



Auburn faculty are integral to our university's tradition of innovation, discovery, and service, and their collective efforts sustain Auburn's legacy as a distinguished and respected land-grant university.

Each year, the university honors this shared commitment to excellence. Through these awards, we celebrate Auburn's most important values and outstanding achievements to guide our students, conduct exceptional scholarship, and demonstrate long-term dedication to the university's progress and its distinctive position in higher education.

ORDER OF EVENTS

WELCOME

Jay Gogue
President

CONGRATULATIONS

Sarah B. Newton
Auburn University Board of Trustees

REMARKS

Bill Hardgrave
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Norman Godwin
Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness

ALUMNI UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE FACULTY LECTURESHIP

Presented by Vice President VanValkenburg

PRESIDENT’S OUTSTANDING COLLABORATIVE UNITS AWARD

Presented by President Gogue

DEPARTMENTAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Presented by Provost Hardgrave

PROVOST AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORING

Presented by Provost Hardgrave

CREATIVE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Presented by Jim Weyhenmeyer
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FACULTY OUTREACH

Presented by Royrickers Cook
Vice President and Associate Provost for University Outreach

THE GERALD AND EMILY LEISCHUCK ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Presented by President Gogue

CLOSING REMARKS

Provost Hardgrave

LOVING MEMORY

Jennifer Williamson Stone

October 22, 1973 – September 2, 2021



“Jennifer was widely regarded as an outstanding educator and a fantastic communicator of mathematics as evidenced by her being selected for an Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. She was also a dedicated member of the department who skillfully juggled many responsibilities and who had a profound impact on the department’s instructional mission. An Auburn alumna, Jennifer was deeply motivated by a love for her students, her colleagues, and everything Auburn. Her legacy will be preserved through awards in her name to faculty and graduate students, but she will be dearly missed by all who knew her.”

- Ash Abebe, Professor and Chair
College of Sciences and Mathematics

“Dr. Jennifer Stone was the epitome of the character educators seek to embrace. Her willingness to resolve issues, enhance academic excellence, and mentor students truly made Auburn a better place. Dr. Stone taught me to work wisely and skillfully, something all Auburn men and women can identify with.”

- Patrick Star, '20, Poultry Science Pre-Vet

“As an instructor, Jennifer dedicated an incredible amount of time, care, and effort into the success of Auburn students. She may have chosen math as her subject, but students were her passion. Their success in Mathematics courses, no matter how basic, was her priority. Her genuine devotion to Auburn students is irreplaceable.”

- Dr. Beth Yarbrough, Director of Student Services,
College of Sciences and Mathematics



Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award

JONATHAN SEIFRIED

Instructor

School of Communication and Journalism

College of Liberal Arts

9 years at Auburn

Describe your most memorable teaching experience.

“My most memorable teaching experience came during spring semester 2020 when university operations transitioned to remote learning due to COVID-19. From the other side of a computer screen, on the first day of teaching remotely, I could see in my students’ eyes their need for consistency. At that point, I realized that I could provide more than just a class; I could provide stability during uncertain times.”

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

“I teach my students that they must *earn* their grades, which requires *hard work*. My students learn that *honesty and truthfulness* are paramount to impacting an audience, earning their *respect and confidence*. I teach them that, although a core course, learning how to communicate effectively enhances their education, allowing them to *work wisely*. I also teach that completion of my course leads them toward *a spirit that is not afraid*.”

Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award

KEVEN YOST

Synovus Fellow and Associate Professor
Faculty Director, Full-Time and Online MBA Programs
Department of Finance
Harbert College of Business
18 years at Auburn

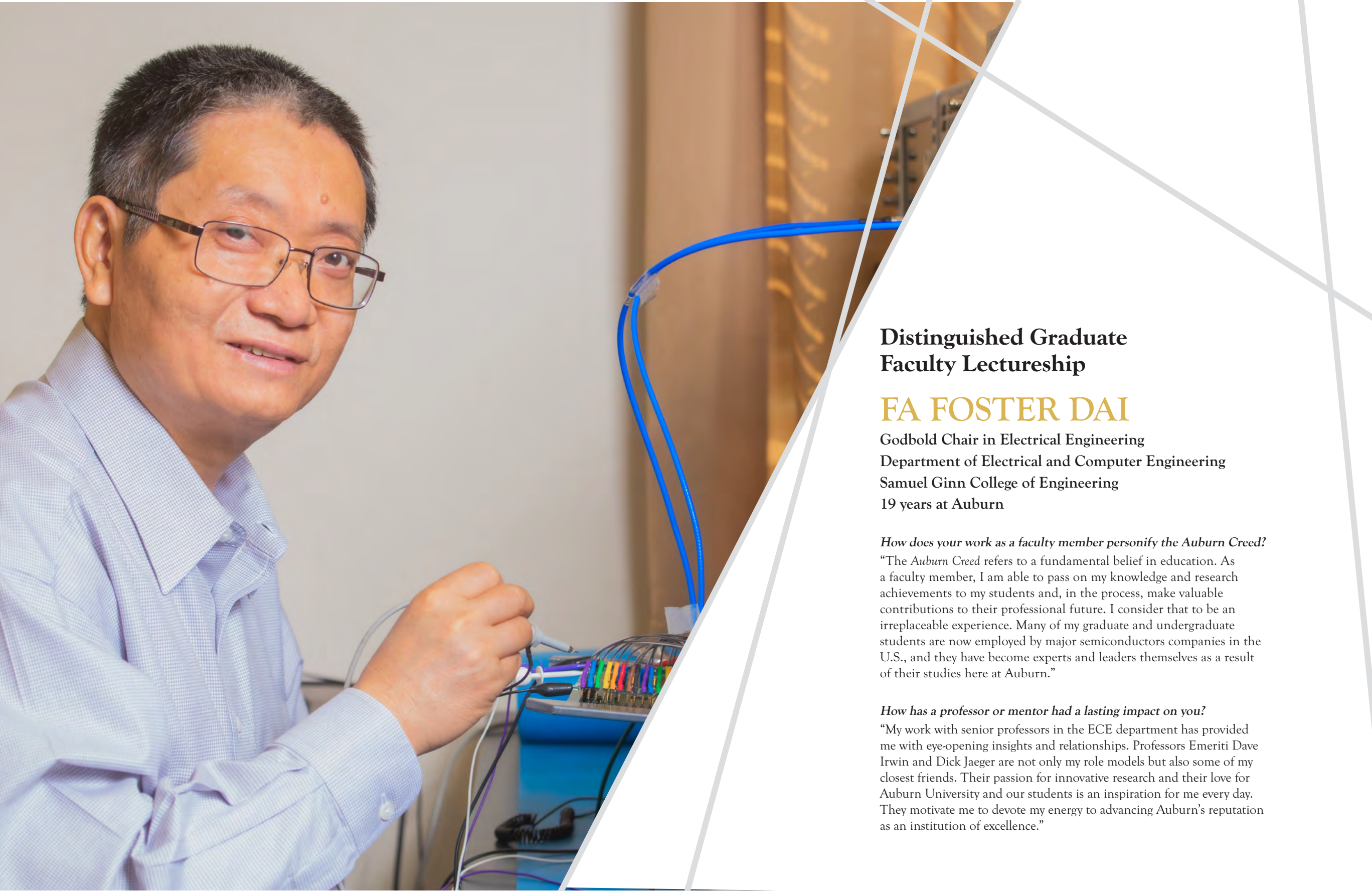
How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

“My approach to teaching is illustrated in the first line of the *Auburn Creed* - *I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only on what I earn. Therefore, I believe in work, hard work.* My courses are known to be challenging. But students will be prepared for their future course work and careers. I make students responsible for their learning and then do everything I can to motivate them, coach them, and help them put the pieces together.”

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

“As a student, I was fortunate to have multiple passionate and caring professors who introduced me to and excited me about my field of study. I benefited from instructors who poured their energy and effort into their teaching to make potentially dry or less exciting topics engaging and sometimes even fascinating. That is the favor I want to return.”





Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship

FA FOSTER DAI

Godbold Chair in Electrical Engineering

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

19 years at Auburn

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

“The *Auburn Creed* refers to a fundamental belief in education. As a faculty member, I am able to pass on my knowledge and research achievements to my students and, in the process, make valuable contributions to their professional future. I consider that to be an irreplaceable experience. Many of my graduate and undergraduate students are now employed by major semiconductors companies in the U.S., and they have become experts and leaders themselves as a result of their studies here at Auburn.”

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

“My work with senior professors in the ECE department has provided me with eye-opening insights and relationships. Professors Emeriti Dave Irwin and Dick Jaeger are not only my role models but also some of my closest friends. Their passion for innovative research and their love for Auburn University and our students is an inspiration for me every day. They motivate me to devote my energy to advancing Auburn’s reputation as an institution of excellence.”



President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award COVID-19 VACCINE INITIATIVE

TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dr. Julie Wells, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, College of Liberal Arts
Joshua Henderson, Office of Information Technology
Misty Carroll, Office of Information Technology
Karla McCormick, Office of Human Resources and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Dr. Robert Norton, COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Chris O'Gwynn, Risk Management and Safety and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Brooke Bailey, COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee

BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dr. Danilea Werner, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, College of Liberal Arts and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Dr. Gregory Peden, Clinical Health Services Unit: Clinical Affairs and Outreach, Harrison School of Pharmacy
Dr. Kimberly Braxton-Lloyd, Clinical Health Services Unit: Clinical Affairs and Outreach, Harrison School of Pharmacy and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Dr. Fred Kam, M.D., AU Medical Clinic and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
Kelly Strickland, School of Nursing
Hope Carroll, School of Nursing
Jadalyn Story, School of Nursing
Susan McCallister, Campus Safety and Security and COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee
NOT PICTURED: Mike Clardy, AU Advancement, Lisa Harmon, AU Medical Clinic, Dan King, Facilities Management, Dr. Robert Mann, Campus Safety and Security, Paige Patterson, Clinical Affairs and Outreach, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Jason Peevy, AU Advancement, Kelli Shomaker, COVID Resource Center Vaccine Implementation Subcommittee, Dan Whatley, Facilities Management



Departmental Award for Excellence in Education

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY HARBERT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dr. Andrew McLelland, Associate Professor
Colby Lakas, Director of Recruiting and Professional Development
Dr. Ryan Dunn, Assistant Professor
Dr. Kerry Inger, Associate Professor
Dr. Jonathan Stanley, C. McKenzie Taylor, Jr. Professor
Rene Waldrop, Instructor
Dr. Paul Black, Assistant Professor
Dr. Duane Brandon, Taylor Professor & Director

BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dr. Jefferson Jones, Associate Professor
Jennifer Cornett, Senior Lecturer
Allie Dyleski, Administrator of Graduate and Online Programs
Lisa Miller, Senior Lecturer
Dr. Xu Cheng, Assistant Professor
Andee Hodo, Director of Graduate and Online Programs
Dr. James Long, Harbert College Advisory Council Professor
Molly Hulsey, Advisor

NOT PICTURED: Dr. Wayne Alderman, Dean and Professor Emeritus, Robert H. Cochran, Senior Lecturer, Tracy Hayes, Academic Administrative Support, Dr. Travis Holt, Associate Professor, Dr. Greg Jenkins, Ingwersen Professor, Dr. Kimberly Key, PwC Professor, Dr. Tina Loraas, C. McKenzie Taylor, Jr. Professor, Dr. Mollie Mathis, Assistant Professor, Dr. Jennifer Mueller-Phillips, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and KPMG Professor, KPMG Professor, Amy Murphy, Director Emeritus of Graduate and Online Programs, Talitha Smith, Instructor, Dr. Sarah Stanwick, Associate Professor, Dr. Brian Vansant, Associate Professor and C.G. Mills Fellow

Provost Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring

GRETCHEN D. OLIVER

Professor and Director of the Sports Medicine and
Movement Laboratory
School of Kinesiology
College of Education
9 years at Auburn

Describe your most memorable teaching experience.

“My most memorable teaching experiences are those that occur in the Sports Medicine and Movement Laboratory. These moments are when you apply non-traditional teaching that transcends to students’ professional futures. I love to see the ‘light bulb’ glow when they get it and now know how to apply it.”

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

“My major professor in my doctoral work told me, ‘Not good enough’. I had completed all my data analysis for my dissertation, but it was not good enough. He told me that because we were accepting interpolating for 10 frames. However, some of my data needed interpolation for 11 frames. And yes, 10 was the cut-off, and 11 was not good enough. Thus, I recollected the whole thing again and did not exceed 10 frames of interpolation. One frame over 10 would have had me performing below the standard. My motto is to strive for greatness and never lower your standard.”





Creative Research and Scholarship Award

**GIOVANNA
SUMMERFIELD**

Professor and Associate Dean
Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures
College of Liberal Arts
18 years at Auburn

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

"I believe in work, hard work. ... I believe in honesty and truthfulness. ... I believe in the human touch. These are principles that have been ingrained in me by my dear parents who worked so hard through their childhood during WWII and their whole existence as parents and active citizens. They taught me to always be honest and transparent to myself and to others, and to respect and love others. I do not recall a day in my life as a professional and as an individual when those words have not come up in my head and my heart and when I tried everything in my power to fulfill them. I hope I have been a good example of Christian love to all around me."

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

"I had the honor of studying at the University of Florida as a graduate student, where I was selected as, not only a teaching assistant for French and Italian but also as research assistant for our Graduate Research Professor, Dr. William Calin. He has been my inspiration both as an individual and as a researcher. With hundreds of publications under his belt, an impeccable education from Yale, an exquisite charm in the classroom, an international conference named after him while alive, he has certainly had a lasting impact on me and my life as a scholar and teacher. His last comforting words to me confirming his pride in my work are not enough to fill the gap he left when he departed this life."

Creative Research and Scholarship Award

DONGYE “DON” ZHAO

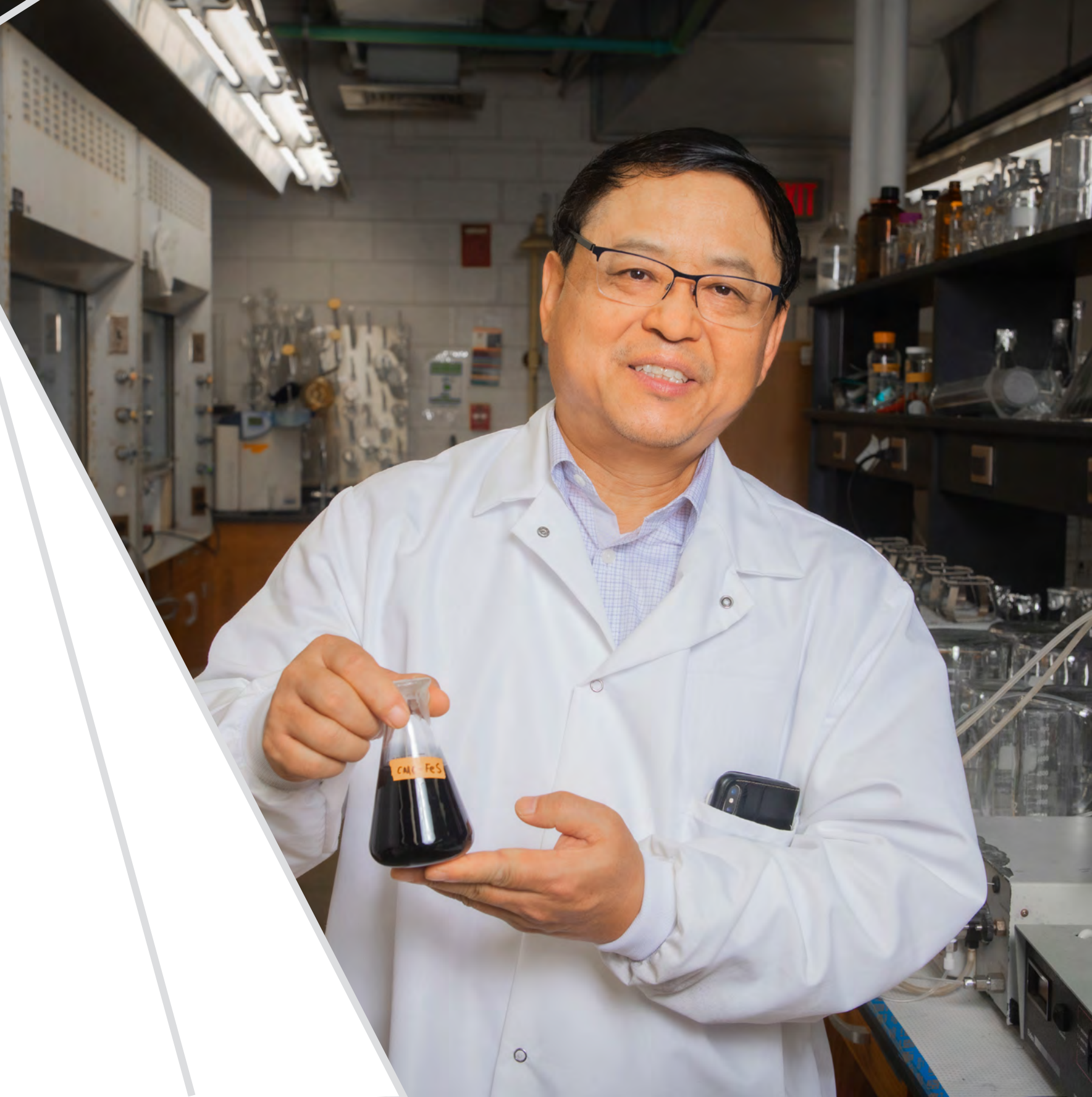
Engineering Alumni Council Endowed Professor
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
20+ years at Auburn

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

“Through many years of *hard work* with my students, our group developed cutting-edge technologies to improve water quality and mitigate pollution. It is even more rewarding that through the educational process, I was able to help train the next generation of environmental engineers, who are equipped with not only the latest knowledge and engineering skill sets, but a strong sense of society and *human touch*.”

Describe your most memorable teaching experience.

“Interacting with students is one of the most enjoyable experiences a faculty member can have. I am fortunate to have interacted with many young and bright minds and have taught numerous students from first-semester freshmen to doctoral and postdoctoral students. Moments like when I see the freshmen students’ big, open eyes full of curiosity, to my cheering at their graduation ceremony four years later, to the big hugs from my Ph.D. students as they prepare to stand on their own feet is the most rewarding.”





Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

ADIT D. SINGH

Godbold Chair in Electrical Engineering
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
30 years at Auburn

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

“The Auburn Creed reminds me so much of my favorite poem growing up, written by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, anticipating India’s independence from Britain: *Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way; Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by thee; Into ever-widening thought and action; Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.* Education, hard work, open-mindedness, truthfulness are universal values that we all should live by.”

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

“In undergraduate school, I learned the importance of focusing on the fundamentals. For example, too much academic research today is driven by publications being the end goal. In reality, publications are one way of disseminating new ideas, but the ultimate goal of an engineering professor should be to see their innovative ideas in production to help advance technology. My extensive outreach in presenting talks and tutorials to thousands of practicing engineers at leading semiconductor companies around the world is an attempt to do just that - influence the development of integrated circuit (IC) test technology.”

Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching

PAUL HOLLEY

Professor and Director of the Center for Construction
Innovation and Collaboration
McWhorter School of Building Science
College of Architecture, Design and Construction
19.5 years at Auburn

How does your work as a faculty member personify the Auburn Creed?

"As a freshman in 1984, I very clearly remember hearing the first line of the *Auburn Creed* – *I believe that this is a practical world, and that I can count only on what I earn.* As I transitioned from a teenager who started working at a young age to an industry professional and then an academician, it has been a very relevant and powerful motivator for me. The rest of the creed is equally as compelling, but this first line is a firm reminder that there are few substitutes for a strong work ethic."

How has a professor or mentor had a lasting impact on you?

"My father, Don Holley ('58), taught me to work hard, be curious, and be a good provider. Rocky McMichen taught me many life lessons on prioritization, pride in your work, problem-solving, and life balance in my industry career. Bob Aderholdt and Steve Williams were long-time academic mentors to me and taught me to put students first and be a good ambassador of the school, college, and university. I owe all of them a lot."





**Gerald and Emily Leischuck
Endowed Presidential Award
for Excellence in Teaching**

JENNIFER L. ROBINSON

Professor and Director of the Cognitive and Behavioral
Sciences Program

Department of Psychological Sciences

College of Liberal Arts

9.5 years at Auburn

Briefly describe your proudest moment at Auburn.

“I don’t think I have a single ‘proudest moment,’ but one that really sticks out for me is being awarded the inaugural Veterans Advocate Award from the Auburn Student Veterans Association and the Auburn Veterans Resource Center. Being a part of these organizations has been a tremendous honor and privilege and being recognized as a helpful resource for our military veterans reintegrating into higher education meant the world to me.”

Describe your most memorable teaching experience.

“There are no words to describe the joy I feel when a student understands a concept for the first time or finds their passion for a subject matter that they then pursue further. I love introducing students to the magic that lies between their ears – and the unprecedented opportunities at the AU MRI Research Center allow us to provide them with hands-on experience in brain scanning, including getting to see their own brains in action.”

CREATIVE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2006
S. Davis Worley, Chemistry and Biochemistry
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2007
Mona El-Sheikh, Human Development and Family Science
College of Human Sciences

Zhanjiang Liu, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
College of Agriculture

2008
Rex A. Dunham, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
College of Agriculture

2009
Morris Bian, History
College of Liberal Arts

2010
Geoffrey Hill, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Paula Backsheider, English
College of Liberal Arts

2011
Behzad Nakhjavan, Architecture,
Planning and Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Hanqin Tian, Ecology
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

2012
Christopher Roberts, Chemical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

Ruth Crocker, History
College of Liberal Arts

2013
Conner Bailey, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
College of Agriculture

Pradeep Lall, Mechanical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2014
Brian E. Vaughn, Human Development and Family Science
College of Human Sciences

F. Stephen Dobson, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2015-16
Mario Richard Eden, Chemical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

Donald R. Wehrs, English
College of Liberal Arts

2016-17
Michael S. Pindzola, Physics
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Richard A. Hansen, Health Outcomes Research and Policy
Harrison School of Pharmacy

2017
Kenneth M. Halanych, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Chris Newland, Psychological Sciences
College of Liberal Arts

2018
Shiwen Mao, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

Cathleen Guistino, History
College of Liberal Arts

David Ketchen, Management
Harbert College of Business

2019
Rusty Smith, Architecture,
Planning and Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Hareesh Tippur, Mechanical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2020
Bruce Gladden, Kinesiology
College of Education

Kenneth W. Noe, History
College of Liberal Arts

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FACULTY OUTREACH

2006
David I. Bransby, Agronomy and Soils
College of Agriculture

2007
Christa Slaton, Political Science
College of Liberal Arts

2008
Chris Rodger, Mathematics and Statistics
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2009
Barry Burkhart, Psychological Sciences
College of Liberal Arts

2010
David Hinson, Architecture
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2011
Nan Fairley, Communication
College of Liberal Arts

2012
Cheryl Morgan, Architecture,
Planning and Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2013
Francesca Adler-Baeder, Human Development
and Family Science
College of Human Sciences

2014
Allen Landers, Physics
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2015-16
Virginia A. Davis, Chemical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2016-17
Barb Struempler, Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality
Management
College of Human Sciences

2017
Donald Mulvaney, Animal Sciences
College of Agriculture

2018
Kyes Stevens, Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2019
Scott Kramer, McWhorter School of Building Science
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

2020
Stephen P. Brown, Political Science
College of Liberal Arts

THE GERALD AND EMILY LEISCHUCK
ENDOWED PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

2006

Joseph Kicklighter, History
College of Liberal Arts

Robert Lishak, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2007

Pamela Boyd, Curriculum and Teaching
College of Education

Roland Dute, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2008

Daniel D. Butler, Marketing
Harbert College of Business

Steven Kincaid, Anatomy,
Physiology and Pharmacology
College of Veterinary Medicine

2009

Mary Mendonca, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Sushil Bhavnani, Mechanical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2010

Donna Bohanan, History
College of Liberal Arts

Elizabeth Guertal, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences
College of Agriculture

2011

Leonard Bell, Poultry Science
College of Agriculture

Mark Byrne, Chemical Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2012

Andrew Freear, Architecture,
Planning and Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Larry Wit, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2013

Casey G. Cegielski,
Management Information Systems
Harbert College of Business

David A. Umphress, Computer Science
and Software Engineering
Ginn College of Engineering

2014

Debbie R. Folkerts, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Stuart David Loch, Physics
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2015-16

Elaine Coleman, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology
College of Veterinary Medicine

Jeffrey Katz, Psychological Sciences
College of Liberal Arts

2016-17

Robert S. Boyd, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Dan LaRocque, Theatre
College of Liberal Arts

2018

Christy Bratcher, Animal Sciences
College of Agriculture

Kelly Dean Jolley, Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts

2018

Kelly Bryant, Graphic Design
College of Architecture, Design and Construction

James Long, Accountancy
Harbert College of Business

2019

Carey Andrzejewski, Educational Foundations,
Leadership and Technology
College of Education

Paul Cobine, Biological Sciences
College of Sciences and Mathematics

2020

Kerry Inger, School of Accountancy
Harbert College of Business

Christopher A. Lepczyk, Wildlife Biology
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

FACULTY AWARDS

Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards

Recognizes the outstanding teaching of undergraduates from nominations made by department heads, deans, alumni, and students. A committee of retired faculty selects the recipients.

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship

Recognizes faculty for exceptional service in support of graduate education and excellence in research.

President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award

Recognizes Auburn units whose collaborative efforts result in unique exemplary service or academic excellence within the university and the community.

Departmental Award for Excellence in Education

Recognizes the efforts of departmental faculty for their commitment to improving education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Provost Award for Faculty Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Recognizes sustained efforts to promote excellence in undergraduate scholarship through research.

Creative Research and Scholarship Awards

Honors the research achievements and contributions of two Auburn faculty members who have distinguished themselves through research, scholarly works, and creative contributions to their fields.

Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

Honors the engagement of faculty members who demonstrate the tremendous impact outreach has on our community, state, and nation.

The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards 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.