

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS is committed to the ideals of a liberal education and to the highest level of intellectual excellence...

# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS Perspectives

11<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

**The Road to  
Integration at  
Auburn University**

**Students Expand  
Horizons with  
Adventures Abroad**

**Visiting Auburn  
Alumni in the  
Windy City**

**Cultivating Growth**



# MEET THE DEAN Q&A WITH JOE



4

NEWS & EVENTS



RESEARCH & OUTREACH

30



12

STUDENTS



NEW & NOTABLE

38



20

ALUMNI



*Find Your Place*



# NEWS & EVENTS

*With a wide variety of initiatives and programs, the College of Liberal Arts is constantly bringing in lecturers and guest speakers and collaborating with other colleges on campus-wide events.*

## NEW PERSPECTIVES NEW LEADERSHIP

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL



The College of Liberal Arts began the 2013 academic year from a new perspective with Dean Dr. Joseph Aistrup, a Kansas native and baseball fan. Dr. Aistrup joins the Auburn family from Kansas State University, where he served as the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as a professor of political science. Dr. Aistrup brings to the college a vision of success among students and faculty, engagement in outreach initiatives, and connection with alumni and friends of the college and the Auburn community. We had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Aistrup and learn more about his perspective as he begins his journey as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Next time you see Dr. Aistrup, be sure to give him a warm "War Eagle" welcome!

### **Would you tell us a little bit about your professional background and where you are from?**

I grew up in Winfield, Kansas, in south-central Kansas. I graduated from Fort Hays State University with a dual major in political science and communications. After that, I went to Virginia Tech for my master's in political science and Indiana University for my doctorate.

### **What drew you to pursue a degree in political science?**

Three things drew me to political science. First, I had a driving passion for understanding politics and government that went beyond the reporting of these topics from a journalistic perspective. Second, I fell in love with statistics and the science side of political science. Finally, I had three professors who helped to point my intellectual curiosity toward political science. Without them, I would be still hauling hay in the summers.



### When you were a student, what were your career dreams or goals?

I was initially drawn to political science to become a high school social studies teacher. After driving a school bus my senior year of college, I decided to change my career goals. For a brief period, I thought I wanted to attend law school or become a city manager, but after talking to my advisor and a couple of professors, I decided to pursue a graduate degree in political science.

### Who has been the most influential person in your life?

My dad. He taught me the value of hard work and loved to listen to baseball and watch the nightly news.

### Who or what inspires you?

I have many sources of inspiration, but these days, I am more inspired by students and faculty members who are the real leaders of our universities. Their drive, activities, and ingenious ideas inspire me to help create a better university that tears down barriers for students and faculty members and provides a supportive environment for a diversity of people and ideas.

### What is your favorite memory from college?

I have many favorite memories, but the one memory that continues to resonate with me is from my senior year in college. On Friday afternoons I would join a group of faculty members, graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students at a local grill to discuss politics. Our discussions were long and inclusive, helping me to become a better observer of politics and to think more clearly about my career options.

### What attracted you to Auburn?

The first thing that attracted me to Auburn is its land-grant tradition. Second, I felt very comfortable at Auburn because of the great faculty, staff, alumni, and students I met when I came for my interview. Finally, Alabama's shorter winters when compared to Kansas' is very appealing.

“Now more than anytime in the past, a liberal arts education is a fundamental component to a student's success later in life. We need to increase our emphasis on a liberal arts education, not decrease it.”

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to brew beer in my spare time. I brew all types, but I really enjoy pale ales and IPAs.

### What are your impressions of Auburn so far?

Auburn is everything that I expected it to be and more. I expected the campus to be beautiful—it is. I expected the town to be friendly—it is. I expected the university to be full of outstanding students, faculty members, and staff—it is. What sets Auburn University apart, making it a special place, is the dedication that all have to the university and a spirit of family and tradition that no other university can match.

### What are your plans and priorities for the college over the next few years?

I plan to focus on strengthening the college's student-centered approach to our instructional mission; raising the national profile of our faculty members' research and creative activities; promoting engagement with the people of Alabama and the rest of the world; and connecting with alumni and friends of the college and university to leverage their support for these academic missions. Like the university, the college should become a preeminent college of liberal arts.

### Why do you think a liberal arts education is important in this current job market?

A liberal arts education has never been more important. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the average person will have several occupations from the time they enter the workforce until they retire. Many of these occupations have not yet been invented but will emerge as technology and globalization continue to reshape our nation's workforce. This means universities are not training students for a single career, but multiple careers.

Liberal arts students are trained to think critically, adapt to new conditions, and work in an increasingly diverse and global workforce. Now more than anytime in the past, a liberal arts education is a fundamental component to a student's success later in life. We need to increase our emphasis on a liberal arts education, not decrease it.

### What do you look forward to most about being the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts?

I'm looking forward to promoting a liberal arts education at a time when there are some who question its value.

# The Road to Integration

STORIES FROM AUBURN TRAILBLAZERS

BY | VICKY SANTOS

The College of Liberal Arts (CLA) and Auburn University hosted a special event to commemorate 50 years of integration at Auburn through its CLA Reads initiative. On October 1, 2013, Willie Wyatt and Anthony Lee, two of the first African-American students to attend Auburn University, talked about their experiences with integration in front of approximately 100 people.

Lee and Wyatt were instrumental in desegregating Macon County schools in 1963–1964 as two of the 12 plaintiffs in the historic desegregation lawsuit, *Lee v. Macon County Board of Education*. Both Lee and Wyatt came to Auburn University during the fall of 1964 as undergraduates. Wyatt stayed one year and then transferred to Tuskegee University, but Lee stayed and completed his undergraduate degree in history.

Wyatt and Lee spoke of their experiences being among the first black students at Auburn during the integration of schools that occurred during the civil rights period in the South.

“Classes themselves were pretty much on a segregated basis,” Wyatt recalled. “You’d go to class, take a seat, and the white students would move to one side of the class, and the professor would, in most instances, teach to that side of the class.”

They were never invited to join study sessions and

made few friends as students. “It was tough,” Wyatt said. “It was a lonely life.”

Upon being accepted at Auburn, Wyatt and Lee were told that, while they could attend the university, there were no accommodations available for them and traveling back and forth from Tuskegee, their hometown, was not an option.

“The road between Auburn and Tuskegee wasn’t like it is now,” Wyatt said. “The roads at that time were dangerous. When we went to Notasulga as seniors, we had protection by U.S. Marshals every day for our bus, mainly because of the threats that were in the community and the Ku Klux Klan being a stronghold. Coming to Auburn 20 miles from Tuskegee every day would have been a real problem for us.”

Thankfully a local African-American businessman and his wife were willing to provide a rental property in Auburn for them. “Ralph and Jean Foster provided us the opportunity to live here,” Wyatt said.

After Wyatt transferred to Tuskegee, Lee spent much of his time with the Fosters, who had a barber shop and a store in Loachapoka, just outside Auburn’s city limits. The Fosters provided Lee, Wyatt, and a number of other African-American students who attended Auburn with warm meals and a welcoming environment.

Lee said he was aware of the challenges he would face

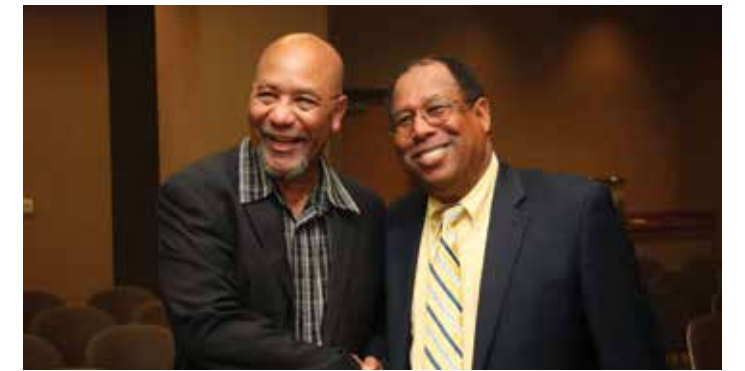
by choosing to integrate Auburn. He said that he made the decision to come here because he felt supported by his family and community and because he wanted to blaze a trail for other African-American students to obtain a quality education.

“We needed more opportunities in education,” Lee said. “I was interested in liberal arts and Auburn had a good reputation for that, so I decided Auburn was where I wanted to pursue my degree in history.”

Lee not only majored in history, he made history by becoming the first African-American student to start as a freshman and attend all four years before graduating.

Before the arrival of Lee and Wyatt, many Auburn students, faculty, and alumni welcomed integration at Auburn University, and unlike many of its contemporaries, there were no riots or acts of violence during the integration process. There was, however, censorship on the subject, and many journalists and faculty who spoke out in favor of—or in opposition of—integration were dealt with swiftly by Auburn’s administration at that time. Faculty were not given tenure, and student journalists were fired for expressing their views on desegregation. One of those students was Anne Rivers Siddons, who wrote a column favoring integration in *The Auburn Plainsman* in October of 1957. Her column, “Death of a Columnist,” gained national attention, and when she tried to write a second, similarly themed column, she was dismissed from the newspaper staff. Siddons went on to become a national best-selling author and was recognized with a tribute by the college on October 18, 2013. The tribute came 56 years to the date of the column’s original run.

Throughout the 2013–2014 academic year, Auburn



>> Willie Wyatt (top right), Anthony Lee (top left), and Ralph Foster (bottom) shared their stories with over 100 students, faculty, and staff at the October 1 event commemorating Auburn’s 50-year anniversary as an integrated university.

University will continue to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its integration with a series of events designed to educate and inspire students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Integration is an important milestone in the university’s history; it allowed a quality college education to be accessible to more people, and in doing so, made the Auburn family experience richer for everyone. Please go to [wp.auburn.edu/diversity](http://wp.auburn.edu/diversity) to learn more about the university’s plans to commemorate 50 years of integration. 📍



>> The image to the left is on display at the Tuskegee Human & Civil Rights Multicultural Center in Tuskegee, Alabama, and depicts three historic cultures—European-American, African-American, and Native-American.

## GLORIA STEINEM COMING TO AUBURN



Recognized as a leader and spokeswoman for the women’s liberation movement, Gloria Steinem committed her career to improving women’s rights and enhancing the power of the female voice. Due to Steinem’s profound influence, the Women’s Leadership Institute in partnership with the College of Liberal Arts Women’s Studies program will host Steinem for the 2014 Extraordinary Women’s Lecture on February 18, 2014. She will also serve as the guest of honor at the annual Women’s Studies Luncheon on February 19, 2014. For information on both events, visit [auburn.edu/womensleadership](http://auburn.edu/womensleadership) or call (334) 844-2491.

# HEARTBREAK HOTEL

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL

From class-obsessed sorority girls to elite socialites with pretty pearls and a 'bless your heart' attitude, Anne Rivers Siddons unveils the social stigma and cultural demands associated with being a Southern belle through her 21 novels, most of which are set in Atlanta or surrounding areas. A native of Georgia and alumna of Auburn University, Siddons is well versed in the inevitable prejudices of growing up a Southern belle, experiences that ultimately led to a news column that would defy social norms of the late 1950s and early '60s.



The College of Liberal Arts (CLA) celebrates Siddons by naming one of her novels, *Heartbreak Hotel*, as the 2013 CLA Reads common book and awarding her the inaugural Women's Leadership Institute Lifetime Achievement Award.

With aspirations to be an illustrator and layout designer, Siddons graduated from Auburn in 1958 with a degree in illustration and a minor in English. While her career goals did not quite pan out as planned, Siddons certainly had a successful career due to her determination, creative drive, and passion for the written word.

While at Auburn, Siddons was a columnist for *The Auburn Plainsman* and a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. As a student in the midst of the civil rights movement, Siddons experienced firsthand the intense battle against racial equality that saturates our history books and casts an ominous shadow over the South. She became an advocate for integration and published two controversial articles in *The Plainsman*, despite university administration's orders not to publish them. This rebellion led to her dismissal from her student writing job and ultimately inspired her to continue writing about topics that matter to people and spur rich conversations.

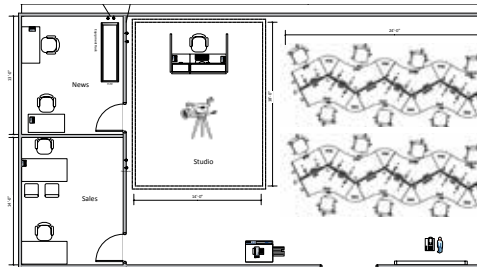
The CLA Reads program consists of discussions and lectures held throughout the fall semester centered on Siddons' first novel, *Heartbreak Hotel* (1976), inspired by her experiences at Auburn. The book was also adapted into the 1989 film *Heart of Dixie*.

Dr. Barbara Baker, Executive Director of the Women's Leadership Institute, explained the significance of selecting *Heartbreak Hotel* for CLA Reads: "She helps us understand a host of things like the dating culture of yesterday, race relations, and all manner of social relationships. I expect students to identify themselves, their parents, and their grandparents and come to an understanding of how our community developed—what the Auburn family was and how it became what it is."

Baker, along with other CLA professors, will hold several lectures and open discussions about the bestselling novel. She stated, "Siddons herself is an outstanding role model for our students because of the national acclaim she has achieved, and it is important for them to know about the successful graduates that came before them."

The Women's Leadership Institute in partnership with CLA hosted a tribute to Siddons at the 2013 Auburn Writers Conference held on October 18. She was formally recognized as the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. The award recognizes an Auburn University alumna who has achieved national acclaim over a lifetime of successful and sustained contributions to culture through arts, humanities, business, or politics. Dr. Baker explained that the Women's Leadership Institute selected Siddons "because of her long and successful career as a writer, and because of her literary and artistic depictions of the South, southern life, and particularly Auburn University."

Visit [auwomenlead.tumblr.com](http://auwomenlead.tumblr.com) for more information on Siddons and the CLA Reads program. 



## PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP TO TRAIN STUDENT JOURNALISTS

by Vicky Santos 

THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM in the College of Liberal Arts and Raycom Media, a Montgomery-based broadcasting company, have announced a pioneering partnership to train multimedia student journalists.

Faculty and Raycom Media professionals will work with students in a convergent newsroom to reinforce classroom lessons with live reporting experiences. Communication and journalism majors will work in an active newsroom to produce local news stories for television, the web, social media, and digital devices, according to Jennifer Wood Adams, director of the School of Communication and Journalism.

"The Auburn and Raycom collaboration will provide students with invaluable training, real-time journalism ethics instruction, and insight into industry expectations," Adams said. "The groundbreaking part of this partnership is the direct link our students will have to Raycom news executives, who will be able to mentor and guide their professional development, as well as tap students and graduates for internships and jobs."


The Auburn University news studio will adopt a teaching hospital model that has been strongly advocated for by media executives and journalism foundations. Last fall, representatives from the nation's leading journalism foundations wrote an open letter to university presidents stating that students need a "teaching hospital" newsroom that is akin to the training medical students receive by working alongside physicians in medical school.

"News consumption habits are rapidly changing, and that calls for new ways to prepare tomorrow's multimedia professionals," Auburn University President Jay Gogue said. "We're excited about where this innovative partnership will position Auburn in

the communication and journalism profession."

The studio will be located a block from campus on Gay Street. Raycom Media is providing studio equipment, as well as editing software, cameras, sets, furniture, and professional expertise. Through class assignments, students will contribute digital material and video packages for use on WSFA's and WTVM's stations and websites.

"The partnership will help students learn how to handle the challenges of today's news operation," Raycom Media President and CEO Paul McTear said. "It will also demonstrate the importance of journalistic integrity, while providing Auburn students with an understanding of the need to quickly disseminate news on multiple platforms. In addition, this is a tremendous vehicle for the news-gathering industry to identify and grow those up-and-coming journalists for our fields."

The Raycom investment through this partnership provides technology, time, and training to the School of Communication and Journalism at a value of more than \$350,000. The studio is expected to open by October 2013 with classes to be taught in the space starting spring 2014. 

### BREAKING NEWS

In June, the Auburn University Board of Trustees approved school designation for the Department of Communication and Journalism.

"Becoming a school puts us in line with our peer institutions and helps us become more competitive when applying for funding for communication and mass communication research projects and grants," said Dr. Jennifer Wood Adams, director of the School of Communication and Journalism.



# LONDON CALLING

BY | ANNA BETH JAGER



Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of seeing the world. I wanted to go everywhere, wanted to watch castles, dungeons, and princesses from storybooks turn into more than just pretty pictures. I knew they were real somewhere, and I wanted to have every memory of them secured within my tiny fists so I could carry them with me wherever I went.

Growing up, my desire to pursue the world never fizzled out, but the opportunity didn't immediately present itself. Life outside of my own was still only framed in pictures and printed in textbooks as I attempted to fill my wanderlust with Audrey Hepburn movies and Nutella crepes. It seemed like enough at the time, but now I know that experiencing the real thing is incomparable.

The opportunity I had been waiting for finally came about with the School of Communication and Journalism's program in London, led by the wonderful and fearless Dr. Susan Waters. After one short informational meeting, I was ready to pack my bags and go. And so, I did.

When our plane took off for London, my heart was in my throat. We were literally flying out of our comfort zones. Atlanta was suddenly small behind Plexiglas windows, disappearing beneath thick clouds like tiny plastic buildings after shaking a snow globe. I closed my eyes and hoped that when they opened, the dull gray glow of a London skyline would finally be hanging in my window.

During the two too-short weeks we were there, we busied ourselves with sightseeing, class time, traveling, visiting various businesses relative to our majors, learning and, of course, eating.

Every day brought us a unique adventure, with multiple trips to local businesses, newspapers, and PR firms that each gave us a peak inside a day in the life of journalists, social networkers, public relations teams and many more

jobs relative to our interests. We saw the busy tabloid newspaper the *Daily Mirror*; discussed the importance of crisis management with the people of Sainsbury's grocery store; caught up with international advertising, marketing and public relations agency Ogilvy PR; and leveled with the people from Pearson's publishing company about the ever-rising price of textbooks. We immersed ourselves in multi-cultural corporations and left with a better understanding of the working environments our futures might hold. These trips taught us things a textbook never could, which might be one of the many reasons why this program is so special.

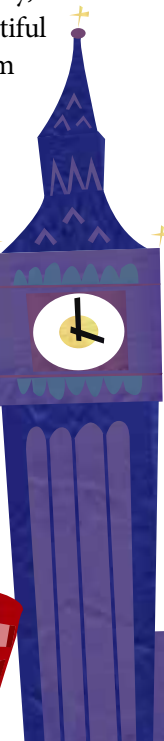
While visiting businesses and learning fundamental aspects of PR and journalism was an important part of studying in London, it wasn't all work and no play. In fact, a majority of the trip was spent with daily tube trips to the ever-bustling nooks and crannies of the famous city and spontaneous trips to other parts of England and France that allowed us to comprehend the immense cultural differences between people in each seemingly similar place.

We saw Big Ben and watched it shrink from atop the London Eye, explored the eccentric Westminster Abbey, and even watched the changing of the guards at the beautiful Buckingham Palace. We saw colorful petals falling from trees, confessions of love on assorted padlocks, and people holding hands in gravel streets and sipping cappuccinos in golden trimmed cafes as we moseyed along the streets of Paris.

This trip has become a catalyst for what will hopefully be many more adventures abroad to come. It's fueled a dulled flame I've always felt deep in my belly and fed my desire to see anything and everything in this absurd, heartbreaking, marvelous world. For me, it's real now, no longer just pictures in a storybook or words on a page, and every single day I carry the memories I made on our journey, holding on to them tightly, keeping them safe in the back of my mind, forever alive and always close to my heart. 🇬🇧

# STUDENTS

*In the College of Liberal Arts, students are actively involved in applying what they learn through research, internships, and even studying abroad. All of these experiences help students develop necessary skills for real-world work situations and allows them to meet many new, interesting people in their chosen field.*



## ALCALÁ DE HENARES, SPAIN

**Emily Grace Bennett, Senior**  
Spanish-International Trade

*If you have the opportunity to study abroad, do it. Don't hold back or wait for a "better" opportunity, and don't be afraid of not knowing anybody before you go; I didn't know anyone beforehand, either. It's an experience that is unique to each individual, as we all go about it and spend our time abroad various ways. Whether you go for a summer or a semester, take the plunge, get out of your comfort zone, and go!*



## LONDON, ENGLAND

**Katie Beck, Senior**  
Public Relations

*My favorite part of being abroad was all of the wonderful people I met at the business visits, as well as the other Auburn PR students on the trip! The College of Liberal Arts is such a well-rounded experience. In what other college can you take a writing class and then a class on films? I love the depth that a liberal arts education has, as well as the wonderful professors and administrators who are there to help you learn and succeed.*



## MADRID, SPAIN

**Regan Bercher, Junior**  
Spanish & Marketing

*My favorite part of studying abroad was meeting so many new people, not only the 43 other Auburn students who attended the trip, but also our host families, the teachers from our school in Madrid, and even the everyday encounters with the locals around the city. The days when I got to know the grandmother of our host family or a friendly Madrilleno at a restaurant are memories I know I will treasure for years to come.*



## PARIS, FRANCE

**Mason Langenbach, Senior**  
French & Communication

*My favorite part about studying abroad was meeting all sorts of people from all over the world. I met people from China, Taiwan, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Slovakia, Egypt, and many other places. It never ceased to amaze me how different we can all be and yet how similar we all are at the same time. Also, hearing foreign accents in the wild is always enjoyable.*



## VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**Courtney Hewitt, Junior**  
French & German

*I learned that history does so much to shape a country and that it should be regarded as just as important as the present. I learned that adaptability and open-mindedness will help you in almost every situation to flourish rather than falter. I learned how to balance classroom study with real-world experience, to be unafraid in the face of communication barriers, and to take advantage of every opportunity presented because you never know what you might learn.*



## ROME, ITALY

**Rachel Little, Senior**  
Fine Art

*I learned that I'm more independent than I thought! There's nothing like leaving the continent with a group of strangers to reveal who you really are. I also learned a lot about finding the beauty in every situation, and I picked up some new ways of doing things and a new way of looking at the world, only to be reminded that people are not that different after all.*



## BEIJING, CHINA

**Matt Levy**  
Economics/East Asian Studies (Chinese Language & Culture)

*If any of y'all have an opportunity to go abroad, take it. It's worth it. It's worth every penny to be able to walk places where only emperors have walked, to try food you won't find anywhere else, to drink beer that is crafted in a way that just warms the soul, to climb mountains and see the sunrise over the Great Wall, to be with people you'll never meet anywhere else, and to potentially meet someone that will become a friend for life. You've nothing to lose and everything to gain. Go see the world for what it is. I promise you, it's far more beautiful than you can ever imagine.*



# Adventures Abroad

The College of Liberal Arts encourages students to fly out of their comfort zones and take off into a different world by studying abroad. There are a multitude of rewarding programs that give students an unbelievable opportunity to immerse themselves within an unfamiliar culture. Over 200 students study abroad every summer in locations ranging from Europe to Asia to South America and more. Public relations and journalism students spent two weeks venturing through London to explore businesses and PR firms relevant to their majors. The Department of English featured a program in England where they sent 21 students to Central London to study at Regent's University. Students in the Department of Foreign Languages continue to study and master new languages in Costa Rica, Spain, France, and many more. Our Community and Civic Engagement Initiative established internship programs in Beijing, Dublin, and London, and all Auburn students can take advantage of CLA exchange programs in Catania, Italy, and Paris. The College of Liberal Arts offers programs for all kinds of interests that allow students to learn, adapt, and appreciate the differences that exist in various cultures.





## SINGING OVERSEAS

by Anna Beth Jager

IT WAS A SUMMER OF SINGING SONGS AND ABROAD adventures for the Auburn University Singers who traveled across Belgium, France, Germany, and Austria to perform for eager audiences around the world. With an eclectic show of music ranging from Broadway to current radio chart-toppers, the AU Singers never fail to bring an awesome, upbeat performance with an incredibly talented group of Auburn students who are always appropriately clad in navy blue outfits and burnt orange sequins.

While abroad, the AU Singers performed six times, starting with international schools and large groups of students in Waterloo, on to a women's shelter in downtown Paris, and then for the U.S. Consulate General of Strasbourg. They also dazzled the U.S. Consulate General in Munich at the Black Box theatre and sang for passerbys in Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg.

Steven Seidband, a senior and third-year AU Singer, noted the similarities between audiences at home and the ones they experienced abroad. While an obvious language barrier existed, Seidband said every performance was met with equal enthusiasm. He explained, "As cliché as it may sound, music is a universal language. Whether they understood what we were singing or not, the audiences abroad appreciated the singing and dancing just as much as our audiences here in Auburn or elsewhere in the States."

While in Belgium, the group had the unique opportunity of staying with one of the singer's parents and friends who currently live outside of Brussels. For every other city, they stayed in hotels,



giving them a chance to explore on their days off. The group traveled to historic landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, Pompidou Centre, the Marienplatz, Allianz Arena, and many more. They also snacked on authentic Belgian Nutella waffles, visited the birthplace of Mozart, and explored the Mirabell Gardens, a place famous for its appearance in the film *The Sound of Music*.

While the sights were unforgettable, AU Singers' director of eight years, Dr. Dale Farmer, said there were many other factors that made the trip memorable. He explained, "This was the first time I had traveled to Europe as conductor of the Singers. That, along with the tremendous support from the university and other individuals and the fact that almost all of the group was able to go, made the trip special."

Kathryn Boswell, a senior who has been an AU Singer for two years, agreed with Farmer. "My

favorite part of our trip was getting to travel all over Western Europe with my best friends. Every second we spend together is precious to me, and getting to experience all of the fun things we did abroad together was the best part." Boswell also noted that the group sang along sidewalks, on buses, and even in the metro where locals watched with delight, some even recording them. She explained that the Singers operate together like a well-oiled machine as everyone has their own unique jobs to make the group the best it can be.

Their constant upbeat, jubilant nature demonstrates that the AU Singers are not only performers, but lifelong friends as well, and for them friendship doesn't stop after graduation. In fact, according to Mary Katherine Smith, a junior and third-year AU Singer, it's a bond she expects will stick around for a lifetime. She said, "Last year, I saw at our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion that it's not something that ends after college. There were people who came to the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion who were in the group 20 years ago, and they came back and picked up exactly where they left off. I really look forward to that!"

Boswell agreed wholeheartedly, believing that 20 years from now, memories of their summer tour will be at the forefront of her mind. This camaraderie and family-oriented attitude keeps the AU Singers a tight-knit, focused group that continues to wow audiences from places overseas to right back here in Auburn. Seidband reiterated this long-lasting familial bond: "AU Singers is a family, and it's my family away from home. AU Singers is certainly what I will remember most when I leave Auburn, and it will certainly be a reason that I come back again and again." 📍

## SUMMER ON THE HILL

by Anna Beth Jager



Over the past few months, we've watched many new political and social events unfold behind a TV screen from the comfort of our living rooms. But for Auburn University senior Elliott Lynn, the action was right in his backyard.

Lynn spent his summer interning at the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. This office functions as a liaison between Congress and the White House and seeks to further the President's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill. From drafting memos to conducting research on the legislative history of members of Congress to tracking and summarizing legislation making its way through the House, an average day for Lynn varied depending on a wide variety of tasks assigned by his superiors.

And while there was plenty of work to be done, there were always opportunities for fun, too. In fact, Lynn had multiple memorable experiences while living in D.C. as huge social and political events took place. Lynn said his favorite part was experiencing the Fourth of July firsthand within our nation's capital. "While this wasn't my first Fourth of July in the nation's capital, I was lucky enough to experience the festivities this year while volunteering on the South Lawn of the White House. I helped serve food to hundreds of military families and watched the fireworks over the Washington Monument. I can't imagine possibly having a better Independence Day."

Like many Auburn students, Lynn started his college career unsure of what his future might hold. Deciding on a major is a stressful process, but Lynn's journey was made easier by his professors and advisors in the College of Liberal Arts. "My decision to major in political science and pursue my dream of attending law school was inspired by classes like American Government with Dr. Paul Harris and Constitutional Law with Dr. Steve Brown, and facilitated by the great advisors in CLA that guided my academic progress."

Lynn is also a member of the College of Liberal Arts Student Eminent Society (SES), which is a select group of liberal arts undergraduate students that serve as official hosts and hostesses for CLA events throughout the academic year. Through SES and his summer internship, Lynn is presented with real-life challenges which expand and utilize the knowledge he has gained through his liberal arts education. As he begins his senior year, Lynn is proud to be a part of the College of Liberal Arts: "My grandparents met in Tichenor Hall, after all, and I can't wait to continue representing CLA through the Student Eminent Society." 📍

## PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM OFFERS TOP-NOTCH TRAINING

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL

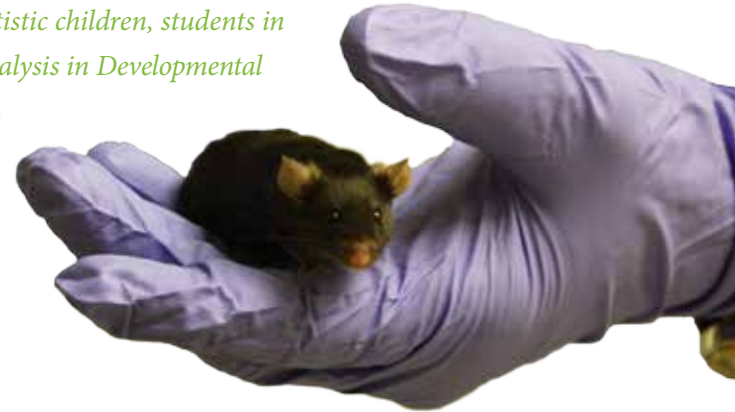
*From analyzing lab mice to providing therapy for autistic children, students in the Department of Psychology's Applied Behavior Analysis in Developmental Disabilities (ABA) graduate program receive top-notch training to become board-certified behavior analysts.*

The ten-year-old program currently boasts a 100% passing rate on the national Behavior Analysis Certification Board exam, while the national average is around 60%. Not only are the students excelling on the exam, but they are also succeeding in finding jobs post-graduation. With a 100% placement rate, graduates from the ABA program have proven to be assets for agencies across the country. This high placement rate results in part from the unique agency fellowships available to students. Students with fellowships receive tuition payment and a monthly stipend under the agreement that they will work for the sponsoring agency for one year immediately following graduation.

Students are trained to provide therapeutic techniques to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders to master new skills and reduce behavior problems.

In addition to a standard graduate course load, the students work 20 to 25 hours per week to fulfill the practicum component of the program. Practicum settings include The Little Tree Preschool in Auburn, an early intervention program for children with autism spectrum disorders; parent and in-home training for foster, adoptive, and birth families through the Department of Human Resources; and The Learning Tree in Tallassee, a school-based treatment facility for children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. An on-campus clinic housed in Cary Hall opened in fall 2013 that serves children in the community with problem behaviors or learning disabilities. This clinic is a fourth setting where students can gain practicum experience.

Allie Kane, a student in the ABA program spoke of her experience working at The Learning Tree: "Working with the students at The Learning Tree in Tallassee has really opened my eyes to the



many different types of consumers who can benefit from ABA services. I love knowing that, by teaching things like self care or vocational skills, we are able to increase the students' independence which becomes increasingly important as they get older and move on to different settings."

Assistant Professor Dr. Sacha Pence supports the practical experience that students gain: "We really try to integrate the classes and practicum experience so that the students can apply what they learn almost immediately. Providing them with real-world experience and feedback on their performance ensures they'll be prepared when they graduate."

Coming from Minnesota, Dr. John Rapp joined the Psychology Department in May 2013 as the ABA program director. When asked what attracted him to Auburn, he said, "There are two reasons—first, the reputation of the program and its tendency to attract highly professional students and second, the reputation of the institution itself. I'm very happy here so far, and I intend to continue to provide the same level of training that gave rise to the reputation of the program. In addition, I hope to strengthen and extend the presence of the program to the communities that surround Auburn University."

The ABA program is just one of four graduate programs in the Psychology Department that contributed to its 15<sup>th</sup> place ranking by [graduateprograms.com](http://graduateprograms.com). The list also included ivy-league schools such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. ①

## WAKE UP WITH CAROLINE

by Anna Beth Jager

Meet Caroline Harrell, a Macon, Georgia, native and Auburn University senior in radio, television and film who created and currently produces the popular show *Wake Up Auburn* on Eagle Eye TV. This summer, Harrell had the unique opportunity to apply what she's learned through the College of Liberal Arts and her time at Eagle Eye to an internship in the Live Programming Department at The Weather Channel in the heart of Atlanta.



*"My experience at The Weather Channel (TWC) was amazing, fulfilling, and so eye-opening. It prepared me for the real world in so many ways, both personally and professionally. I got the opportunity to work on Wake Up With Al, which is produced by Stephen Neslage, an Auburn and Liberal Arts alum. Hearing Al Roker read what I wrote on national television from 30 Rock in New York was one of the most rewarding things I have experienced. This internship wouldn't have been possible without the knowledge and experience I gained from my professors in RTVF and Eagle Eye TV. Thanks to my position at Eagle Eye, I felt as if I was totally prepared for my internship and had the ability to do well. My internship opened so many doors for my career and taught me so much about the industry, both the glamorous and not so glamorous parts. I can't thank Auburn, the College of Liberal Arts, and Eagle Eye TV enough for giving me the tools I needed to succeed and go after what I love!"*

### COMPILING

### A COLLEGE

### CAREER

by Anna Beth Jager

In the past, applying for jobs involved mailing hard-copy résumés, personal clippings, and written letters to potential employers. This traditional, time-consuming, and environmentally unfriendly application process has been replaced by creating an online presence through portfolios or websites. Auburn University recognizes this shift in the job-seeking process and plans to utilize the internet's usefulness through the new ePortfolio project.

The ePortfolio project started due to a national survey studying student engagement that asked Auburn students questions about their learning experiences at college. There were certain things that Auburn students stated they were doing a lot less of, which included compiling a cumulative portfolio of work from different courses.

Digital Art Professor Jessye McDowell is one of the faculty members and brains behind the ePortfolio project at Auburn. She stresses the importance of every student having a foundational technological background and online presence before leaving college: "Employers in all disciplines are moving away from paper résumés and portfolios and increasingly using applicants' online presence to gauge the suitability of potential employees. The more that young graduates can shape their online identities to represent their strengths, interests, and achievements, the more likely it is that they will find success in a job they enjoy."

Scott Dukes, a senior majoring in English literature, is also heavily involved with the project as he was selected to be a part of Auburn's ePortfolio Ambassador Program. He explained, "In short, as ePortfolio Ambassadors, we are responsible for both promoting the project to students and faculty and helping them in the ePortfolio creation process. In addition to promoting the project as a whole, we will be assisting in workshops and classes designed either to help students create an ePortfolio or to educate and instruct faculty."

Laura Elmer, the Assistant Director of the Office of University Writing who is in charge of the project, believes that ePortfolios are not only a way to help students get jobs, but they also provide an outlet for students to reflect on their academic career. She explained, "It's really important to understand what you've learned. I think it's very rare that students are pushed to ask why is this important or how am I going to take this into the real world? An employer may never look at the link, but the fact that you've thought through what you've learned while at Auburn and why it has changed who you are, and having the ability to articulate that, is probably the most important thing."

**ePORTFOLIO PROJECT**



# ALUMNI

*Let's face it: liberal arts alumni are the best Auburn alumni around. From dominating forces in businesses and organizations across the country to success stories from recent graduates, our alumni are making a name for themselves and leading the way for innovative professional initiatives.*



## THE HOME DEPOT: AN AUBURN JOURNEY

by Vicky Santos

**W**e recently met Auburn alumnus Marc Powers, Senior Vice President of Operations for The Home Depot, in his Atlanta, Georgia, office and listened as he relived his favorite Auburn experiences. In his modest office was a basic setup—a desk, a computer and screen, a telephone, a chair, a small round table to meet at, and a few personal items on display. Among those personal items were family photos and the Auburn Creed.

“One of my favorite things about Auburn is the creed,” Powers said. Powers graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication from Auburn University in 1984 and has been with The Home Depot for 27 years. He came to Auburn with the possibility of playing football as a walk-on and left Auburn with the intentions and training to become a sports broadcaster.

“Growing up, I was all into different sports,” Powers, a Ft. Lauderdale native, said. “I was interested in and passionate about athletics, and my mother was a high school drama teacher for years and years, so I was always going to the plays and productions that she was putting on.” And that’s how he came up with the idea to become a sports broadcaster. But when Powers graduated and began working in broadcasting, he found he wasn’t able to financially support himself. After working three years and multiple jobs at a time to make ends meet, Powers said he had enough and moved back home with his parents in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to try and find a broadcast position in a bigger market. His family welcomed

him back initially, but after a while had a life-changing discussion with him.

“They came to me and said, ‘we paid for your education, and we’d like to see some return on our investment, even if it means you’re just paying rent, starting Monday,’” Powers said. “So I ran out and started looking for a job and found a place called The Home Depot. They hired me on the spot because my family had a plumbing background, and they needed someone with plumbing experience. I went home and my parents asked, ‘Do you have a job to help pay the rent?’ And I said, ‘Absolutely, it’s called The Home Depot,’ and they said, ‘What’s a Home Depot?’ and I said, ‘I have no idea, but they hired me.’ So I started working at The Home Depot while still kind of looking for a broadcasting position. After a while, I stopped looking.”

Powers said his parents were surprised to learn that he had worked so hard to earn a college degree and then took a job working in a warehouse.

treating people according to the Auburn Creed as a basis for his success. “I keep the creed on my desk here, and I would say those are the things (students) should be concerned about—be true to the things the creed talks about, and just be a good person.”

Powers decided to attend Auburn while he was out touring other colleges with his father. Powers had received a few scholarship offers to play Division 2 football. While they were on their way back to Florida from visiting those colleges, Powers’ father suggested making a stop in Auburn even though he wasn’t offered a scholarship there. “As soon as we drove onto campus, I fell in love with it,” Powers said. “I had a game film of myself in hand and went over and talked to the coach at the time who said that all the scholarships were handed out, but he’d love to have me as a walk on and see where it progresses from there. So we left, had conversations with my dad all the way home and decided you know what—first, I loved the campus,

**"I TALK TO 300,000 ASSOCIATES ONCE A WEEK, AND ANYTIME I CAN, AND DEFINITELY DURING FOOTBALL SEASON, I GIVE A WAR EAGLE ON THE AIR."**

“No one dreams of wearing an orange apron and working in a dirty warehouse selling hammers,” Powers said. “That wasn’t the plan!”

But over the years, Powers has put the communication skills he acquired to excellent use and rose through the ranks at The Home Depot. Powers credits his liberal arts background and

loved the feel, seemed like the place I wanted to spend the next four years, and second, I knew I was probably not going to progress playing college ball, so I wanted to concentrate on academics and the social life at Auburn. So that’s how I wound up at Auburn, and looking back, it was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

Powers is the only one in his family to ever attend Auburn. He said he’s not sure how his father knew so much about it or that they were even close to the campus during their travels.

When asked if he has a favorite memory at Auburn, Powers said he has a story he loves to tell his kids about fellow Auburn alumnus Bo Jackson. “My most memorable experiences revolve around sports and the athletes who were on campus at the time—Lionel James, Bo Jackson, and Charles Barkley,” Powers said.

Powers said he was a spectator at every athletic event Auburn offered. His favorite story was a track meet he attended featuring Bo Jackson and Herschel Walker. “Somehow I finagled my way down to the in field as they were about to do the 100-yard sprint. Herschel Walker was on the inside lane with Bo Jackson in the lane right next to him. I was very close to the track to get a good view, and when they came running down the track, they were running right at me. They were the two biggest human beings I’d ever seen! I’ve never seen anyone, let alone two people, move that fast in my entire life! Here are these two, huge men moving incredibly fast right at me, and I ended up taking a few steps back because it was so intimidating as they were coming down the track,” Powers recalled excitedly. “It’s one of the stories I tell my kids whenever Bo or Herschel come up.”

Powers’ love of Auburn sports is still evident and on display at The Home Depot. He has Tigers themed aprons hung up and framed in his conference room, and he engages his coworkers and employees in some good-natured jabs about their favorite teams.

As Senior VP of Operations, Powers addresses all of The Home Depot associates across the country every Monday to discuss priorities and financial goals for the week through a live, televised broadcast. Giving a speech each week in a television studio is another way Powers has utilized his communication degree.

“I talk to 300,000 associates once a week, and anytime I can, and definitely during football season, I give a War Eagle on the air, and I get in all sorts of emails and responses from all over the country all week long,” Power said. “Who would have thought that somehow I would be leveraging my Auburn education in a retail environment, but it has helped me all along the way achieve so many things and develop those all-important interpersonal skills and relationships with my teams. I don’t think I would be where I am if it wasn’t for Auburn, that’s for sure.”

After we left Powers’ office, we drove to a nearby Home Depot. His interpersonal skills were on clear display as he greeted every associate and customer while we walked through the store. Powers’ associate, Mimi Parks, tasked us with the chore of making Powers go back to his office after we were done filming. We mostly thought she was joking, but after seeing him interact with everyone and stop to help a few customers, it was clear that he loves working the floor of The Home Depot.

As we returned Powers to his office and it was time to close our interview, he gave us a jubilant “War Eagle! War Damn Eagle!” and added, “I’ve been out of Auburn for a long time, but Auburn is not out of me whatsoever.”



# Our Kind of Town

BY | VICKY SANTOS

One of the many perks of interviewing our alumni is the opportunity to occasionally travel to their surroundings and experience the local ambiance. In July, we traveled to Chicago to meet with four of our successful alumni. Joining me on this trip were Adriene C. Simon, our photographer and graphic designer, Scott Waters, our multimedia content producer, and Alessio Summerfield, our student videographer. Waters and Summerfield found the best places to set up the lights, cameras, and audio gear, and monitored the interviews so that they captured the best of every interview. Adriene worked with our alumni to get their photos and helped decide on background aesthetics, while I conducted the interviews. Even though Chicago is almost 800 miles north of Auburn, we felt very connected to home because the Auburn spirit was everywhere we went, thanks to our gracious hosts!

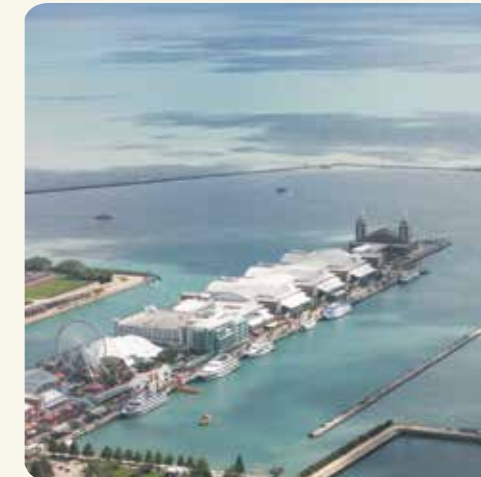
## Ashley Baxter

The first person we met with during our trip to Chicago was Ashley Baxter, a 2011 political science graduate. Baxter is currently an assistant account executive at the international public relations firm, Fleishman Hillard. On the 37<sup>th</sup> floor of the Aon Center, we were able to get a peek into the operation where Baxter coordinates and arranges itineraries for reporters and writers from all the over the world who are assigned to come to Illinois. She accompanies the journalists on their expeditions and ensures that the

writers experience the best the state has to offer. The writers then return to their home country and recount their experience in their respective publications.

Seeing Baxter in her office, I think back to the first time I met her. She was a student interviewing for the College's Student Eminent Society (SES), and as one of the advisors to the group, I have the distinct pleasure of meeting our candidates. Baxter was not only a natural choice to be selected as a member, she went on to serve as president of the SES her senior year. I recall her leadership style and her professional demeanor at every SES meeting and event she attended. It was clear to me in 2010 that Baxter would be an asset to our organization, and it is a source of pride to know that a reputable, international firm such as Fleishman Hillard shares that same conclusion.

In recalling her time at Auburn, Baxter says that one of her most memorable moments involved her experience with Auburn alumni. "I have many fond memories of my time at Auburn," Baxter said, "but as a student watching the RVs roll on to campus on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday before a game showed me how much the Auburn family really supports each other."



Baxter said there is a common thread of family in Chicago, too, which is why she feels she is still connected to Auburn. “Everyone here is so friendly,” Baxter said. “You really feel that sense of camaraderie, and it makes the Midwest feel like the Southeast. Except for the winters, of course.”



### David P. Jones

The next stop on the alumni interview trail was David P. Jones, legal analyst for the Exelon Corporation, the nation’s leading competitive energy provider.

Jones, a 1998 political science graduate, helped arrange interview space for us in a beautiful meeting room overlooking Lake Michigan. He would later be joined by his wife, Jenna, to recount his favorite Auburn memory. Even though she is not an Auburn alumna, she is keenly aware of how special Auburn University is to her husband, and as a Christmas present in 2010, she bought him tickets to the National Championship in Arizona.

“It was such a surprise,” Jones said. “She had been asking me about getting a Christmas tree, and I didn’t really want to because we were going to be travelling for the holidays, but I finally decided I would go and get one. She hands me some gloves and says, ‘ok, good, I bought you some gloves for handling the tree’ and when I put my hand in there, the tickets were there.” Jones says it was a gift of a lifetime. “We all stayed until the end of the game, and there wasn’t a dry eye around us,” Jones recalled.

In addition to enjoying Auburn athletics, Jones says his liberal arts background prepared him for his journey to becoming a legal analyst. “I didn’t end up going to law school, and I would like for students to know that there are other careers in the legal profession that do not require a law degree,” Jones said.

Jones said he comes back to Auburn whenever he can. He loves to show his wife around Auburn’s campus and

regales in his student, and now alumni, experience. “Auburn is a special place,” Jones said, “and I enjoy getting to share that with my wife.”

### Trina Gordon

Next, we met with Trina Gordon, President and CEO of Boyden World Corporation, a global executive search firm. Gordon’s office also had an amazing view of the city. While Waters and Summerfield transformed her office into a perfect interview space and Simon took Gordon to get some photos, I marveled at her Auburn paraphernalia, which Gordon’s assistant, Alicia, said is always there—that it wasn’t just put out for our visit. Gordon was on the cover of a Chicago business magazine, and her walls were covered with diplomas and awards.

Gordon has a dynamic and energetic personality, and she became extra-animated when talking about her experience at Auburn. Gordon, ’75, said she loves horses and started off at Auburn intending to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.

“I grew up loving animals, horses in particular, and wanted to become an equine veterinarian,” Gordon recalls. “I came to Auburn after visiting the campus with my dad and loved it, so I came in as a pre-vet major. After some of the course work, I began to realize that I didn’t have the constitution to be on the invasive side of vet med.” So Gordon said she changed her major to political science and maintains her love of horses through personal involvement.



After our interview, Gordon took us (Simon and me) to the top floor of the Aon Center, which is home to the Mid-America Club. She gave us access to fantastic views and informed us that we were in the third tallest building in Chicago. Listening to Gordon point out the various attractions and views from the 83<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Aon Center, it was clear that she is just as passionate about Chicago as she is about Auburn.

“I’m always very pleased and proud when people come to visit Chicago,” Gordon said. “They get to experience the openness of the people, the diversity, and the culture. It’s a beautiful city that sits on a waterfront with world-class institutions and restaurants and theatre, but most importantly I come back to the people. And those are just some of the reasons I love Chicago.” Gordon said that even though there are about seven million people living in Chicago, it has the feel of a small hometown.

### Don Moseley

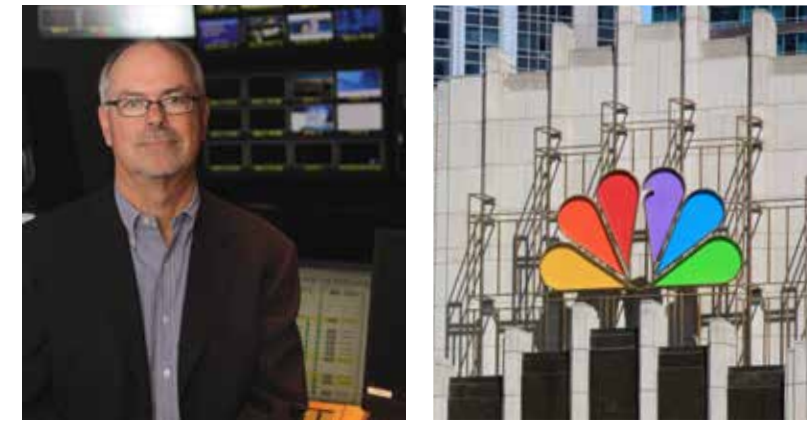
Our final interview took us to NBC5 studios where we met with Don Moseley, a 1973 speech communication graduate. Moseley is a producer with NBC’s political and investigative news bureau and has been with NBC since 2004. Impressively, Moseley won a Peabody award for a documentary he was involved in that was nearly 15 years in the making. It started in 1983 when a child named Joel was left burned and disfigured by a terrible car accident in New Hampshire. After dozens of successful surgeries over the years, Joel grew up and found love and passion in being a minister. What he didn’t find was the person responsible for the accident. That changed in 1998 when the man who drove the truck was located, and a court case ensued.

“Joel and his family had their day of reckoning as they faced the person who caused the accident,” Moseley said. “I am incredibly fortunate and humbled to have been there for that day.”

Moseley’s passion for news and storytelling was refined during his years at Auburn. Moseley recalled one project in particular that has guided his career. “Mr. Lowe was my journalism professor, and the assignment he had given me was to go to the library to find a book that had the answers to the assignment,” Moseley said.

Moseley went to the library, only to find the book had been checked out. “So the next class, Mr. Lowe called on me and I said, ‘I’m sorry I don’t have my assignment done because the book I needed was checked out,’” he said.

Moseley recalled that Mr. Lowe turned his back to the classroom and wrote two words on the blackboard: Be resourceful. “He turned around and looked at me, and in front of the whole class, he said, ‘Mr. Moseley, be resourceful,’ and that lesson has stayed with me to this very day,” Moseley said.



While a student, Moseley was one of the first news directors of WEGL, the campus radio station. One of his responsibilities in this role was introducing guests to campus. During his senior year, Mohammed Ali came to speak at Auburn. Moseley coordinated with one of Ali’s assistants ahead of time, and the assistant made it very clear that Ali was to be given 30 minutes for questions and answers and then Ali had to leave for another engagement.

“I was told, explicitly, that we could have Ali’s time from 5 to 5:30, that’s it, and then he had other places he needed to be,” Moseley recalled. “So I introduced him and then at 5:27, I walked up next to him and said, ‘I’m sorry ladies and gentlemen, we only have time for one more question.’”

That, according to Moseley, did not go over well with Ali. “Ali turned and looked at me and said, ‘Boy, don’t you ever tell me how much time I have!’” With that, Moseley said that Ali turned to him, grabbed him up by the lapels of his coat, and carried him off stage. “He set me down, patted me on the chest, smiled and said (in a whisper), ‘Are you ok?’”

**"HE TURNED AROUND AND LOOKED AT ME, AND IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE CLASS HE SAID, 'MR. MOSELEY, BE RESOURCEFUL,' AND THAT LESSON HAS STAYED WITH ME TO THIS VERY DAY."**

Moseley said he could barely mutter out a response, and Ali nodded and headed back out on stage, where he took a few more questions and left. “And THAT,” he said, “is my favorite Auburn story.”

To hear more from our Chicago alumni stories, please visit our YouTube channel [youtube.com/AULiberalArts](https://www.youtube.com/AULiberalArts). 📺

# Cubicle Chronicles:

## Internships Offer Opportunities for Young Alumni

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL

Many college students envision their upcoming futures in a corner office at a well-paying job with picturesque views of busy city streets, seas of people, and skyscrapers exuding productivity.

Then, reality hits. In order to make this vision come true, they find themselves scouring for internships, working in a cubicle, and barely making minimum wage, if they are lucky enough to receive a paycheck at all. While internships may seem like a drag at first, they often prove to be great learning experiences and résumé-builders, both of which attract potential employers. Internships provide the experience necessary to land permanent positions, and they offer opportunities to network with management and other up-and-coming professionals.

The most common predicament recent graduates encounter is the work experience section of job postings. Even students with experience as a student intern face the challenges of work experience requirements for permanent, full-time positions. Many employers seek to hire people who have at least a year of relevant work experience, oftentimes not from internships or student worker jobs. Students are left wondering, “How do I get experience if I can’t get hired in the first place?” After four or five years spent in undergrad, working as an intern with a bachelor’s degree is not ideal. However, post-graduate internships have become much more popular, and many lead to full-time positions with the company upon completion of the internship.

Addye Buckley-Burnell, Assistant Director of Career Development for the Auburn University Career Center, offered valuable insight from her experience working with graduating seniors and employers. She stated, “Employers want applicants

with relevant work experience and even with an internship or two during college, an applicant may be competing with 100-200 others with similar credentials. Completing a post-graduate internship can give you the extra level of experience and commitment an employer is looking for in a new employee.”

Buckley-Burnell continued, “In addition to relevant experience, taking advantage of internships while in college and after can provide networking contacts, references, job leads, and even a higher starting salary. The National Association of Colleges and Employers recently reported that those who complete at least one internship (in college or after) are earning on average \$6,000-7,000 higher starting salaries than those who do not intern.”

Lauren Berger, Chief Executive Officer of InternQueen.com and author of *All Work No Pay*, visited Auburn in April to offer students advice on internships. As a former intern herself, Berger understands the necessity of gaining experience through internships and promotes internships through her website and blog. She advertises large companies like Disney, Time Warner, and NCAA, which are known for their internship programs, both undergraduate and post-graduate.

Many recent CLA graduates have witnessed firsthand the promise of both undergraduate and post-graduate internships. We had the opportunity to reach out to several CLA young alumni who personally experienced the power of internships. Stephen Sprayberry and Kaitlyn Rush both worked as interns during undergrad and then received full-time positions upon graduation. Gabrielle Hoyt and Morgan Seeley, on the other hand, interned after graduation before receiving their full-time positions.



**Stephen Sprayberry '11**  
Public Relations  
Account Associate  
Williams Mills Agency

*Because I was 100% exposed to the good, the bad, and the ugly that the PR industry may throw at me, my transition from intern to full-time employee was exceptionally smooth and allowed me to quickly move up from an entry-level employee (account coordinator) to an account associate before the end of my first year. Without being given the opportunity to fully immerse myself in agency life, I feel certain that my transition to a full-time employee would have been a much more time intensive process and would have prevented me from taking on more challenging clients and assignments. While nearly two years later my skill-set as a PR professional has definitely grown, I still encounter some of the same things I handled as an intern and apply what I learned then to my current work.*



**Morgan Seeley '12**  
Public Relations  
Partnership Coordinator  
American Junior Golf  
Association

*The company that I interned with solely hires out of the internship program, so if I wanted a full-time position with them it was an experience that I needed to go through. I am so glad that I did because not only did I get to spend three months after graduation traveling the West Coast, I got some great experience. I got to network with a lot of people in various industries, and it helped me understand how to best manage business relationships in my current position as a partnership coordinator. That experience gave me a lot of confidence to bring into my daily interaction with our partners. My advice to current undergraduates is do as many internships as you can! I did four different internships while I was in college, so when I was ready to apply for full-time positions, employers were really impressed by the diversity in my résumé.*



**Gabrielle Hoyt '12**  
Public Relations  
Assistant Account Executive  
Edelman

*Because of the amazing experience I got as CLA's PR intern working on publications (like the Perspectives magazine), I was awarded the runner up for the Daniel J. Edelman/PRSSA Outstanding Student in Public Relations, a national award given yearly by Edelman and the PRSSA. Because of this award, I got my internship at Edelman, and I know I wouldn't have been a contender without my experience from my CLA internship. Currently, I am an assistant account executive at Edelman's Atlanta office. I have gotten a taste of a variety of PR accounts and clients, ranging from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies. Edelman's core value of 'entrepreneurialism' has certainly struck a chord with me, and I look forward to continuing to explore new areas of PR throughout my career with the firm.*



**Kaitlyn Rush '13**  
Health Services Administration  
Administrative Assistant  
Sibley Memorial Hospital  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

*As an intern at Johns Hopkins Hospital, I worked in the Department of Medical Affairs and Operations Integration; both departments essentially work together and are responsible for the operations that take place within the hospital. I was also able to work on various projects in other departments within the hospital. This allowed me to gain further knowledge of the hospital overall, and it also allowed me to learn how to work efficiently with various levels of management. By applying what I learned from my internship, I was able to deliver a set of skills, qualities, and knowledge for my current position as Administrative Assistant to the Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Director of the Office of External Affairs for Sibley Memorial Hospital of Johns Hopkins Medicine.*



# RESEARCH & OUTREACH

*In support of Auburn University's research mission, the College of Liberal Arts encourages students and faculty to engage in creative and innovative research projects to promote academic excellence and enrichment. Liberal arts faculty and students are also committed to furthering outreach initiatives that extend their influence outside of the Auburn community.*

## ART IN ANTARCTICA

BY | ANNA BETH JAGER

Whether we realize it or not, art plays an enormous role in all of our lives. From graffiti emblazoned on city walls and flowers lining busy highways to flyers hanging outside classrooms, art surrounds us everywhere we go. Even when we were kids, art was a powerful force, expanding our imaginations and allowing us to release creativity through Lego towers, fingerpaintings, building blocks, and etch-a-sketches. There were unconventional outlets, too, like flower bracelets, grass whistles, and even mud pies.

Auburn University art professor Allyson Comstock found her creative outlet in scrap lumber, leaves, bricks, and anything else she could find in her backyard. She recalled, "I was always a creative child. I was always making things. My father owned a remodeling business, so we had a lot of scrap lumber and things in our backyard. A lot of my creativity came out in the way I played, like building things out of wood and creative sort of activities that didn't cost money."

Comstock's desire to create art continued throughout her teens as she began taking art classes in high school and making crafts in her spare time. With a bachelor of arts in studio art from Occidental College and a master of fine arts from Arizona State University, Comstock has utilized her artistic gifts through many different mediums.

Comstock was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant through the Antarctic Artists and Writers Program. She is one of just two artists to be selected this year. She will travel to Antarctica for two months in October to work collaboratively with researchers at Palmer Station to create a set of 30 total drawings to represent the Antarctic environment.

Comstock, who has traveled to Antarctica in the past, fell in love with the beauty of the landscape. She recalled, "I went on an expedition cruise...and I took a lot of photographs that were typical tourist photographs. Then



I started culling through those, really selecting out specific photos that interested me. I talked to a researcher who spent 25 years in Antarctica doing his research and asked if he had any microscopic images that I could sort of correlate with the landscape views, and that was the spring board for the work," she said. "I executed the first drawing and then applied for the grant and was able to really articulate in a very specific way what the goals of the project would be while I'm there."

The majority of Comstock's work has landscape and environmental themes. Her projects show a deep appreciation for nature and the natural world we live in. She explained, "All of the work is centered around the environment and different ways of looking at the landscape. In this particular series, I'm looking at a micro and a macro view. It's really just about this idea of close observation where I'm walking out in nature, and I'm noticing details that might otherwise go unseen by most people because I'm sort of tuned that way, you know, to look really closely at things and to find the beauty that way."

As for the College of Liberal Arts, Comstock acknowledges the generous support for the arts as a whole. She said, "I think when you have that kind of support, it really triggers more commitment and harder work among the faculty. I have been grateful to know that the arts are appreciated." 📍



## CULTIVATING GROWTH: Mt. Meigs Offers Redemption for Teen Boys

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL

*Dr. Barry Burkhart, professor in the Department of Psychology, has been instrumental in helping young men convicted of sexual offenses overcome their sexual issues through the Accountability Based Sex Offender Program (ABSOP) at the Mt. Meigs Complex in Mt. Meigs, Alabama.*

About 30 miles west of the Loveliest Village on the Plains stretching across 780 acres of land sits the Mt. Meigs Complex. The property houses a juvenile correctional facility for teenage boys who have been convicted of sexual offenses and seek to improve their lives through the Accountability Based Sex Offender Program (ABSOP). The program was founded by the College of Liberal Arts' own Dr. Barry Burkhart of the Psychology Department and Dr. Raymond Sumrall of the University of Alabama's School of Social Work, in partnership with the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS). In fall 2013, DHS and the Department of Psychology renewed their \$1.8 million annual contract for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, making it one of Auburn's largest outreach contracts. Recently, ABSOP received the Exemplary Programs Best Practices Award from the American Correctional Association (ACA) Division of Juvenile Justice Agencies.

Burkhart and Sumrall began the ABSOP pilot program with 36 boys in 2004 to fulfill a state mandate requiring that DHS provide all juvenile sex offenders with professional psychological treatment. DHS did not have enough internal resources to provide adequate treatment, so they enlisted the help of Burkhart and Sumrall to develop resources to meet the mandate's requirements. They first worked within the agency to supplement existing efforts, but then decided that their own programs could be more effective. The pilot program would be a more intensive, milieu model in which the primary goal would be to change

the boys' developmental course.

After the pilot program proved successful, DHS asked Burkhart and Sumrall to take over all the programs in 2006. Since ABSOP's establishment, nearly 1,000 teenage boys have gone through the program. In recent years, the re-arrest rate for sex offenses has declined to 4%, meaning 96% of young men treated did not get arrested two years after completing the program.

"The scientific value of the study is that we now know that it's entirely possible to successfully treat juveniles who have sex offenses," Burkhart said. Burkhart continued to explain that most of the boys come from environments where they have been sexually abused or have insufficient parental supervision. By participating in ABSOP, they receive education and treatment intended to enhance their understanding of human sexuality and their own development.

Burkhart credits the success of ABSOP to the comprehensive database of pre- and post-test evaluation codes. The evaluations result in approximately 3,000 variables for each boy. Dr. Burkhart explained the significance of their evaluation method: "We can compare their pre-treatment to their post-treatment results. That's part of the systematic work we do in evaluating the program, and that's what the American Correctional Association identified as one of the unique strengths [of ABSOP]. There's probably nobody else in the country who does as inclusive and broad an evaluation as we do."

Not only has ABSOP proven beneficial for troubled teens, but it has provided CLA


students with a rewarding learning experience. With an inadequate number of professionals available to provide treatment, Auburn students help fulfill treatment needs, while gaining valuable practical experience. Over the 10 years that ABSOP has existed, nearly 90 students have been trained to provide this type of treatment, expanding the network of professionals available in the community.

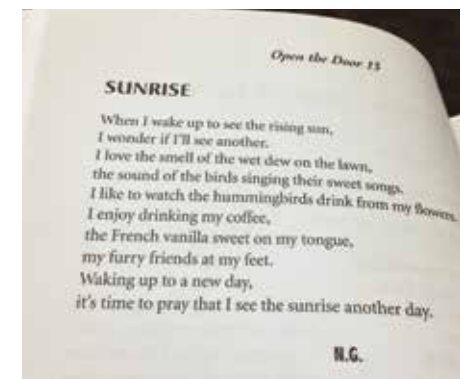
In addition to CLA faculty and students, Burkhart has established partnerships with other colleges to enhance the program's efforts. Dr. Margaret Keiley in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and her graduate students provide family therapy sessions at Mt. Meigs on Saturdays. Two years ago, the Psychology Department partnered with John Owens from the College of Agriculture to provide a garden on the facility's grounds.

Burkhart lightheartedly stated, "A lot of our kids are from urban areas, so they've never put their hands in the dirt other than to fall in it." He continued to explain that being able to take a seed, grow it in a little cup in their room, and then go out to plant it and watch it grow is very rewarding for the boys. Working in the garden gives them a project to cultivate and watch develop, helping them learn responsibility and caretaking skills.

Writing has proven to be another powerful therapeutic activity for the boys at Mt. Meigs. In partnership with the Alabama Writers' Forum, ABSOP brings in a published author to teach creative writing to the boys. They're encouraged to write about their own traumas, histories, and emotional experiences. At the end of each year, they publish an anthology of all the works written by the boys. Writing is very cathartic for the boys, and it has proven to be one of the most meaningful activities for them.

ABSOP provides the university with a rich training environment where students get the opportunity to serve and apply the skills they're learning in the classroom. The young men receive treatment by rising professionals who are passionate about what they do and truly care about their well-being. In the words of Burkhart, it's a "win-win situation."

For more information on ABSOP or Mt. Meigs, visit [dys.alabama.gov](http://dys.alabama.gov). 



>> At the end of each year, the Alabama Writers' Forum publishes the boys' poems and stories in an anthology titled *Open the Door* as part of the Writing Our Stories project.





Top: Detail from *Reverence*, 2003 archival inkjet prints 40"x155"  
 Middle: Detail from *The Beginning*, 2007 digital chromogenic prints 40"x96"  
 Bottom: Detail from *Untitled (Innocent)*, 2007 archival inkjet print 32"x25"

## CHUCK HEMARD: EXPLORING NATURE

BY | ANNA BETH JAGER

IN EVERY PERSON'S LIFE, THERE IS A DEFINING moment that serves as a spark, igniting individual desires to write or paint or save the world. It's a type of curiosity, a catalyst for passion. For Auburn University photography professor and studio artist Chuck Hemard, this curiosity sparked at an early age with simple snapshots of his mother's plants.

Hemard recalled, "I made pictures when I was a kid. I have these memories of my father making pictures of my mom's plants that didn't seem like snapshots. That peaked my curiosity."

Though he was interested early on, it wasn't until college that Hemard took his first serious photography class and truly discovered his love for the art. With a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of fine arts from the University of Georgia, Hemard captures portraits and landscapes that delve into the complexities of human nature and time. His work is nationally exhibited in places ranging from Atlanta to New Orleans to Ocala, Florida, and he has won multiple awards and research grants to further his work.

Hemard's current research project revolves around pockets of original or "old growth" stands of long leaf pine trees throughout the Southeast that have been transformed by the ecosystem and external factors creating an open, park-like existence. He explained, "As a studio art professor and a studio artist, our research is to make artwork

and then exhibit that artwork instead of publishing books or journal articles. Our exhibitions are our research."

His current project differs in its topical nature, meaning it's a very specific topic with extensive research about the ecosystem, natural history, and specific sites involved, giving a unique perspective on a seemingly simple subject.

Hemard said, "In general, sense of place and human interaction in the natural world are themes that have sort of united all the work that I've done. Past projects have been a little more open-ended."

When it comes to finding inspiration for these projects, Hemard relies heavily on spontaneity and intuitive reactions to his perception of the world. There are many aspects about capturing this inspiration behind a lens that photographers are most fond of, and Hemard had difficulty deciding which part was his favorite. "If you ask me that on different days I'd probably give you a bunch of different answers," he said, "but I think for me, I'm the type of photographer who sees the world as my studio, which is kind of an excuse to go learn about life and engage and connect with either people or places."

As a self-described "work-ethic man," Hemard constantly challenges himself and noted that many times good art looks effortless when hanging in galleries and museums, but often there's an exceptional amount of struggle and hard work

to get to that point. "You're never satisfied in some ways as an artist. One of my goals is to keep pushing forward and to keep making progress and developing ideas," Hemard admitted.

Hemard said the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) has provided him opportunities to pursue his passions and continue his research, which ultimately makes him a better teacher. "Quite honestly, when I chose to apply at Auburn, I was pretty attracted to the idea of being at a large research institution that supports faculty doing research because I'm going to be a better teacher if I have support to get out and do my practice. Then that's going to feed down to students and hopefully be infectious and pass on to them," he said. "I also just think that being in a college of liberal arts is interesting. There's a lot of overlap between things that you could be interested in making art about and things that you could study in other CLA disciplines. And I'm totally fascinated by that kind of interdisciplinary thinking and overlap."

With numerous successful works and many more to come, Hemard constantly delivers a fresh outlook to photography and never ceases to push his students to do their best. His unwavering dedication to the arts, his students, and his own projects is evident, and for any aspiring photographers or artists out there, Hemard left a simple piece of wisdom: "Follow your passions, he said. "That's my advice." 📍



## MEET DEREK POPE

by Victoria Mayhall

Derek Pope, second-year PhD student in the Department of Psychology's Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences program, recently received a \$20,000 fellowship from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) to further his research study on impulsive behavior. He sat down with me to explain his research and its implications for people with behavioral disorders.

*Q: What is the crux of your research project?*

*A:* The basic point of [this project] is to measure impulsive choice by genetically different mice. The way we measure impulsive choice with mice is by using a delay discounting task. During this task, the mice choose between a smaller reward (small amount of milk) immediately or a larger reward (large amount of milk) available after some delay. Impulsivity is defined as choosing the smaller reward more often as the delay to the larger increases. What we're interested in now is finding ways, both pharmacologically and non-pharmacologically, to change impulsive choice for these different mouse strains.

*Q: What do your findings mean for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder or addictions to drugs?*

*A:* So often impulsivity is thought of as an inherent trait of somebody, but the fact of the matter is most drug addicts or kids with ADHD aren't impulsive all the time. There are only certain situations in which they are, so we would like to tap into these context dependencies of impulsivity.

*Q: What is the next step for people with behavioral disorders based on your research?*

*A:* Most often in today's world, if someone has a problem the first thing to do is write a prescription for it. That is often justified for many medical issues, but frequently psychoactive drugs do not treat psychiatric or behavioral problems directly. We're looking for ways in which all of these things interact—the genes, the drugs, and the environment—on an individual basis.

*Q: What brought you to Auburn University from Virginia?*

*A:* Well, funny enough, three of my professors at James Madison University who got me interested in this type of research and who I owe everything to actually went to Auburn for grad school. One worked with Dr. Chris Newland and another with Dr. Bill Buskist, so they really encouraged me to come to Auburn. I owe a huge thanks to Dr. Newland, Dr. Blake Hutsell, and the other students who work in the lab for helping me get where I am.

# REACH. INVEST. EMPOWER.

BY | VICTORIA MAYHALL

Summertime for many college students is full of opportunity and relaxation, sunny days by the pool, a class or two to bide excessive free time, and maybe a part time job to make extra money. It can also be an opportunity to travel abroad and take on the world by studying a new culture or, like many Auburn students, serving and rebuilding struggling communities in places as far away as Guatemala, Haiti, and even Zimbabwe.

The opportunity to serve is a great one, but for some can be hard to manage, especially when it's based in another country. Fortunately, thanks to the College of Liberal Arts' Living Democracy project, you don't have to go abroad to live, learn, and work alongside others. The seven students involved spent their summers right here in the beautiful state of Alabama. Nothing says community and civic engagement like immersing oneself in a town for a few months to build relationships with citizens, assist in community projects, and collaborate with town administrators.

Launched in 2011, the year-long Living Democracy project brings together students and citizens to collaborate on issues of concern to participating Alabama communities. These communities include Bayou La Batre, Selma/Cahawba, Elba, Hobson City, Linden, Marion, and Collinsville. The project results from a College of Liberal Arts' collaboration with the Kettering Foundation to explore the role of higher education

in preparing citizens for public life. Mark Wilson, director of Civic Learning Initiatives, and Nan Fairley, associate professor in the School of Communication and Journalism, began the program based on the philosophy that students must immerse themselves in communities in order to truly understand democratic politics.

Wilson described the mission of the project: "The goal is for students to have an experience working alongside citizens who want their communities to thrive. And if we're successful, these students will develop an appetite of interest in organizing people for positive change, no matter where they end up in the future."

The Living Democracy 2012–2013 students were Kaleb Kirkpatrick, Sierra Lehnhoff, Laney Payne, Audrey Ross, Mary Beth Snow, Catherine Tabor, and Taryn Wilson. They lived onsite for ten weeks, either with their community partners in their homes or in other venues within the community, including a firehouse and a women's shelter.

Nathan Simone worked with the group as a communications consultant/community correspondent. He visited each of the towns to take photos, write stories, and assist his fellow cohorts on various projects.

Simone's stories from participating communities, as well as essays written by the Living Democracy students, were featured on [al.com](http://al.com) this summer. A complete archive of their stories that both

document their experience and capture stories of citizens and organizations contributing to community life can be found at [connect.al.com/user/aulivingdemocracy/posts.html](http://connect.al.com/user/aulivingdemocracy/posts.html).

Prior to their summer of living and working in Alabama communities, the students took courses taught by Fairley and Wilson. While the courses provided foundational knowledge, the hands-on service throughout the summer proved to be the most enriching learning experience of the entire project for students. From hosting plant sales and downtown art shows to teaching ACT prep classes and reading to children at local libraries, the students' projects addressed a variety of environmental, youth leadership, literacy, and economic issues.

I had the opportunity to listen in on the students' weekly conference call with Wilson and Fairley mid-way through the summer. When asked what the most rewarding part of their experiences was thus far, the general consensus among the students was receiving positive feedback from people they had helped. Whether it was a handshake from a man at church or a hug from a child after an art class, these small acts of appreciation and positive feedback brought the students a sense of gratification in knowing they were making a difference.

Laney Payne spoke about her experience in Bayou La Batre: "Everyone here knows me as 'that girl from Auburn.' People have sought me out and expressed interest in me and wanted my help. I wasn't ready for the level of poverty that I would find here in Bayou La Batre, yet the people here are so content and resilient. I consider myself lucky to be among the locals, and I am learning so many lessons that I hope to carry with me when I leave the bayou."

While much of their conversation revolved around positive encounters, all of the students faced unexpected challenges, most of which resulted from miscommunication or unresolved issues amongst organizations or various groups of people within the community. Also, due to the relatively short amount

of time the students would spend in their respective towns, some people were skeptical of their intentions and how much they could actually achieve in just a few short months. Despite these challenges, the students remained positive and determined to persevere for the well-being of the community people.

Linda Derry, community partner in Selma and Old Cahawba Site Director, praised the program for its efforts and looks forward to continuing Selma's partnership with the Living Democracy initiative. She stated, "We have a lot of people come to study us, and then they leave and you never hear about the results of their study. The neat thing about Living Democracy is that they send students who truly are interested in helping the community. Every student has left something of value here, and they've treated us with respect."

Derry continued, "I personally have a lot of respect for Dr. Wilson, Professor Fairley, and everyone involved because they prepare the students for being out in the field, and they promote partnership. In my 30 years of working here in Selma, I believe this is the best program that has come out of a university partnership, and I hope it continues to thrive and eventually gets picked up by other universities as well."

Blake Evans, a 2012 Living Democracy fellow, reflected on his group's experiences: "The most significant thing we learned through our individual projects was the importance of a community voice. We realized that young people can make a difference in community politics—not Republican versus Democrat kind of politics—but the everyday interactions of people that ultimately shape communities."

To view the students' blogs about their summer experiences and learn more about the Living Democracy project, visit [aulivingdemocracy.wordpress.com](http://aulivingdemocracy.wordpress.com).

>> Photos by Nathan Simone, who worked with the group as a communications consultant/community correspondent. Simone visited each of the towns to take photos, write stories, and assist his fellow cohorts on various projects.





## NEW LEADERSHIP IN LIBERAL ARTS



The College of Liberal Arts welcomes three new leaders, Nancy Haak, Chair of Department of Communication Disorders; Jennifer Wood-Adams, Director of School of Communication and Journalism; and Steven Brown, Chair of Department of Political Science. Haak is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Disorders. Wood-Adams is an associate professor in the newly approved School of Communication and Journalism. Brown is a professor in the Department of Political Science.



## THEATRE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

During 2013–2014, Auburn University Theatre celebrates 100 years of organized theatre on the Auburn campus. To mark the occasion, the theatre student organization AU Players will host an alumni and friends reunion the weekend of February 28 through March 2, 2014. Reunion attendees will be invited to the production of *9-to-5: The Musical*. In addition to marking this historic milestone, Auburn University Theatre is also looking to the future with a new addition to the award-winning Telfair Peet Theatre. This \$3 million addition to the Theatre's 40-year-old home will feature an experimental theatre, dance studio, and new office space. This state-of-the-art facility will allow our faculty and students' imaginations to run wild and make it possible to provide theatre that satisfies our increasingly discerning audiences. It will also provide the skills and experience our students need to be competitive in their future careers. The project is scheduled for an April 2014 completion date. For more information about ways to support the Department of Theatre, including naming opportunities, contact the College of Liberal Arts' Office of Development at (334) 844-1483 or libart1@auburn.edu.



# NEW & NOTABLE

*College of Liberal Arts students, faculty, staff, and alumni engage in innovative programs and initiatives, publish dynamic research and creative works, and reach noteworthy career milestones.*

## SPRUIELL SCHOLARS

This past summer, eight inaugural Spruiell Scholars from the Health Services Administration (HADM) program completed international internships at leading healthcare facilities and institutions around the globe. The Spruiell Scholars Program was established after the HADM received a generous \$500,000 donation from HADM alumnus, Lee Spruiell, '83 and '87. A recent survey shows that the HADM graduates have a 100% one-year post-graduate placement rate. For more information on the program, visit [cla.auburn.edu/polisci/health-admin](http://cla.auburn.edu/polisci/health-admin).



# CLA'S TOP-NOTCH

Dr. Rosephanye Dunn-Powell, professor of voice in the Department of Music, received the 2013 Minority Achievement Award by the Auburn Alumni Association. Dunn-Powell is the coordinator of voice studies, conductor of the AU Women's Chorus, and co-director of the AU Gospel Choir. She also serves on the college's diversity committee.

Two College of Liberal Arts alumni, John-Bauer Graham and David Williams, were awarded the 2013 Young Alumni Achievement Award by the Auburn Alumni Association. Graham graduated from Auburn with a bachelor's degree in history in 1996 and currently serves as Dean of Library Services at Jacksonville State. Williams graduated with a degree in radio, television and film in 1997 and is currently the assistant news director at WHNT News 19 in Huntsville.

In fall 2013, CLA began offering Statistical Design Consulting (SDC) services for its faculty and graduate students engaged in sponsored research. Services include assistance with all phases of research projects with statistical implications. Visit [cla.auburn.edu/psychology/sdc-service](http://cla.auburn.edu/psychology/sdc-service) for more information.

Political science professor Dr. Jill Crystal is a recipient of the 2013 Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award. Since coming to Auburn in 1994, Crystal's teaching has ranged from large introductory core courses in political economy for undergraduates to seminars in comparative politics for PhD students.

The College of Liberal Arts hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Auburn Writers Conference on October 18–19, featuring Cristina Garcia and Taylor Mali. This year's theme was *Artful Crossroads: Where the Arts Intersect* and focused on the ways in which our words reflect other forms of art. The 2014 theme will be *The Inspired South*.

Madison Jones, a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of English, recently had his first collection of poetry, *Live at Lethe*, released by Sweatshop Publications. A fifth-generation Alabamian, Jones is working toward a master's in literature with a focus on contemporary American poetry.

Dr. Bill Buskist, professor in the Department of Psychology, recently received a lifetime achievement award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology at the American Psychological Association Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. The award recognizes his "extraordinary lifetime contributions" over the last 31 years of teaching nearly 36,000 Auburn undergraduates.

Dr. Paula Bobrowski, associate dean for research and faculty development in the College of Liberal Arts, is the new president of the Alabama Fulbright Association. The Fulbright Association engages current and former Fulbright exchange participants in lifelong experiences that advance international understanding through volunteer service to communities, people-to-people diplomacy, and dialogue on global issues.

Economics instructor Matthew McCaffrey recently wrote about the economics involved in the popular *Game of Thrones* novels by George R.R. Martin as well as the HBO series based on the books. McCaffrey's opinion piece, "The Game of Thrones is a Game of Coins," was published in the *International Business Times UK Edition*.



Rosephanye Dunn-Powell



John-Bauer Graham & David Williams



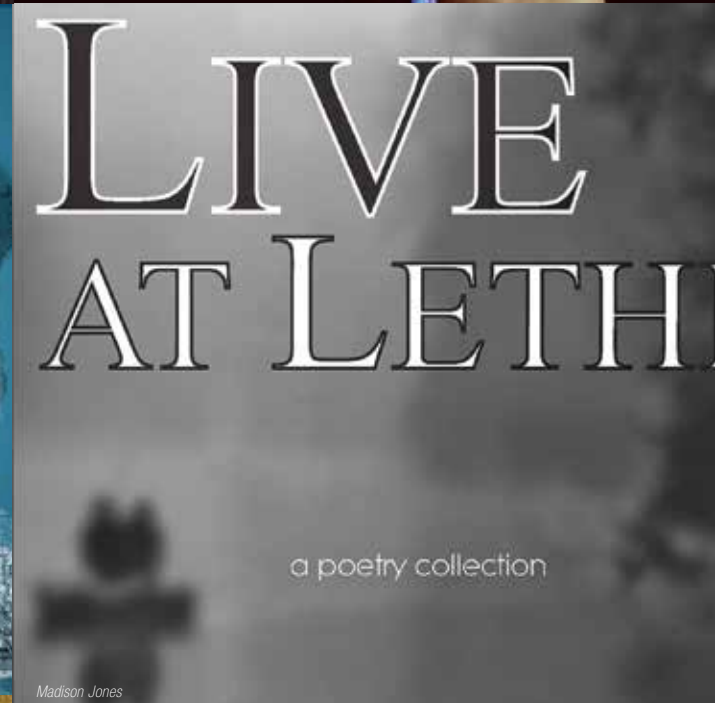
Statistical Design Consulting (SDC)



Jill Crystal



Auburn Writers Conference



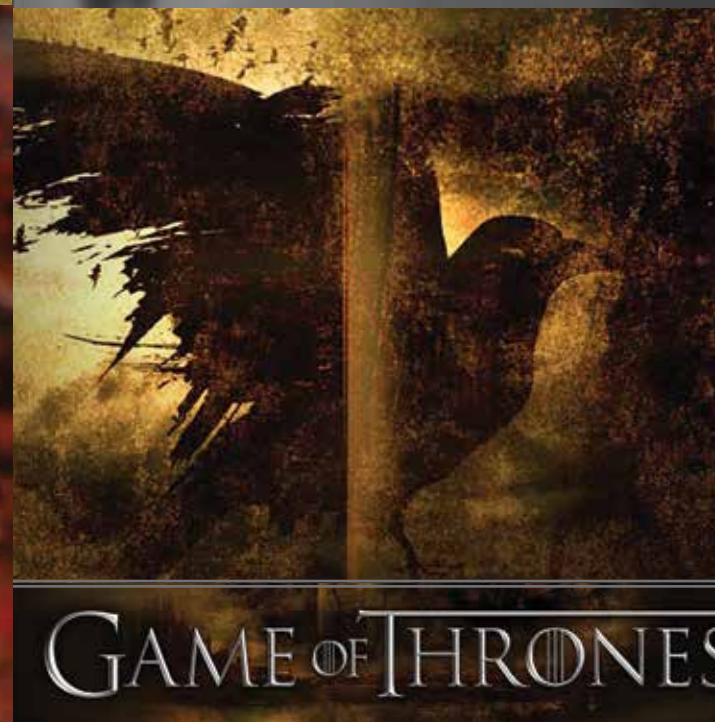
Madison Jones



Bill Buskist



Paula Bobrowski



# Editors' Note



When I received the assignment of helping create this year's edition of *Perspectives*, I was somewhat overwhelmed and didn't realize how much time, effort, and creativity the process would require of me and the rest of the PR team. However, Anna Beth and I were ready for the challenge and dove in head first with hopes to make this edition reflective of our writing personalities and design aesthetics. We wanted the magazine to feature our new dean and play on the title *Perspectives* by capturing unique stories about CLA people, initiatives, and events. With Adriene's guidance and creative drive, we were able to develop an intriguing publication that I am extremely proud of.

What I enjoyed most about my experience working on the magazine was getting to know people within the college who are doing such inspiring things. My real tear-jerking moment was my phone call with the students participating in the Living Democracy project. Their passion and desire to serve motivated me and made me realize how special our CLA students and faculty are. Everyone here continues to amaze me, and I am blessed to be part of such an encouraging college and university. My experience working for CLA as a graduate assistant has been very rewarding, and I am thankful for the opportunity to represent and promote CLA through the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of *Perspectives*.

*Victoria Mayhall*



I can't even begin to eloquently describe my experiences thus far as the College of Liberal Arts Public Relations intern. It's one of those rare times where I find myself at a bit of a loss for words, or maybe overcome with far too many, but I'll try my best.

Working here has been more than just a job. I came in fully expecting to fetch coffee and replace toner, but that hasn't been the case at all. Every single day I'm challenged with real-life situations that test my creative abilities and help me develop new strengths in a working environment. This team, this amazing, wildly intelligent team, works as a cohesive unit, leaning on each other for support, ideas and constructive criticism. It's comforting to know I have solid, creative people by my side, who are not only my co-workers, but also my friends. With Victoria's unyielding creativity and Adriene's artistic eye, I could not be more proud of this magazine we've built together.

In my short time as the intern, I've learned more than I could have ever hoped and have had the absolute privilege of telling the stories of many wonderful, unique Auburn University students, professors, and alumni. But most importantly, I get to do what I love. Not many people can say that, and that is exactly what makes this job so special. Every day brings something new and exciting, and I'm so thankful to have been picked for this unique opportunity. I can't wait to see what the future brings.

*Anna Beth Jager*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Scholarships, innovative research, community service projects, and new facilities—these are only a few of the deserving causes you can support in the College of Liberal Arts. For more information on how you can make a difference, contact one of the Directors of Development below or visit the Development website, [cla.auburn.edu/cla/development](http://cla.auburn.edu/cla/development).



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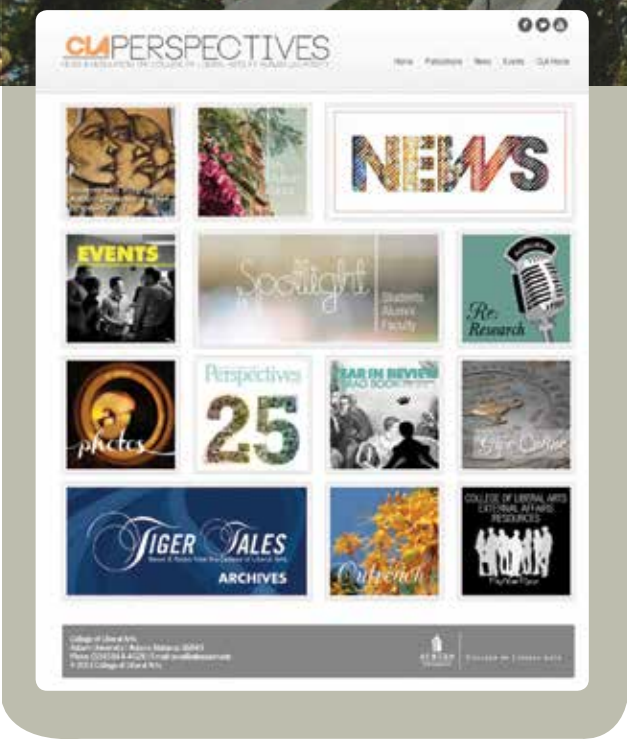
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# CLAPERSPECTIVES

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The CLA Office of External Affairs released an online news and media website called **CLA Perspectives**. Visit the website at [claperspectives.com](http://claperspectives.com) to stay up-to-date with all of the college's news, recent publications, and video and audio interviews with alumni, faculty, and students.



[www.cla.auburn.edu](http://www.cla.auburn.edu)