

BILL TO: Student Senate

FROM: Collin Dorrill, *College of Agriculture, Mary Cate Saville, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering*

RE: Commendation of Auburn Faculty for Rapid Response to COVID-19 Solutions

DATE: September 1, 2020

PSSC: 20-1012-01

Commendation of Auburn Faculty for Rapid Response to COVID-19 Solutions

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of life and caused a need for hospital equipment, a vaccine, economic strategy for businesses, learning techniques for online classes, solutions for minority groups disproportionately affected and food insecure individuals, and more; and,

WHEREAS, innumerable Auburn Faculty members have risen to the occasion to dedicate time to solving these important issues and examining every factor for our community in addition to their regular obligations; and,

WHEREAS, the professors noted below are only few of a large number of faculty that have put an extensive amount of effort forward to find solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic while delivering an exceptional class experience to students in an entirely new format; and,

WHEREAS, we commend all of the Auburn Faculty members for their dedication and diligence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to the following notable examples of exemplary work; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Spencer Durham, Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was selected to be the sole pharmacist on Governor Kay Ivey's Coronavirus task force; and,

WHEREAS, sharing the impacts of COVID-19 from the perspective of all pharmacists by serving on the Coronavirus task force for Governor Kay Ivey directly affects COVID-19 related decisions that have been made over the past months; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Marilyn Bulloch, Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been on the frontlines treating patients and researching adjunctive therapies for use in the treatment of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, College of Sciences and Mathematics professors Dr. Nedret Billor, Dr. Jingyi Zheng, Tyler Smith, and Dr. Chris Goldsmith are actively working to mathematically model the spread of COVID-19 cases, and detect and treat COVID-19 symptoms, and determine potential changes in environmental risk due to the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, Professors Dr. Tom Burch, Dr. Michael Zabala, and student Hayden Burch of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering designed an accessory device called "RE-INVENT" that converts a common household CPAP machine to function as an emergency ventilator; and,

WHEREAS, “RE-INVENT” costs only \$700 and a few hours to assemble, as opposed to hard to find \$25,000 hospital ventilators, which directly alleviated the ventilator shortage and allowed a much larger amount of COVID-19 patients to recover; and;

WHEREAS, in the College of Agriculture, Dr. Ryan Thomson is leading a project that is researching the response of rural communities in the South to the COVID-19 Pandemic and determining the key issues these communities are facing; and,

WHEREAS, associate professor Dr. Tannista Banerjee of College of Liberal Arts was published in a top research journal discussing “U.S. county level analysis to determine if social distancing slowed the spread of COVID-19”; and,

WHEREAS, the research conducted and devices developed at Auburn University in the recent months have directly been a part of the solution and have positively impacted the Auburn community, and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, these are only a few examples of the extraordinary amount of research and relief efforts of Auburn faculty, and many more faculty members have contributed to find solutions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and make their own impact on the Auburn community; and,

THEREFORE, we, the Auburn University Student Senate, commend Auburn Faculty for fulfilling Auburn University’s mission of improving the lives of the people of Alabama, the nation, and the world through forward-thinking education, life-enhancing research, and selfless service through the COVID-19 pandemic and working continuously to find solutions.

CC:

Dr. Jay Gogue, *President of Auburn University*

Dr. Bill Hardgrave, *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Norman Godwin, *Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness*

Dr. Emmett Winn, *Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs*

Jon Waggoner, *Board Secretary, Auburn University Board of Trustees*

Dr. Paul Patterson, *Dean, College of Agriculture*

Dr. Ryan Thomson, *Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture*

Dr. Christopher Roberts, *Dean, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering*

Dr. Tom Burch, *Senior Lecturer, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering*

Dr. Michael Zabala, *Assistant Professor, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering*

Hayden Burch, *Student, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering*

Dr. Joseph A. Aistrup, *Dean, College of Liberal Arts*

Dr. Tannista Banerjee, *Associate Professor of Economics, College of Liberal Arts*

Dr. Nicholas Giordano, *Dean, College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Dr. Nedret Billor, *Professor of Statistics, College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Dr. Jingyi Zheng, *Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Tyler Smith, *PhD Candidate, College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Dr. Chris Goldsmith, *Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Dr. Richard Hansen, *Dean, Harrison School of Pharmacy*

Dr. Marilyn Bulloch, *Associate Clinical Professor, Harrison School of Pharmacy*

Dr. Spencer Durham, *Associate Clinical Professor, Harrison School of Pharmacy*