008; Alumni Professor Award from Auburn University each year from 2006-11; College of Liberal Arts Academy of Teaching and Outstanding Teachers induction in 2012; Psi Chi Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Department of Psychology for 2001-02 and 2012-13, and Comparative Cognition Society Recognition of Service in 2014.

"My proudest academic moments at Auburn have been hooding the graduate students I have mentored as they receive their doctorates and engaging with their families at graduation."

# Master of Ceremonies



"What I like best about teaching at Auburn is the range of experiences that it offers. I've been fortunate enough to teach at all levels, from freshman to doctoral students. And it is this combination of levels that sustains my interest and makes teaching here such a richly rewarding experience."

## **Donna Bohanan**

**Joseph A. Kicklighter Endowed Professor of History  
College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, History; 1982 – Emory University  
MA, History; 1979 – Emory University  
BA, History; 1976 – 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 entitled, "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 to the senior class their "Final Lecture." Bohanan's research concerns the nobility of 17th-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 *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, Glass; 1997 – The Ohio State University

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 that 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, AL. Today, Cal leads a team of glassblowers who hand-craft each piece.

"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."



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

# Special Thanks

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*February 2, 2016*