

A U B U R N   U N I V E R S I T Y



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FACULTY AWARDS

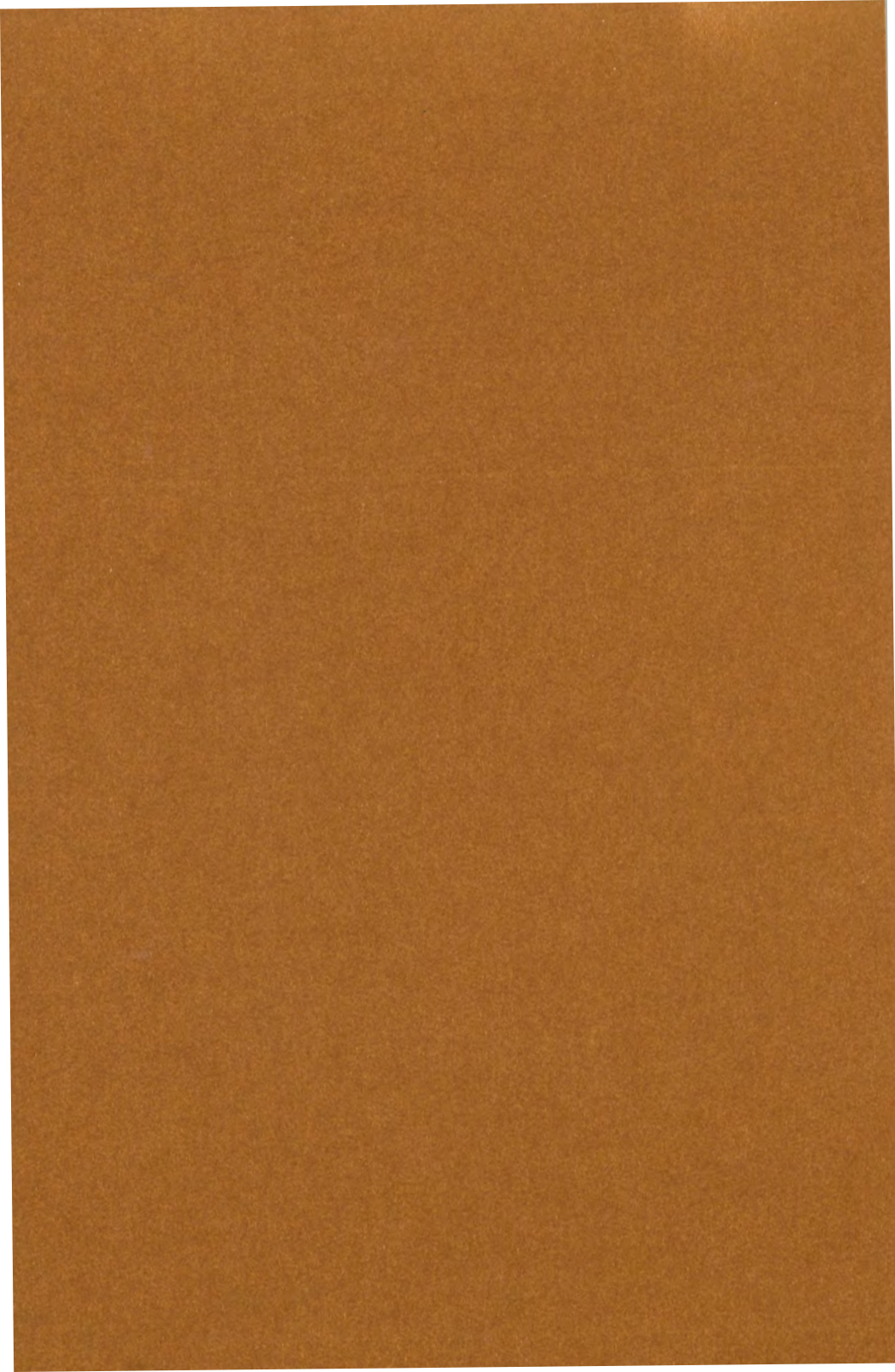
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CEREMONY

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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**

*Charles McCrary*

*President Pro Tempore, 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*

### **Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards**

*Presented by Mrs. VanValkenburg*

### **New Alumni Professors**

*Presented by Mrs. VanValkenburg*

**Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach**

*Presented by Royrickers Cook*

*Vice President and Associate Provost for University Outreach*

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

*Presented by Zhanjiang (John) Liu*

*Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Research*

**Creative Research and Scholarship Award**

*Presented by Dr. Liu*

**Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professorship of Writing**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Gary Brown ePortfolio Project Faculty Cohort Award**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**Departmental Award for Excellence in Education**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**President’s Outstanding Collaborative Units Award**

*Presented by Dr. Boosinger*

**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

**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.*

**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.*

**Creative Research and 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.*

**Ralph "Shug" Jordan Professorship of Writing:** Honors teaching excellence by an Auburn University faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to student success through effective and innovative writing assignments integrated into the course content.

**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.

**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.

**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.

# MENU

## **SALAD**

Chopped Salad with Fried Chick Peas, Cucumbers,  
Cherry Tomatoes, Feta, and Herb Buttermilk Dressing

## **ENTRÉE SELECTIONS**

Beef Filet with Sweet Potato Mash, Roasted Cipollini  
Onions, Asparagus, and Amarena Cherry Jus

Oven Roasted Salmon with Mustard and Dill Crust,  
Butter Poached Fingerlings, and Sautéed Swiss Chard

## **VEGETARIAN**

Eggplant Tagine with Fried Polenta Cake and Vegetable Bouquet

## **DESSERT**

S'mores Bread Pudding with Mini Marshmallows,  
Graham Crackers, and Chocolate Garnish





## FACULTY AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Timothy Boosinger.....	Provost
Mike Clardy.....	Office of Communications and Marketing
Jonathan Cullum.....	University Research
Janie Echols-Brown.....	University Outreach
Ralph Foster.....	University Outreach
Julie Huff.....	Office of the Provost
Kate Larkin.....	Office of Alumni Affairs
Melissa Wilt.....	Office of Communications and Marketing

## SUPPORTING STAFF

### OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Danna Bradford	Melissa Humble	Tracey Spates Newell
Jeff Etheridge	Jim Jackson	Sarah Phillips
Chris Green	Kevin Fichtner	John Walker

# THE COMMEMORATIVE AWARDS

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



# DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY LECTURESHIP



## **Stewart W. Schneller**

**Professor,  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,  
College of Sciences and Mathematics**

PhD, Organic Chemistry; 1968 – Indiana University  
MS, 1965 – University of Louisville  
BS, 1964 – University of Louisville

"WATCHING MY STUDENTS WALK  
ACROSS THE STAGE AT GRADUATION  
AND KNOWING THAT THEY ARE TAKING  
A LITTLE OF ME WITH THEM INTO  
THEIR CAREERS IS INSPIRING."

In 1994, Stewart W. Schneller came to Auburn as dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics and professor of chemistry and biochemistry. His research in antiviral drug discovery has been supported by grants with more than \$8 million coming from the National Institutes of Health. Schneller has been recognized with the prestigious Stone Award given to a chemist in the Southeast who has "excelled in research, development of the next generation of scientists, public outreach, mentoring, innovative educational efforts, and public outreach." His research has appeared in more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, and he is credited with a number of provisional patents. Schneller is currently on the editorial boards of five international journals. Twenty-nine doctoral candidates, nine master's students, and 29 postdoctoral associates who have been in Schneller's research laboratory have garnered prestigious academic and pharmaceutical positions. More than 50 undergraduate students have performed research in Schneller's lab. In addition to directing his research, he teaches large sections of undergraduate organic chemistry. He and his wife, Aina, have a son, Matt, and a daughter, Katie.

# ALUMNI UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



## **Billy Ferris**

**Student Media Advisor and Adjunct Instructor,  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
College of Liberal Arts**

MA, Communication; 2010 – Auburn University  
BA, Radio, Television and Film;  
2006 – Auburn University

"MY REWARD FOR TEACHING IS SEEING MY STUDENTS SUCCEED BOTH IN CLASS AND AFTER THEY GRADUATE. THAT SAID, THIS AWARD IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I WAS NOMINATED BY A STUDENT WHO TOOK SEVERAL CLASSES WITH ME. THE FACT THAT HE THOUGHT ENOUGH OF ME TO TAKE TIME TO NOMINATE ME FOR AN AWARD MAKES ME VERY PROUD OF THE WORK I DO."

Billy Ferris is an advisor for the Auburn Student Media Group and an adjunct instructor in the School of Communication and Journalism. He was born in Boston and grew up in Atlanta. Ferris received an undergraduate degree in radio, television and film, as well as a master's degree in communication from Auburn University. While he was a student, he served as station manager of Eagle Eye TV. Between degrees, Ferris worked in the media as a television sports reporter and later decided to go into education because his favorite part of the job was teaching interns how to produce content. During graduate school, he served as a graduate teaching assistant where he fell in love with classroom teaching. Upon completing his master's, Ferris became an instructor in the School of Communication and Journalism at Auburn. He continues to teach a variety of communication and media studies courses while also advising students in student media.



# ALUMNI UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



## **Ric Smith**

**Lecturer,  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
College of Liberal Arts**

MEd, 1994 – Auburn University  
MA, 1985 – Auburn University  
BA, 1982 – University of South Carolina

"I AM CONTINUALLY INSPIRED BY THE DEDICATED FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM. I SEE THE EXCEPTIONAL WORK THEY DO DAY IN AND DAY OUT, AND I AM ENCOURAGED TO STRETCH MYSELF."

Ric Smith is a lecturer in the School of Communication and Journalism where he teaches media courses and directs the internship program. He is also the executive producer of the Chattahoochee Heritage Project. In 2009, Smith was recognized as a College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Faculty Member. His professional experience includes serving as general manager of WMXA-FM and working as a field reporter/producer for ABC Radio Sports, ESPN Radio, WSFA-TV, and other media outlets. He also worked as an information manager for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. Smith is now the stadium announcer for Auburn University Football, the SEC Football Championship, and the SEC Baseball Tournament. Smith's book, *Every Day Is an Audition: Thoughts on Life, Love, and Faith for College and Beyond*, is published by Deep River Books. Together, he and his wife, Carole, have a son, Harry.

# ALUMNI UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



**Alan D. Meyer**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of History,  
College of Liberal Arts

PhD, American History and History of Technology;  
2009 – University of Delaware  
MA, History; 2000 – University of Delaware  
BA, History; 1989 – Western Michigan University

"RECEIVING THIS AWARD REMINDS  
ME OF MY ORIGINAL GOAL: TO  
CONNECT WITH UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS IN A WAY THAT MAKES  
HISTORY MEANINGFUL AND  
RELEVANT TO THE WORLD IN  
WHICH WE LIVE."

Alan D. Meyer joined the faculty at Auburn University in 2009. A Michigan native, Meyer completed his undergraduate degree in history at Western Michigan University and spent eight years in active duty with the U.S. Army. Meyer returned to graduate school at the University of Delaware, where he completed his PhD in American history and history of technology. Prior to Auburn, he worked for several years in Washington, DC, as a civilian historian for the US Air Force. His first book, *Weekend Pilots: Technology, Masculinity, and Private Aviation in Postwar America*, explores the intertwined relationships among technology, individual skill, and the construction of a gendered community identity. Meyer is a longtime private pilot, a Smithsonian Research Fellow with the National Air and Space Museum, and continues to serve in the US Army Reserve, where he holds the rank of Colonel. Meyer has also received the provost's office Research and Travel Grant, University of Delaware in 2008; Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship, Society for the History of Technology in 2005; and Guggenheim Predoctoral Fellowship, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in 2004-05. Meyer and his wife, Evelyn Causey, have a son, Harrison, and a daughter, Virginia.

## NEW ALUMNI PROFESSOR



**George Plasketes**  
Professor and Associate Director  
for Media Studies,  
School of Communication and Journalism,  
College of Liberal Arts

PhD, Radio, Television and Film;  
1985 – Bowling Green State University  
MA, Mass Communication;  
1980 – University of Mississippi  
BA, Journalism; 1978 – University of Mississippi

"TO ME, THIS AWARD MEANS, IN THE SOULFUL SPELLING OF ARETHA FRANKLIN, R-E-S-P-E-C-T. I'M GENUINELY OVERWHELMED THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND FORMER STUDENTS RECOGNIZED MY PRESENCE AND THAT THEY GRACIOUSLY TOOK THE TIME AND EFFORT TO NOMINATE ME FOR THIS HIGH HONOR. I CONSIDER THIS, PERHAPS, MY 'SALLY FIELD MOMENT.'"

George Plasketes is a professor of media studies in the School of Communication and Journalism. A native of Chicago, he studied in Oxford, Mississippi, receiving two degrees: journalism and mass communication. He then earned a doctorate at Bowling Green State in Ohio. Plasketes is the author and editor of six books: three for Ashgate's Popular and Folk Music Series, two on Elvis Presley images and fanaticism in American culture, and *Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles*, the first critical chronicle of one of popular music's most original songwriting antiheroes. He has published essays, articles, and book chapters on a variety of music, media, and popular culture subjects, including *Saturday Night Live* creator Lorne Michaels, baseball pitcher Bill "Spaceman" Lee, the failed television musical *Cop Rock*, TaB diet cola, and the music of the television series *Northern Exposure*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Popular Music and Society* and *The Journal of Popular Film and Television*. Among the courses he teaches are Popular Culture, Fame, Celebrity and Media Culture, Soundtracks, and the interdisciplinary Technology and Culture in the Honors College. He is married to Julie Grace, and together they have a daughter, Anaïs, and a son, Rivers.



## NEW ALUMNI PROFESSOR



### Joseph Kloepper

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

PhD, Plant Pathology;  
1980 – University of California, Berkeley  
MS, Plant Pathology;  
1977 – Colorado State University  
BS, Botany and Plant Pathology;  
1975 – Colorado State University

"THE ALUMNI PROFESSORSHIP AWARD IS RECOGNITION THAT MY SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING HAVE MADE A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY COLLEAGUES AND FORMER STUDENTS. CHANGING LIVES IS INNATELY MORE IMPORTANT TO ME, AND MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH, THAN SIMPLY PUBLISHING MORE PAPERS, GIVING MORE INTERNATIONAL TALKS, OR OBTAINING MORE GRANTS AND CONTRACTS."

Joseph Kloepper is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. A Kansas native, he received his undergraduate degree at Colorado State University in botany and plant pathology, followed by a master's degree in plant pathology from CSU in 1977. He then pursued a degree at the University of California, Berkeley, where he obtained a doctorate in plant pathology in 1980 and then served two years as an assistant professor in the same department. He transitioned from academia into industry, where he worked for one year in Kansas and six years in Canada before being selected as an associate professor at Auburn University in 1989. During his time at Auburn, Kloepper has maintained research related to applications of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria, or PGPR, and has led the international PGPR workshop that is held every three years on different continents to connect researchers and students engaged in this area. He teaches courses in grant writing and plant disease management. Kloepper is married to William Fowler, and has five children. His son Gregory Kloepper lives in Auburn.



## NEW ALUMNI PROFESSOR



### **F. Stephen Dobson**

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

PhD, Biological Sciences;  
1984 – University of Michigan  
MA, Biological Sciences;  
1978 – University of California, Santa Barbara  
BA, Biological Sciences;  
1975 – University of California, Berkeley

"I AM HUMBLLED TO BE CHOSEN AMONG MY FINE COLLEAGUES AS AN ALUMNI PROFESSOR. AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI AND THEIR ASSOCIATION ARE RENOWNED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION AND NATIONALLY, AND THEY SHOULD BE. THEY KEEP THE SPIRIT OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY ALIVE IN THE COUNTLESS CITIZENS THAT HAVE RECEIVED THEIR ACADEMIC TRAINING HERE."

After completing his doctorate at the University of Michigan in 1984, F. Stephen Dobson held a NATO postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta in Canada, followed by a postdoctoral 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. Dobson 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. He was named a Chevalier of France in 2002, 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.

## NEW ALUMNI PROFESSOR



### **Dawn Boothe**

**Professor,**

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

DVM; 1980 – Texas A&M University  
PhD, Veterinary Physiology (Clinical Pharmacology);  
1989 – Texas A&M University  
MS, Veterinary Physiology;  
1985 – Texas A&M University  
BS, Veterinary Medicine;  
1978 – Texas A&M University  
BS, Zoology; 1977– Texas A&M University

"AT AUBURN, THE FOCUS ON TEACHING AND LEARNING IS REAL, BUT SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY IN OTHER ARENAS AND MISSIONS IS NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACTED. INDEED, EXPECTATIONS OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ARE EMPHASIZED AS MUCH AS IS EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH TO ALL POSITION CANDIDATES. ONE CAN BE – INDEED THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROVIDED TO BE – PASSIONATE, PROGRESSIVE, INNOVATIVE, AND IMAGINATIVE IN BOTH TEACHING AND RESEARCH."

Dawn Boothe is among the first class of diplomates in the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology. In 1990, she began working at Texas A&M University in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, becoming a professor in 2003. She then joined the departments of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, and Clinical Sciences at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine as a professor. Boothe directs the Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory, serving more than 4,000 national and international veterinary practices. She actively teaches veterinary students and has mentored more than 31 graduate students and clinical pharmacology residents. Boothe has received more than \$1.7 million in research funding as the principle investigator and has authored or coauthored more than 125 peer-reviewed scientific publications, two textbooks, and over 60 book chapters. Major awards include a University Achievement Award in Teaching at Texas A&M University, the Jack Mara Scientific Achievement Award for Scientific Achievement, graduate student mentor awards, and the Zoetis Award for Excellence in Research. She is married to Harry W. Boothe, and would like to recognize his mother, Alberta Boothe. She and her husband have two children: Ashley Boothe Tidwell and Matthew W. Boothe.

# CURRENT ALUMNI PROFESSORS

Sushil Adhikari .....	Biosystems Engineering
Ellen Behrend .....	Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Art Chappelka.....	Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
D. Allen Davis .....	Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
Virginia Davis.....	Chemical Engineering
Oladiran Fasina.....	Biosystems Engineering
Valentina Hartarska .....	Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
Peter Johnson.....	Mathematics and Statistics
Dong-Joo Kim.....	Mechanical Engineering
Henry Kinnucan.....	Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
Yu Lin .....	Physics
Nannan Liu.....	Entomology and Plant Pathology
Herbert Jack Rotfeld.....	Marketing
Lisa Samuelson .....	Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Haroldo Toro .....	Veterinary Pathobiology

# AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FACULTY OUTREACH



**Barb Struempler**  
Professor,  
Nutrition, Dietetics and  
Hospitality Management,  
College of Human Sciences

PhD, Nutrition; 1984– Iowa State University  
MS, Nutrition; 1981 – Iowa State University  
BS, Nutrition; 1973 – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

"THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES THE VALUE THAT EXTENSION NUTRITION ACTIVITIES HAVE ON THE ECONOMIC AND QUALITY OF LIVES OF ALABAMIANS. THROUGH IMPACT EVALUATIONS, I CAN UNEQUIVOCALLY STATE THAT OUR EVIDENCE-BASED EXTENSION NUTRITION EDUCATION DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THIS AWARD THROUGH AUBURN UNIVERSITY VALIDATES MY ACADEMIC CAREER TO THE CITIZENRY OF ALABAMA."

Barb Struempler is a professor in the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management. She is also a nutritionist and program leader for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System through Auburn University. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Struempler worked several years in civil service in Germany and then began the Woman, Infants and Children program in Northwestern Nebraska. Following graduate school, she moved to Auburn. She has covered a lot of ground as her research laboratory and classrooms are the streets of Alabama, including the 4.5 million Alabama citizens. Her work specifically focuses on improving the high rates of infant mortality and escalating obesity and obesity-related disease conditions. During a 33-year career, she has secured more than \$133 million to support these efforts. Struempler has been recognized with more than 50 community education awards, as well as awards from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. She celebrates this accomplishment with her mother, Josephine, and daughter, Lauren Schmidt.



# RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



## **Bruce J. Tatarchuk**

**Charles E. Gavin III Endowed Professor,  
Department of Chemical Engineering,  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Chemical Engineering;  
1981 – University of Wisconsin-Madison  
BS, Chemical Engineering;  
1976 – University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

"THIS AWARD IS IMPORTANT TO  
ME BECAUSE I VIEW IT AS A  
CONFIRMATION OF MY PERSONAL  
BELIEF THAT RESEARCH IS A  
MEANS RATHER THAN AN END."

Bruce J. Tatarchuk joined Auburn in 1982 and is now the Charles E. Gavin III Endowed Professor of Chemical Engineering and the director of the Center for Microfibrous Materials Manufacturing. His research focuses on creating new structures of matter that enhance the chemical reactivity and selectivity of solid surfaces found in catalysts, sorbents, filter media, and electrocatalysts. Tatarchuk has served as principal investigator for more than \$41 million of competitive research. His group has generated more than 740 contributions to technical literature and he is an inventor on more than 50 US and foreign patents. He has received numerous awards, most recently receiving the Auburn University SEC Faculty Achievement Award and the Auburn University Excellence in Innovation Award. In 2014, he was elected as a fellow to the National Academy of Inventors. Tatarchuk and his wife, Shawna, have two children who graduated from Auburn: Anna and John.

## CREATIVE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



**Michael S. Pindzola**  
Professor,  
Department of Physics,  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD; 1975 – University of Virginia  
BA; 1970 – University of the South

"COLLABORATING WITH SCIENTISTS AT  
OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS ORNL AND  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST,  
HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION  
THROUGH THE YEARS."

Michael S. Pindzola began working at Auburn in 1977 after serving as an NRC Resident Research Associate at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, fellow of the Institute of Physics, and serves on the steering committee for the EU Atomic Data Analysis Structure Consortium and the US Southeastern Laboratory Astrophysics Consortium. Pindzola's primary areas of research are photon, electron, and atomic ion collisions with atoms and molecules.

# CREATIVE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



**Richard A. Hansen**  
**Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie**  
**Endowed Professor and**  
**Department Head of**  
**Health Outcomes Research and Policy,**  
**Harrison School of Pharmacy**

PhD, Social, Administrative and Clinical  
Pharmacy; 2003 – University of Minnesota  
BS, Pharmacy; 1997 – University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

"I'VE BEEN AT SEVERAL ACADEMIC  
INSTITUTIONS EITHER AS A STUDENT  
OR FACULTY MEMBER, AND THERE IS  
SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS  
PLACE. I BELIEVE THE THING THAT STANDS  
OUT MOST ABOUT AUBURN IS PRIDE. AT  
ALL LEVELS OF THE INSTITUTION, THE  
AUBURN FAMILY TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN  
THEIR WORK, EACH OTHER, AND JUST  
HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART  
OF AUBURN."

Richard A. Hansen is the Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie Gilliland Endowed Professor and head of the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy. Prior to joining Auburn University, he was associate professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Hansen's research focuses on population-level assessment of the benefits and risks of drug treatments. His work has been funded by numerous organizations, including the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the National Pharmaceutical Council, and the US Food and Drug Administration. He has worked extensively in the area of comparative effectiveness research and drug safety and since coming to Auburn, he has applied these areas of expertise to studying generic drugs. Hansen is a fellow of the American Pharmacists Association and the University of North Carolina Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. He and his wife, Nicole, have two sons: Ayden and Nolan. Hansen will become dean of the Harrison School of Pharmacy effective May 15, 2017.

# RALPH "SHUG" JORDAN PROFESSOR OF WRITING



## **Rebecca Jo Barlow**

**Associate Professor and Extension Specialist,  
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences**

PhD, Forestry and minor in Wildlife Sciences;  
2005 – Mississippi State University  
MS, Forestry; 1994 – Mississippi State University  
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture;  
1992 – Mississippi State University

"MY PROUDEST MOMENTS AT AUBURN  
ARE WHEN I AM TEACHING EITHER  
ON CAMPUS OR AS AN ALABAMA  
EXTENSION SPECIALIST AND I SEE  
STUDENTS AND LANDOWNERS GET  
EXCITED ABOUT MANAGING OUR  
FOREST RESOURCE."

Rebecca Jo Barlow joined Auburn University in 2007 after serving as a forester with Weyerhaeuser Company from 1994-2006. In her role as an extension specialist with the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, she aids private forest landowners in the management of their property for multiple uses, including traditional forest management, silvopasture, and other forms of agroforestry, non-timber forest products, and forest aesthetics. She also teaches several courses in forest measurements and land management basics, where she enjoys the use of the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center and the Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest for hands-on learning and problem solving. She received three awards in 2016: Teacher of the Year from the Auburn University Student Forestry Club and Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, Outstanding Faculty Member in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences from SGA, and the Outstanding Professional Skill Award for her longleaf pine poster from the Association for Communication Excellence.



# GARY BROWN ePORTFOLIO PROJECT FACULTY COHORT AWARD



## **Robert Bubb**

**Lecturer,**

**Department of Human Development and  
Family Studies, College of Human Sciences**

PhD, Industrial and Organizational Psychology;

2016 – Auburn University

MS, Applied Social Psychology;

2008 – Brigham Young University

BS, Psychology; 2004 – Brigham Young University

"EVERY SEMESTER I GET TO MEET SMART, MOTIVATED, AND ENERGETIC STUDENTS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR FIELD OF STUDIES. I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD AND INSPIRED BY THOSE STUDENTS WHO I WORK CLOSELY WITH AS TEACHING OR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS. I GET TO SEE THEM DEVELOP INTO POTENTIAL GRADUATE STUDENTS OVER SEVERAL SEMESTERS. I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER FOR THEM ONCE THEY ARE ACCEPTED INTO A GRADUATE PROGRAM."

Robert Bubb joined the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in 2011 as a lecturer, and currently instructs introductory statistics and research methods courses. He has taught courses in introductory psychology, industrial and organizational psychology, and the psychology of teaching. Bubb also spent four years as an academic advisor, and has several research interests including the study of the scholarship of teaching and learning, stigma toward persons with disabilities, and post-emancipation studies. He has received several graduate teaching awards including the First Year Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award and a Teaching Fellow Award. In 2013, he was honored with the American Psychological Association Wilbert J. McKeachie Teaching Excellence Award. He and his wife, Rebekah, have four children: Katherina, Abigail, James, and Samantha.

# GARY BROWN ePORTFOLIO PROJECT FACULTY COHORT AWARD



## **Emily Cumbie**

**Professor,  
Department of Human Development and Family  
Studies, College of Human Sciences**

MS, Human Development and Family Studies;  
2006 – Auburn University  
BS, Human Development and Family Studies;  
2003 – Auburn University

"I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING  
STUDENTS LEARN TO REFLECT ON  
WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEIR GIFTS  
AND TALENTS ARE, AND HOW TO  
USE THOSE TO ENRICH THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS."

Emily Cumbie came to Auburn in 2007 after earning both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the university. She is the lead teacher of the classroom for three-year-olds at the Auburn University Early Learning Center. Cumbie is also involved in the ePortfolio Project as a way to be more knowledgeable and invested in assisting students in reflective thinking, while also coaching them in how to best present themselves to potential graduate programs, internship sites, and employers. Her current appointment in the College of Human Sciences reflects her passion of providing high-quality education to young children, while also educating the next generation of teachers and caregivers through lecture courses and lab supervision. She is married and a mother to three young children.

# GARY BROWN ePORTFOLIO PROJECT FACULTY COHORT AWARD



## **Jamie Sailors**

**Director of Undergraduate Programs and Internships, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Human Sciences**

PhD, Family Studies; 1996 – Auburn University  
MS, Marriage and Family Therapy;  
1989 – Auburn University  
BS, Psychology;  
1983 – State University of New York Fredonia

"I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST COLLEAGUES. THE SUPPORT STAFF WHO ARE ESSENTIAL TO MY WORK AND THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF OUR INSTITUTION ARE CARING, DEDICATED, AND WILLING TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND. THE STUDENTS ARE THE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THEY INSPIRE ME EVERY DAY WITH THEIR DESIRE TO LEARN, GROW, AND ACHIEVE. IT IS PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP A HOME AND I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE AUBURN FAMILY."

Jamie Sailors is the director of internships and undergraduate programs in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She is a native of Western New York, where she completed her undergraduate training in psychology at SUNY Fredonia. Sailors completed her graduate studies at Auburn University, where she earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and a doctorate in family studies. She left Auburn for postdoctoral research as a clinical research associate at Girls and Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Sailors later served as a faculty member in the department of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Nebraska, the Mental Health and School Counseling program at Alabama State University, and the Counseling Psychology program at Troy State University. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist who maintains a small, part-time practice. Her passion is combining her clinical and academic expertise to promote the success of students interested in pursuing professions in the field of human services. She is married to Roger, and has three children: Asher Andersen, Erin Machan, and Thomas Machan.



# GARY BROWN ePORTFOLIO PROJECT FACULTY COHORT AWARD



**Margaret Vollenweider**  
Instructor and Assistant Director,  
Auburn University Early Learning Center,  
College of Human Sciences

MA, Human Development and Family Studies;  
1998 – Auburn University  
BA, Psychology; 1995 –  
University of Southern Mississippi

"WORKING WITH OTHERS WHO ARE  
EQUALLY COMMITTED TO HELPING OUR  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IS ITS OWN  
REWARD. HOWEVER, BEING RECOGNIZED  
FOR OUR WORK IN THE ePORTFOLIO  
HIGHLIGHTS A COMMITMENT OUR TEAM HAD  
TO IGNITE PASSION AND INTEREST IN OUR  
STUDENTS WHILE GIVING THEM A USEFUL  
TOOL AND SKILL SET AS THEY LEFT  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY."

Margaret Vollenweider has a master's degree from Auburn University in human development and family studies. She has been an academic advisor and taught undergraduate courses including professional development and ethics for 15 years. Vollenweider believes it is important for students to take the time in college to uncover their passions, explore career options, and develop goals for their adult life. She and her husband, Glen, have a son, Joe.



# GARY BROWN ePORTFOLIO PROJECT FACULTY COHORT AWARD



## **Sharon Huey Wilbanks**

**Director, Auburn University Early Learning Center,  
College of Human Sciences**

MS, Family and Child Development;  
1993 – Auburn University  
BA, Psychology; 1991 – Auburn University

"RECEIVING THIS AWARD TELLS ME THAT OUR WORK AS A COHORT IS VALUED AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF QUALITY THAT WE PURSUE IS APPRECIATED. OUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN COMMITTED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ePORTFOLIO INITIATIVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN THE WAYS THAT WE SUPPORT BOTH THE INITIATIVE AND OUR STUDENTS."

Sharon Huey Wilbanks has a master's degree from Auburn University in family and child development. For 20 years, she has centered her professional life on the Auburn University Early Learning Center, where she served as an assistant teacher and head teacher before becoming the director in 2008. She is also an academic advisor and an instructor, teaching professional development and ethics. Each semester, Wilbanks helps students build an ePortfolio for their professional use. She is the co-founder of Camp iCare, a joint venture of the Auburn University Early Learning Center and the Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies. Wilbanks also serves on the board of Alabama Rural Ministries and as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA, for abused and neglected children in Lee County. She and her husband, Chad, have two daughters, Amanda and Olivia, with both expected to become Auburn graduates.

# DEPARTMENTAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES, COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

The Department of Geosciences focuses on the Earth and the complex interactions among natural and human systems. Topics addressed include the traditional concerns of geologists, such things as finding fossil fuels, mining, and discovering and interpreting fossils. Geoscientists in the department also study environmental issues, such as groundwater contamination, natural hazards, GIS applications to mapping science, and human geography. The department conducts research and instruction in geology and geography, with faculty and students interacting between the two programs, as well as with other units in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and other colleges and schools across campus.

### DEPARTMENTAL FACULTY INCLUDE:

**Mark G. Steltenpohl**, alumni professor and chair

**Mehmet Zeki Billor**, research fellow

**Stefanie M. Brueckner**, lecturer

**Carmen P. Brysch**, lecturer

**Christopher G. Burton**, assistant professor

**Philip L. Chaney**, associate professor

**Robert B. Cook**, professor emeritus

**Cyrus B. Dawsey**, professor emeritus

**Li Dong**, adjunct professor

**Willis E. Hames**, professor

**John F. Hawkins**, lecturer

**David T. King**, professor

**Ming-Kuo Lee**, professor

**Ronald D. Lewis**, associate professor

**James Norwood**, instructor

**Chong Ma**, postdoctoral fellow

**Tom Martinson**, professor emeritus

**Luke J. Marzen**, professor

**Karen S. McNeal**, associate professor

**Martin A. Medina-Elizalde**, associate professor

**Chandana Mitra**, assistant professor

**James Saunders**, professor emeritus

**Charles E. Savrda**, professor

**Stephanie L. Shepherd**, assistant professor

**Ashraf Uddin**, professor

**Lorraine W. Wolf**, professor and  
director of undergraduate research

**Haibo Zou**, associate professor



Steltenpohl



Billor



Brueckner



Brysch



Burton



Chaney



Cook



Dawsey



Dong



Hames



Hawkins



King



Lee



Lewis



Ma



Martinson



Marzen



McNeal



Medina-Elizalde



Mitra



Norwood



Saunders



Savrda



Shepherd



Uddin



Wolf



Zou



# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



**Jennifer L. Robinson**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Psychology,  
College of Liberal Arts

PhD, Experimental Psychology;  
2006 – Case Western Reserve University  
MA, Experimental Psychology;  
2005 – Case Western Reserve University  
BA, Psychology and Biochemistry;  
2002 – Case Western Reserve University

"THIS AWARD IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY MRI RESEARCH CENTER IS TRULY A ONE-OF-A-KIND PLACE. THERE IS NO OTHER NEUROIMAGING CENTER THAT HAS SUCH A POSITIVE PRESENCE, COUPLED WITH AN INTENSE DESIRE TO FACILITATE RESEARCH."

Jennifer L. Robinson is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology. She is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, where she received her academic degrees at Case Western Reserve University. Robinson then completed a psychiatric neuroimaging postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio under the mentorship of David Glahn. She developed and directed the Functional Neuroimaging program for the Department of Neurosurgery at Scott & White Healthcare, where she conducted pre-surgical planning assessments and studied the functional connectivity of the brain. Robinson came to Auburn in August 2012 and was drawn to the rich collaborative environment and rich intellectual resources surrounding the Auburn University MRI Research Center, where she conducts research on the interfacing of affective and cognitive processes in the brain. Robinson has three dogs: Cooper, Casey, and Grizzly.



# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



**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

"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."

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. Katz was most recently awarded the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2015.

# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



### **Ana M. Franco-Watkins**

**Professor,  
Department of Psychology,  
College of Liberal Arts**

PhD, Philosophy;  
2004 – University of Maryland-College Park  
MA, Psychology;  
1999 – The College of William and Mary  
BA, Psychology;  
1997 – St. Mary's College of Maryland

"THIS AWARD REPRESENTS THE  
COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC  
COMMUNITY THAT EXISTS AT  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY."

Ana M. Franco-Watkins joined the Department of Psychology at Auburn University in 2006. Her research focuses on using psychological theories and methodologies to elucidate decision making processes that address basic and applied research questions with real-world implications. Watkins seeks opportunities to be involved in multidisciplinary projects that address broader real-world questions. Her research program is both collaborative within the field of psychology as well as interdisciplinary. In all these projects, students, both undergraduate and graduate, are integral to her success as a researcher. She is married to Lawrence S. Watkins Jr.

# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



**Thomas S. Denney Jr.**

**Director,  
Auburn University MRI Research Center and  
the Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Donnellan and Family  
Endowed Professor,  
Department of Electrical and Computer  
Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Electrical and Computer Engineering;  
1994 – The Johns Hopkins University  
MS, Electrical Engineering; 1990 – Auburn University  
BS, Electrical Engineering; 1985 – Auburn University

"I HAVE BEEN HONORED TO LIVE  
AND WORK WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE  
THAT ARE A CONSTANT SOURCE  
OF INSPIRATION. MY COLLEAGUES  
AT THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY MRI  
RESEARCH CENTER AND THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ARE A  
WONDERFUL GROUP OF PEOPLE."

Thomas S. Denney Jr. is currently the Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Donnellan and Family Endowed Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and has a courtesy joint appointment in the Department of Psychology. He is also the director of the Auburn University MRI Research Center and co-director of the Alabama Advanced Imaging Consortium. Denney has more than 25 years of experience in the analysis and acquisition of cardiovascular MRI data. His research has been continuously funded by grants from the Whitaker Foundation and the National Institutes of Health since 1996. He has served as an associate editor for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, or IEEE, Transactions on Image Processing and the *Journal of Electronic Imaging*. He has also served on the IEEE Bio Imaging and Signal Processing Technical Committee, served as the publications chair for the International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging in 2004, and served as the technical program chair in 2007. Denney currently serves on the NIH Small Business Medical Imaging Study Section. He and his wife, Melissa, have two sons: Trey and Foster.



# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



### **Gopikrishna Deshpande**

**Associate Professor,  
Auburn University MRI Research Center,  
Department of Electrical and Computer  
Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Biomedical Engineering;  
2007 – Georgia Institute of Technology  
MS, Electrical Communication Engineering;  
2003 – Indian Institute of Science  
BT, Electronics and Communication Engineering;  
2001 – National Institute of Technology

"THIS AWARD IS A RECOGNITION  
OF THE EXCELLENT, AND FRANKLY  
WORLD-CLASS, COLLABORATIVE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY MRI RESEARCH CENTER  
INVOLVING GROUPS FROM ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING, PSYCHOLOGY, AND  
VETERINARY MEDICINE."

Gopikrishna Deshpande is an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and is involved with neuroimaging activities at the Auburn University MRI Research Center. He is also a faculty member in the Department of Psychology. Before coming to Auburn in 2010, Deshpande was a research faculty member for the Biomedical Imaging Technology Center at Emory University. He has published more than 55 peer-reviewed journal papers in the field of neuroimaging, functional magnetic resonance imaging, signal processing, and machine learning. Deshpande is also the recipient of a million dollar grant from the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency for imaging awake dogs; he and his group at Auburn were the first in the world to demonstrate this technology. Deshpande and his wife, Chaitra Gururaja, have two sons: Vibhuvar and Yaduvar.



# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



### **Nouha Salibi**

**Staff Scientist, Siemens Healthcare,  
Auburn University MRI Research Center,  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, MS – Washington University  
BS – Centre d'Etudes and de Recherches  
Mathématiques et Physiques

"I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE HONOR  
OF BEING INCLUDED IN THE AUBURN  
FAMILY AND SHARING THE PRESIDENT'S  
OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS  
AWARD WITH SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS  
RESEARCH TEAM."

Nouha Salibi has been with Siemens Healthcare since 1988 where she is a senior staff scientist and research collaborations manager in the MR R&D Group. She moved to Auburn in 2010 during the startup of the Auburn University MRI Research Center to support the MR research collaboration between Auburn University and Siemens Healthcare. Salibi enjoys working with Auburn faculty from various departments and disciplines on research projects involving MRI and MRS, or Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, with the 3T and 7T Siemens scanners.

# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



### **Meredith A. Reid**

**Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Auburn University MRI Research Center,  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering**

PhD, Biomedical Engineering;  
2013 – The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
MS, Biomedical Engineering;  
2010 – The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
BS, Biomedical Engineering;  
2007 – The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
BS, Spanish;  
2007 – The University of Alabama at Birmingham

"I BELIEVE THAT SCIENCE CAN ONLY  
MOVE FORWARD IF TEAMS OF PEOPLE  
WITH DIFFERENT BUT COMPLEMENTARY  
SKILLS WORK TOGETHER. SINCE JOINING  
AUBURN, I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH AND  
LEARN FROM EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL  
PSYCHOLOGISTS, ELECTRICAL AND  
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS, AND PHYSICISTS  
WORKING TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL  
OF ADVANCING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF  
NEUROSCIENCE."

Meredith A. Reid is a postdoctoral fellow at the Auburn University MRI Research Center. A native of Birmingham, she received a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering with a minor in mathematics and a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 2007 from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. She pursued graduate training under the mentorship of Adrienne Lahti at UAB and earned a master's degree in 2010 and a doctorate in 2013. Reid joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the Auburn University MRI Research Center in 2013. Her broad interest is in interdisciplinary neuroimaging research at the interface between the clinical and engineering sciences. Reid's research integrates multiple MRI methods to investigate the pathophysiology of psychiatric disorders. After surviving a tornado in Alabama on April 27, 2011, she became passionate about improving our understanding of the neurobiology of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and how people develop PTSD. She has received numerous awards, including the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health.

# PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

## NEUROSCIENCE COLLABORATION



**Ronald J. Beyers**  
MRI Physicist and Safety Officer,  
Auburn University MRI Research Center,  
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

PhD, Biomedical Engineering;  
2010 – University of Virginia  
MS, Electrical Engineering;  
1988 – Air Force Institute of Technology  
BS, Electrical Engineering;  
1984 – United States Air Force Academy

"THIS AWARD EXEMPLIFIES THE  
IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF A  
COLLABORATIVE TEAM EFFORT.  
THE AUBURN FAMILY UNITES  
THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY  
INTO A COLLABORATION ITSELF."

Ronald J. Beyers, formally a research engineer, is the staff magnetic resonance physicist at the Auburn University MRI Research Center. Born and raised in Northern California, he received his Bachelor of Science from the United States Air Force Academy and his Master of Science while an active duty Air Force officer. His notable Air Force career moments included graduating from the Air Force Test Pilot School as a Flight Test Engineer and his Air Force nomination as pre-candidate to NASA for Mission Specialist Astronaut. After 26 years of Air Force service, Beyers retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He began a second career in academia by studying at the University of Virginia to receive his doctorate in biomedical engineering – researching novel cardiac MRI methods in post infarct (heart attack) mice. When he came to Auburn, he joined as the staff MR physicist at the then-newly commissioned Auburn University MRI Research Center. His passion is to create novel MR imaging and spectroscopy methods for both research and clinical applications. He is married to Nadine P. Ellero.



# PROVOST AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOSTERING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP



**Anne Elizabeth Vivian Gorden**  
Associate Professor and Associate Chair  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD, Organic Chemistry;  
2002 – The University of Texas at Austin  
BS, Chemistry; 1996 – Emory University  
BA, Literature; 1996 – Emory University

"I AM VERY TOUCHED AND HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD. IT MEANS RECOGNITION NOT JUST FOR ME, BUT FOR MY STUDENTS. I HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO WORK WITH SOME OF THE BEST STUDENTS IN THE COUNTRY WHO JUST HAPPENED TO COME TO LOVE AUBURN AND LOVE THE IDEALS OF THE AUBURN FAMILY."

Anne Elizabeth Vivian Gorden is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. A Texas native, Gorden started doing research as a Clark Foundation Fellow at the University of Texas at Dallas immediately after high school. She attended Emory University, where she majored in chemistry and literature. Gorden then returned to Texas for her doctorate work in organic chemistry with Jonathan Sessler at The University of Texas at Austin. She also worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory as a Seaborg Institute Research Fellow. After receiving her doctorate, she completed her postdoctoral studies with Kenneth Raymond at the University of California, Berkeley, and was appointed the inaugural Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Seaborg Center Postdoctoral Research Fellow. In 2005, Gorden began working at Auburn. She is an author on four patents and more than 40 publications, and has received multiple awards for teaching excellence. She and her husband, John, have a daughter, Mara, and a son, Ian.



# THE GERALD AND EMILY LEISCHUCK ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



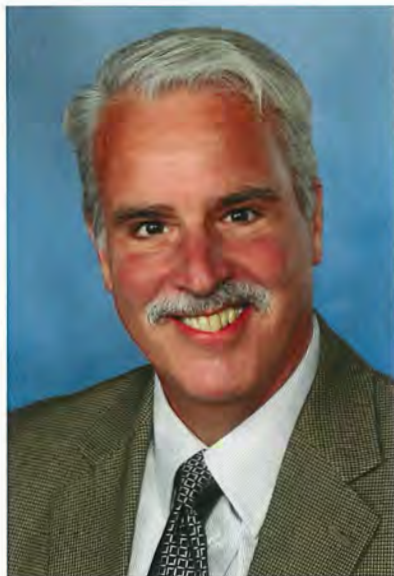
**Robert S. Boyd**  
Professor,  
Department of Biological Sciences,  
College of Sciences and Mathematics

PhD; Botany; 1986 – University of California, Davis  
MS, Biology; 1979 – California State Polytechnic  
University, Pomona  
BS, Biology; 1977 – California State Polytechnic  
University, Pomona

"THIS AWARD IS MEANINGFUL AT SEVERAL LEVELS, BUT A MAJOR MEANING IS THAT IT SHOWS THAT I HAVE HAD AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON MY STUDENTS' LIVES. A MAJOR GOAL OF MY CAREER HAS BEEN TO SERVE AND MENTOR STUDENTS TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS AND DREAMS AS THEY PROGRESS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY."

Robert S. Boyd is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. A California native, he received his doctorate in botany from the University of California, Davis, in 1986, and in the fall of 1988, he became assistant professor in the Department of Botany and Microbiology at Auburn. Boyd became a professor in 2000, when the Department of Biological Sciences was created, and became the department's undergraduate program officer in 2013. Boyd has taught courses ranging from freshman introductory biology to graduate-level classes. His current teaching focuses on courses in conservation biology and plant ecology. Boyd's research interests include the management of rare and endangered plants, as well as the ecology and evolution of metal hyperaccumulator plants. He has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters, has been a guest editor for special issues of three scientific journals, and has served on the editorial boards of three additional scientific journals. Boyd has six daughters: Jennifer Wynn, Kristina Nash, Michelle Boyd, Megan Erskine, Kendra Erskine, and Sierra Erskine. He would also like to recognize his sisters, Linda Boyd and Diane McCormick, and his brother, Douglas Boyd.

# THE GERALD AND EMILY LEISCHUCK ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



**Dan LaRocque**  
Professor,  
Department of Theatre,  
College of Liberal Arts

MFA, Drama; Professional Actor Training Program;  
1981 – University of Washington  
BFA, Theatre; 1978 – Minnesota State University Moorhead

"I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO WORK  
WITH AND LEARN FROM MANY GIFTED  
COLLEAGUES OVER THE YEARS, BUT  
WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT AUBURN IS  
OUR STUDENTS. THEIR TALENT, DRIVE,  
AND ENTHUSIASM FOR AN ART FORM I  
DEARLY LOVE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT  
SOURCE OF INSPIRATION."

Dan LaRocque joined Auburn University Theatre in 1990 as an acting, voice, and movement teacher and has directed or performed in more than 50 Auburn University Theatre productions. Beyond Auburn, his professional acting credits include major theaters in the United States and England. LaRocque served as associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts from 2011-13 and as chair and artistic director of Auburn University Theatre from 2005-11. LaRocque was inducted into the Academy of Teaching and Outstanding Teachers in Auburn's College of Liberal Arts in 2003. In 2007, he received the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Gold Medallion for Excellence in College and University Theater. He was inducted into the Alabama Theatre Hall of Fame for Pioneers in Alabama Theatre in 2015. He is married to his colleague, Daydrie Hague, and together they have two sons, James and Conor, and one daughter-in-law, Mary Claire Walther.

# MASTER OF CEREMONIES



## **Donna Bohanan**

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

PhD, History; 1982 – Emory University  
MA, History; Emory University  
BA, History; 1976 – Hendrix College

"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 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. 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, Alabama. Today, Cal leads a team of glassblowers who hand-craft each piece.



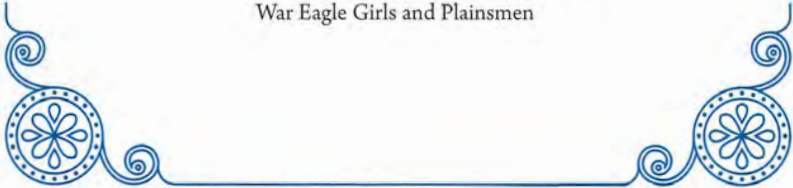


# SPECIAL THANKS

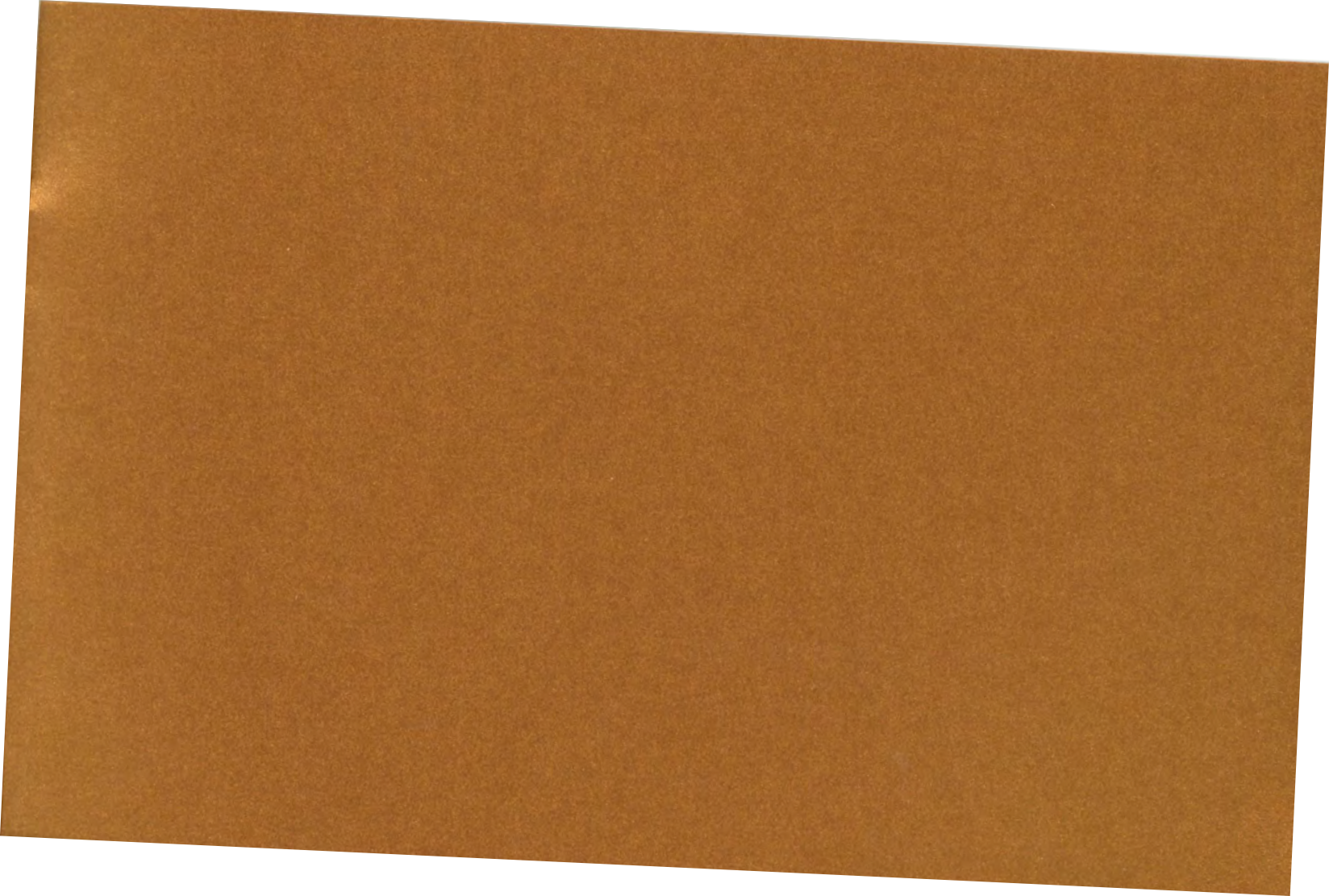
Office of the Provost

Office of Communications and Marketing

War Eagle Girls and Plainsmen



**THIS IS AUBURN.**







FEBRUARY 28, 2017