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

The College of Liberal Arts invites you to celebrate 25 years of excellence.
It is an exciting time as we celebrate our 25 years as the College of Liberal Arts. A great deal has changed in 25 years, but some things remain the same. We still honor our deep commitments to teaching, research, and outreach. At the same time we cherish the innovations that the members of our college continue to create to the benefit of our fine students. We now have 13 strong departments and several additional programs that allow our students interesting internship opportunities.

For instance, one of our PR interns, Ellery Badcock, recently had the opportunity to interview Dr. Maya Angelou, who will deliver the Women’s Leadership Institute’s Extraordinary Women Lecture this year. Also in this edition of Perspectives is our new feature called “The Intern Diaries” that will give you a sense of the variety of experiences that interns within our college enjoy.

Another brand new initiative is our Mosaic Theatre Company, which was created to allow students to use their theatrical talents in the service of social and diversity issues. The company’s great success has been a pleasure, and we hope that you see a performance soon. Other successes include our thriving Community and Civic Engagement Initiative and the Guatemala Outreaches and Remote Testing program in the Department of Communication Disorders.

Our interns Ellery Badcock and Ali Hudson, who worked tirelessly on this issue of Perspectives, also interviewed me. One of their questions was where I see the College of Liberal Arts in 25 years. My answer is this: While we may not be able to predict the next “big” thing, our students will remain our number one priority. With your help, we will continue to support our faculty and offer a stimulating curriculum.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

War Eagle!

Anna Gramberg, Dean
"One of the greatest changes on campus is the use of technology in the registration process. As a student in the mid 1980s, I met with my advisor to submit a form to request my classes. This form was sent to the Office of the Registrar who registered students and mailed, yes mailed, the schedule to us a few weeks later. If you wanted to drop or add a class, you stood in line at the coliseum to obtain IBM cards to request the change. It was a laborious task—nothing like the convenience of students now using a tablet or phone to register and immediately knowing which classes they have.

The Haley Center basement was ‘the place’ to meet between classes! It was a large, open space with lots of tables and chairs and other seating areas. Many went there to study and others to meet friends. A visit to the AU Bookstore for fresh, hot popcorn was a must before going downstairs.

Advising! Anyone remember waiting to see an advisor in the College of Liberal Arts? First come, first serve and hope that not too many others want to see ‘your’ advisor. The online appointment system has changed this process dramatically. Now, you can make an appointment online and typically your advisor is ready to see you upon your arrival. The waiting area and advising offices are vastly improved from the cramped, windowless offices of Haley Center, too."
Haley Center: Past, Present, & Future
Changes are coming to the core of campus. Haley Center, which opened in 1969, is scheduled to be replaced by a new central classroom building. The new facility will offer a modern, state-of-the-art learning space for students. Construction is scheduled for 2013–2014.

>> A view from the top of Haley Center looking outward onto campus.

Artistic Growth
Graced with an exceedingly excellent group of artists and scholars, the Department of Art is committed to training and mentoring students. Together they push artistic boundaries that help each student find his or her own individual voice and passion.

Art Professor Allyson Comstock was selected for a National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers grant to travel to Antarctica and create a series of drawings exploring environmental issues and ways of seeing the natural world.

"The College of Liberal Arts Development Office has grown over the years from a one-person operation to a staff of seven. We have reached out to thousands of alumni, many of whom have become actively involved with the college as donors and volunteers serving in various capacities throughout the college. Their participation has made a significant positive impact by providing more scholarships than ever before and increasing the college’s visibility and stature."

— Mary Baird, ’81, Executive Director of Development

10th Edition
This year marks the 10th anniversary of Perspectives magazine. We also are celebrating 25 years of excellence by spotlighting some of the things that make us stand out as a college. Each one of our students, faculty, and staff has a unique CLA story and by sharing them with you we hope you remember your own.

>> Cast members from the ’92 Auburn University Theatre’s Summerstage pose for the camera. Cast members Dan LaRocque, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Robin Jaffe, Production Manager and Faculty Technical Director for the Department of Theatre, are still with the College of Liberal Arts.
A Celebration of Dr. Maya Angelou

BY | ELLERY BADCOCK

The Women's Leadership Institute is proud to welcome renowned Renaissance woman Dr. Maya Angelou to Auburn University's campus on November 8th, when she will deliver the 2012 Extraordinary Women Lecture. Often referred to as one of the greatest voices of contemporary literature, Dr. Maya Angelou has played many roles throughout her life. As an educator, poet, producer, director, actress, dancer, playwright, historian, best-selling author, and civil rights activist, Angelou has traveled the world spreading her distinguished wisdom, and crossing the lines of race and gender.

Executive Director for the Women's Leadership Institute, Dr. Barbara Baker explains that the whole concept behind the Extraordinary Women Lecture series is to provide students with the opportunity to learn from and interact with strong and successful women. "I can't think of another person who has the breadth of influence that Maya Angelou does," Baker said.

In the next 25 years, Baker hopes that there will be no need to differentiate between men's and women's leadership, but rather to celebrate the achievements of individuals. This semester, Baker will also be teaching an African American literature-based course titled “Phenomenal Woman,” named after one of Angelou's most famous poems. Students will study the works of Angelou and how she has used multimedia to cross over as a contemporary artist.

Angelou's appearance is also sponsored in part by the Honors College. Associate Director Dr. Paul Harris hopes that Angelou's presence will allow students to have a greater appreciation for the contributions Angelou has brought to the world. "She is a true national treasure," said Harris.

Harris remembers being in the Foy Student Center when Angelou spoke at the 1993 presidential inauguration. "When she came on the screen, everyone stopped what they were doing. Her presence alone drew you in," Harris said. Angelou inspires Harris thanks to her social activism. "Maya Angelou was born in a time of strict racial and gender segregation. She spoke about a social justice mission and what it meant to look out for one another. In a time when you couldn't talk about those things, she stood up for what was right," Harris explained.

As the Auburn University Community prepares to welcome the phenomenal woman to the Plains, members of the College of Liberal Arts are gearing up for the visit by preparing art, dance, and theatre pieces to be presented at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Arts. A juried drawing exhibition, a presentation by the Mosaic Theatre Company, and a special dance rendition will be part of the celebration at "Angelou and the Arts" on October 29 at 4:00 p.m. "Angelou and the Arts" will also include a drawing for tickets to Angelou's lecture and is the only opportunity for the public to access tickets to this sold-out event.

Art Professor Barb Bondy has designed a class that has solicited drawings related to Angelou from across the region, and she has commissioned a nationally known juror to speak about the drawings, which will be displayed at the Jule Collins Smith Museum. Professor Adrienne Wilson is organizing a dance class that will respond to themes in Angelou's extensive cannon, and Dr. Heather May is facilitating an interpretation of Angelou's work by the Mosaic Theatre Company.

Dr. Maya Angelou will speak at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center at 4:00 p.m. on November 8th. For more information, please visit www.cla.auburn.edu/wli.

You often compare poetry to music; how do you think young people can connect to this idea through the music of today?

Well I think that young people of today like poetry a lot, they just don't know that is what they are listening to when they listen to Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift—they don't realize they are listening to poetry. It's just poetry with music behind it.

You've met presidents, celebrities, cultural icons. As an icon yourself, who or what inspires you?

My family inspires me a lot. I was raised by my grandmother in a small village in Arkansas. She's been gone for 50 years, but she continues to inspire me. Teachers, and preachers, and rabbis inspire me, and particularly young people. I am inspired when I see a person who is young and who is anxious to learn. That makes me want to be a better teacher.

What advice do you have for the students of Auburn University? What kind of advice do you give your own students?

I encourage all students to read. If the student is in a physical education class—read. If the student is studying music, or science, or geography, or geometry—read. And I would encourage students to read aloud so they can hear the language as it is spoken by the human voice, not just on a page from their eyes. Not with just seeing the words written, but they should listen to how the words sound, and they will be able to hear the music and the melody and the rhythm and the language. It will help them to comprehend more completely.

Having written two cookbooks, what is your favorite food to prepare? What's your recipe for success?

Well I like to cook things that feed lots of people, like chili and smothered chicken—which is just chicken with a lot of gravy served over rice. When I served it to Oprah the first time she came to visit she said, "This isn't smothered chicken; this chicken is suffocated" (she laughs). So whenever she comes down I make it for her.

The Maya Angelou Center for Health and Wellness recently opened June 1, 2012, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, why is women's health care so important?

All health care is important, but women's health care is important because unfortunately the playing field is not level. That is to say the ailments which besiege women are not given the same money and the same care, the same attention, the same research as the ailments which besiege men. So we must continue to encourage women to be their own advocates, to be on their own side, and learn how to seek out preventive care so that they don't get ill in the first place and have to be healed. Women should have mammograms and X-rays and everything possible to make sure they are in the best of health.

In a recent Facebook post you said, "I work all the time. I don't know how not to work. I'm not complaining. I play hard, too." What do you do to have fun? How do you relax?

I cook, and serve, and eat. I listen to music, and write some music. I watch television, country music channels, and Law and Order. I walk around my gardens. I have beautiful gardens, and I sit outside and listen to the birds sing.

You've seen so much and experienced so much change throughout your life. What do you believe is truly important?

The change in the human heart, not just the laws that we make or even the laws we enact. The change in the human heart when we decide not to look down on another person because he's too fat or she's too thin, or she's too white or she's too black. Not to look down on another person. When we really accept "I am a human being," and nothing human can be alien to me.
Expanding Horizons: Band Goes to China

On March 9, 2012, Auburn University sent 79 students and 16 faculty and staff for a 10 day musical performance tour through China. Arriving in Beijing, members of the Auburn University Symphonic Band traveled to Hangzhou and Shanghai, while also visiting popular sites such as the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Great Wall.

The band was invited to engage in this one-of-a-kind experience by the United States-China Cultural and Educational Foundation to the People’s Republic of China to promote educational and cultural exchange between the two countries. “The connection actually started when the organization received recommendations for the Auburn University Symphonic Band through other university bands, based on the quality of our performances,” said Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Professor and Chair of the Department of Music.

“Performing in front of such a receptive and appreciative crowd was the best feeling, explained Veronica Brock, a music education major. “It made me want to practice my instrument so that I could perform to the best of my ability.”

Students found that even though there was a language barrier, they were able to communicate through the power of music. “Traveling abroad allowed us to meet people of another culture,” explained Baird. “People are people, and despite the cultural differences we may have—we have that human connection.”

Auburn Athletics Pledges $1.5 Million to Marching Band Facility

by Cassie Arner

The Auburn University Athletics Department recently announced it has pledged $1.5 million to the Auburn Marching Band for its capital campaign to fund a new practice facility.

The Band Practice Facility project was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2010 and will provide more than 32,500 square feet of space for the nationally renowned program. The total cost of the facility is estimated at $10 million and will feature a concert band rehearsal hall, percussion studio, marching band rehearsal hall, practice studios, administrative offices, archive gallery, and a music library.

“The Auburn University Marching Band is an integral part of the pageantry and fabric of our gameday experience, and we are pleased to be able to help the band program move closer to its goal of building a first-class rehearsal facility,” said Director of Athletics Jay Jacobs.

“I am impressed by the vision Dean Gramberg and the band leadership have for this facility, which will ensure a commitment to excellence far into the future. Not only have Auburn University bands represented us all over the world for more than a century, they have been an invaluable part of the educational experience for generations of Auburn men and women who are proud band alumni. I urge the entire Auburn Family to get behind this project to make it a reality.”

The Marching Band has been a part of the Auburn Athletics experience for nearly 100 years. They are active on Auburn football gamedays as part of the tailgating festivities, Tiger Walk, and the always anticipated pregame and halftime performances as well as energizing the crowd in the stands. Additionally, the Auburn Band provides atmosphere and pageantry for men’s and women’s basketball and many other Tiger sporting events.

“The Auburn Band is very thankful for the generous gift provided by the Auburn University Athletic Department,” said Director of Bands Rick Good. “This commitment will be used to house all components of the Auburn Band program, including the 380-member Auburn University Marching Band. The AUMB students give so much of their time to the university; I know they are excited that the dream of a ‘new home’ is much closer to becoming a reality now due to the support of Jay Jacobs and the Athletic Department.”

The first phase of construction, which included a new band rehearsal pavilion located off Hemlock Drive, has been completed. The second phase will incorporate the indoor practice spaces, offices, and storage.

“The Auburn Band is a valuable part of our program and an essential component of the Auburn gameday experience, both home and away,” said Auburn head football coach Gene Chizik. “It’s a great inspiration for our team and fans to hear the sounds of ‘War Eagle’ being played by our band. In addition, the band members are great ambassadors for our university, athletic department, and community. I encourage the Auburn Family to support the Auburn Band to build a new home that will allow them to continue to be the best band in the country.”

The fundraising goal for the Campaign for the Auburn University Bands Practice Facility is $5.5 million in private support, which will be matched by Auburn’s administration. Charitable, tax-deductible gifts in support of the Band Practice Facility campaign can be made through the Auburn University Foundation. For information about the various means of donating to the band practice facility, contact the College of Liberal Arts Office of Development at 334.844.1483 or libart1@auburn.edu.
A Sound Relationship: Guatemala & Communication Disorders

BY | ALISON HUDSON

You might never guess that someone you met your freshman year of college could play such a vital role in your life 35 years later. For Dr. Sandra Clark-Lewis, a clinical professor in the Department of Communication Disorders (CMDS), the friendship she developed with her freshman roommate, Jennifer Rainey, became a valuable connection.

Jennifer Rainey, who graduated from Auburn with a dual degree in Spanish and History, has a love for travel as well as a deep devotion to Auburn. In 2004, her former roommate, Dr. Sandra Clark-Lewis, had a new class of doctoral students who expressed their desire to do audiology work outside of the United States. Clark-Lewis thought of Rainey and her experiences.

“How it got started is kind of amazing to me,” Clark-Lewis says. “My students wanted to help people who wouldn’t get this kind of help normally. I talked to Jennifer, and she said that she thought we could figure something out.”

Rainey happened to be a good friend of the wife of the Mayor of Guatemala City (and former First Lady of Guatemala), Patricia Arzu. When Rainey told Arzu that Auburn students wished to provide citizens of a differing country with help, Arzu suggested they come to Guatemala.

When Clark-Lewis learned this, she thought we could figure something out. She then got in touch with her friend, Jennifer Rainey, to see if they could make it happen.

“Everything fell together at the right time,” Clark-Lewis says. “Usually you have to convince people, but here was someone offering us an invitation. Someone saying we want you to come here.”

When they are there it is clear Guatemala City does everything they can to help support Clark-Lewis and her team, even if it means relocating school classrooms. With little room available for screenings, teachers and children move their classrooms outside so the space can be used for testing.

“There are 20 little desks for second graders under the sky so we can use their rooms,” Clark-Lewis says. “It makes us feel like we have got to do everything we can because we disrupt their life when we’re there.”

For Clark-Lewis, the organic growth that has resulted from them being there is extremely treasured by both parties. The first time they traveled to Guatemala they took equipment and taught the residents how to perform their own hearing screenings.

“It was very different. We screened all these kids, identified hearing loss and provided hearing aids,” Clark-Lewis says. “The second year we went down they had already screened all their kids.” From there, Clark-Lewis and her crew tested the children who had failed their hearing screening, provided hearing aids, and trained the teachers how to use the hearing aids.

“These children come from such impoverished backgrounds that they can’t take the hearing aids home because they would be stolen,” Clark-Lewis says. “It’s bad because we’ve had children say it’s so strange to be at home on the weekends and not be able to hear, but it’s good that we have total control because they stay at school.”

A company called GNResound provides the actual hearing aids, and it is considered a bit of a miracle as to how the partnership came about. In 2008, right as the economy was tanking, Clark-Lewis asked Resound if they would donate at least 12 hearing aids. An Auburn alumus and friend of Clark-Lewis who worked for the company went to the vice president of marketing with the request.

“It turned out two of his children had been adopted from Guatemala, and he decided to provide us with 40,” Clark-Lewis says. “That’s $100,000 worth of hearing aids. They’ve been donating these for the past four years. We couldn’t do it without them.”

For the doctoral students involved this is a very competitive trip. There are about 30 doctoral students in audiology and each year only four or five are chosen to go to Guatemala. Academic grades and clinical grades are considered as well as the ability to work as part of a team. Students also write an essay about what they hope to gain from the program.

“There are certain experiences the students get there that they do not get at Auburn University,” Clark-Lewis says. “It’s really intense pediatric experience.” The doctoral students in the clinics occasionally see children, but the ones who go to Guatemala do 40 hours of testing a week with children.

“It’s nothing but fun,” Clark-Lewis says. “You’re giving them something they didn’t have and that’s exciting.”

To be able to work with the deaf population and identify hearing loss in older children are experienc- es most of the students won’t have here in America.

“They do powerful things in the clinic, but somehow you just feel it more intensely when you’re in a different place,” Clark-Lewis states. “You’re removed from all the distractions in this society.”

Organic growth is something Clark-Lewis admits to loving. She likes to see what bubbles up and grows over time. One of those things has been the ability to administer hearing tests to the children of Guatemala from Auburn.

“We understood one of our weaknesses was, if they do the screening and identify a child in September, we can only get there in May to help,” Clark-Lewis says.

They now have someone trained in Guatemala to work the equipment so that the team in Auburn is able to see a picture of the child on the computer screen in the clinic and get an audiogram. By having the remote testing, the Guatemalan children are given a better chance of receiving treatment faster. “I think we’re all citizens of something bigger than Auburn or Alabama or the United States,” Clark-Lewis says, “and are all so connected now.”

When they are there it is clear Guatemala City does everything they can to help support Clark-Lewis and her team, even if it means relocating school classrooms. With little room available for screenings, teachers and children move their classrooms outside so the space can be used for testing. >> Now that Auburn’s remote testing is in place, Guatemalan children have a chance to be properly tested from thousands of miles away. A Guatemalan aide trained to help in the procedure makes it possible for the children to be seen and tested through the Internet.
Some things never change. In 1987 college women were checking out Auburn’s finest in the Men of Auburn calendar.

“Starting with the first schedule I made at Camp War Eagle, the College of Liberal Arts and its advisors have been there to guide me through my four years of college. Even though my knowledgeable advisor set me on a path to graduation, I have been honored to represent the College of Liberal Arts as a student senator for two years. The stunning legacy the College has established and maintained throughout the years.”

Amanda Collier, ‘13
Senior in Psychology
SGA Liberal Arts senator

Organizations in the Arts
by Alison Hudson

Art connoisseurs really get a taste of the finest here on Auburn’s campus.

Studio 5 and the Association of Visual Artists (AVA) are two student organizations that allow those with passions in the art world a chance to meet, mingle, and learn. Studio 5’s mission is to provide a community for Auburn University students who are interested in art, art history, and all related fields where they can exchange ideas and get involved. They plan socials, organize study groups, volunteer at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, and visit nearby art exhibitions. Some of their fall meetings will consist of learning how and where to get art-related internships, writing a peer-editing night for research papers. In addition, they visited the High Museum of Art in Atlanta early this fall. The museum has a great Impressionist exhibition, civil rights photography, and American landscape paintings.

AVA is a group fueled by people from all over Auburn’s campus with a passion for art. Together the members of AVA squeeze more out of their time as students by learning and teaching necessary skills, such as how to properly mat and frame artwork or even how to document work for a resume. AVA also holds events such as the Zane Workshop and the Salon Sale, which engage both AVA members and people in the Auburn community. They have recently established an endowment to provide funds for guest speakers and exhibitions. With both of these organizations abuzz, students have a chance to meet, mingle, and learn. Studio 5’s mission is to provide a community for Auburn University students who are interested in art, art history, and all related fields where they can exchange ideas and get involved.

With his recent acceptance to the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science, Will Docimo makes completing a triple degree look like a breeze. Between going to classes and studying for his three majors, it’s a wonder Docimo manages to have time for any extracurricular activities—and yet he’s worked with the Student Eminent Society and Tiger Stripes, and studied abroad twice. “In my book, challenging usually goes hand-in-hand with rewarding,” Docimo said. “It’s all about time management.”

Having always been internationally interested, Docimo originally applied to Auburn as a journalism major. With the help of his College of Liberal Arts advisor, Judith Sanders, Docimo was able to find his place. “Without her this definitely would not have been possible. She has been an integral part of my college experience,” said Docimo. Changing from a Journalism major to an International Business major, Docimo truly values his College of Liberal Arts education. “The classes are more inclusive in their knowledge base—and if you look, most of the college core is in the Liberal Arts. I think that speaks to the importance of being a well-rounded student,” he said.

Docimo, who graduated this August, is looking forward to getting out of his comfort zone and meeting new people during his time abroad, not to mention the great travel opportunities. Living in a foreign country may seem intimidating, but Docimo feels confident thanks to his experiences within the College of Liberal Arts. “I think the educational tools I’ve received and the interpersonal skills I’ve developed will be invaluable,” he added. While Docimo admits he will miss Toomer’s famously tart lemonade, he’s excited for the many opportunities to come.

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Hometown: Valley, Alabama
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The Intern Diaries

BY VICKY SANTOS

Serving as the Director of External Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts over the past five years has given me the opportunity to learn about our talented students by interviewing them for our student spotlights and by working alongside them. The students who work in our office help write articles, take photos, and design publications. Many of our students have experienced other jobs or internships before coming to our office, and we get to ask what they learned in their former positions. One of my favorite questions to ask is how things work behind the scenes so we can learn, and perhaps even “borrow,” some ideas from others who do what we do. Upon talking to Ellery Badcock and Alison Hudson, the students who primarily worked on this magazine, we discovered they each had some wonderful tales of interning and we wanted to find out more about these experiences, which led to this section. If you’ve ever wondered what it might be like to work for a night show host (like, oh, say, Jimmy Fallon) or for a popular magazine (Lucky Magazine) or for a politician (John McCain), please read and wonder what it might be like to work for a night show host (like, oh, say, Jimmy Fallon) or for a popular magazine (Lucky Magazine) or for a politician (John McCain), please read and share these wonderful tales of “The Intern Diaries.”

Kathryn Johnson – Late Night with Jimmy Fallon

Kathryn Johnson is a 2012 Radio, Television, and Film graduate who landed an internship at Late Night with Jimmy Fallon during her final semester. Below, she tells us about her experiences with the show and how it led to a job opportunity in New York City.

“I truly had the internship experience of a lifetime! I can remember staying up late one night freshman year to watch the premiere of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon in my dorm room, and it was always a goal of mine to land an internship on the show.

I began my internship this past January, and it wrapped up just before I graduated in May. During the time I spent at Late Night, I got to see how the show gets put together every day from production meetings to script distribution to rehearsals. Of course, I had many not-so-glamorous intern duties like running around Manhattan to pick up props and costumes for the show. It was well worth it.

Though, as I got to see some of my personal heroes up-close and personal. Lorne Michaels, Executive Producer of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon and Saturday Night Live, would occasionally pop into tapings while I was helping out in the studio. Even though I couldn’t approach any celebrity guests, just getting a glimpse of people such as Tina Fey and Daniel Radcliffe was incredible.

One of the best parts of being an intern was getting to stand in during rehearsals. When Jimmy played games with audience members or performed live sketches, interns would be asked to go to the rehearsals, so the directors and camera operators could block the scenes. One day, two other interns and I were asked to stand in for a game where audience members were asked to freestyle. Luckily, we were able to write a few lines and then rap it (I would have failed miserably at freestyling). After we rapped a few times, Jimmy came out to rehearse it with us. I remember being terrified of embarrassing myself. When it was my turn, Jimmy asked me what my emcee name was. I told him it was "MC Kataract," and he looked at me and burst out laughing. Even though my rap was less than impressive, it turned out to be one of the highlights of my experience. I can now say I made Jimmy Fallon laugh.

The most surreal moment of my internship was during a rehearsal when I got to meet Stephen Colbert. I was standing in with another intern as Ben & Jerry (yes, like the ice cream guys), and when Jimmy and Stephen came into the studio to rehearse with us, I was as close to speechless as I’ve ever been. The sketch involved Stephen with Ben & Jerry’s container and surprising Jimmy. I spent the better part of an hour inside of this giant pint of ice cream holding Stephen Colbert’s script for him. I couldn’t believe it. Stephen and Jimmy were both extremely friendly and hilarious even when the cameras weren’t rolling.

In addition to rubbing elbows with celebrities, one of the best things about interning at Late Night was all of the relationships I formed with my fellow interns and the staff. Most of the other interns were from schools in New York, so I was a little out of place at first. However, we became a tight-knit group in no time, and I look forward to keeping in touch and networking with them as we further our careers in television. The staff at Late Night was incredibly friendly and supportive of the interns. Since I was beginning to look for jobs after graduation, some of them offered to pass along my resume to their contacts. Even though television seems like a huge industry in New York, in reality, everyone knows someone who knows someone who might be willing to help if you reach out and make that connection. So, networking is important for anyone hoping to get his or her foot in the door.

After completing my internship at Late Night, I got a job with Zero Point Zero Productions, a company that is also located in New York that produces Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations. I interned at Zero Point Zero last summer and kept in touch with them after the past year. Because I was already in New York, it was easy to set up an interview with them and begin working less than a week later. It’s all about putting yourself in the right internship at the right place at the right time. I have been lucky to have great internship experiences, which led to a great first job in a city that I love.

Chase Roberts – The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Chase Roberts is a 2012 graduate of the Health Administration Program in the Political Science Department. During the final semester of his senior year, he was an administrative intern at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He currently works as an Operations Analyst for the Department of Medical Affairs at Johns Hopkins.

When I arrived at my internship with Johns Hopkins in January, I became actively involved in the
ongoing preparations to move to the new 1.6-million-square-foot Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children’s Center and Sheikh Zayed Tower that opened in May. I loved meeting people and hearing about their Hopkins experience. People from all over the world have been impacted by the work done right here in Baltimore. My first week here I met a nurse who was treated at Johns Hopkins as a child. After graduating from college, she returned to Hopkins as a pediatric nurse and wanted to have the same impact on children that her nurses had on her. That’s when I realized that amazing stories like this happen at Hopkins every day.

Healthcare is a robust and evolving industry, and there is a niche for every skill set and career interest. If you think it might be for you then get involved, attend meetings, volunteer, keep up with industry news, and talk to others in the field. For students just stepping out into the working world, it’s all about the connections you have made and how passionate you are about the work that you do. There are ample opportunities to get involved and learn more about the field. Thanks to a wide-reaching alumni base, Auburn’s health administration program provides internship opportunities to students in a variety of settings and locations. For several years, Auburn has maintained a relationship with The Johns Hopkins Hospital that has sent undergraduate students interested in healthcare management to Baltimore.

The most important thing I have taken from my time at Hopkins is seeing firsthand what it takes to succeed as a leader in healthcare. I’m around executives and still walk in to work with questions. You have to continue learning and growing to be successful at anything, especially in healthcare.

Ashley Mundy – Sen. John McCain

Ashley Mundy is a senior in public relations. This summer, she interned for Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) at his Washington, D.C. office. She tells us how she started off doing small (but important) tasks and persisted in becoming more involved with the senator’s press office.

I cannot claim the good fortune that got me to McCain’s office to be all my own. Like almost everyone in D.C., I had a ‘connection’ to the senator that helped me. My grandfather, Carl E. Mundy Jr., is a retired Marine and Auburn alumnus (‘57), and during his time in the Marine Corps he came to know the senator personally. He wrote a letter of recommendation for me, and the next thing I knew I was headed to Washington.

I have complete faith in the education I have received from Auburn’s PR program; my professors have been more than thorough with their instruction and have been able to teach not only from textbooks, but also from years of experience in their fields. I knew from Ed Williams’ stringent Newspaper Fundamentals class exactly where my commas should go and that “vagorous writing is concise.” I knew from Dr. Susan Waters’ Writing for Public Relations class how to properly format a press release and a media advisory and what the difference is between the two. I knew from Jessie King’s Communication in Organizations class that office etiquette could be learned from active observation, a fact which helped me quickly learn the difference in the office’s dress code for days when the senator was present versus for days he was not. Still, even with all of my knowledge and preparation, I have to admit that the sight of the Capitol building looming before me on my first day was certainly enough to give me pause.

There was no need for anxiety though. From the moment I stepped foot in the office, McCain’s staff members were welcoming and polite. I was joined by five other interns, of whom only one was from Arizona. The others’ hometowns ranged from Virginia to Northern Ireland to Georgia in Eastern Europe. My public relations degree did stand apart from the others’ political science degrees, but with the ample opportunities to sit in on committee hearings and intern lectures and watch McCain speak on the Senate floor, I was quickly caught up in the engaging politics and activity that is our government at work.

My basic duties as an intern consisted of everything from sorting constituent mail by issue, to listening to voicemails and taking down a tally of what issues people called in about, to giving Capitol tours to constituents who came by the office, to delivering in-office mail. While that work is certainly important, I was not content to sit back and allow the opportunity to do more pass me by. At the end of the first week, I introduced myself to McCain’s press secretary, Rachael Dean, and offered my services, what little they were, to assist her in any way that I could. Fortunately for me, she was absolutely delighted to have the help.

I began with the rather difficult task of going through a year’s worth of press releases and making sure they were all properly organized and filed away. Because McCain ran for president in 2008, his constituent base is no longer limited to Arizona. Consequently, the sheer volume of press releases, media advisories, and statements that his press secretary and communications director are in charge of keeping track of is more than daunting, but Rachael and her counterpart manage to stay impressively collected in the middle of hundreds of phone calls and emails each day. Their composure is something to be admired and must be learned, I think, through experience.

When the press releases were all set in order, I was taught the detail-oriented job of amassing press clippings that mentioned or were pertinent to McCain. I also started shadowing Rachael and fully began to appreciate the many duties she gave detailed attention to. I assisted in setting up for press conferences, watched as McCain gave a live television interview in the Senate Rotunda after speaking on the floor of the Senate, and laughed slightly as Rachael made sure his hair laid just so before he went on-camera. I learned that of all the social media in the world, Twitter is the senator’s favorite, a fact I immediately passed along for Robert French to share with his Style and Design class. I learned to create media contact lists for local television stations and that communication within the office between the communications director, press secretary, and personal scheduler was crucial to making sure the senator stayed on time and that the office was on the same page when they released information.

The weeks at my internship flew by, and the lessons I learned during that time period are innumerable. Internships truly are an incredible way to learn hands-on application of what we are taught in the classroom. I feel that because I have briefly observed and operated in the office of a high-profile figure, I have a good base for being able to assure potential employers I can not only handle, but thrive on the stress and intensity that can be the day-to-day workings in a PR/press office.

Ellery Badcock – Lucky Magazine

Ellery Badcock graduated in August 2012 with a double major in Theatre and Radio, Television, and Film. She interned with the Office of External Affairs this summer and tells us about her previous internship with Lucky Magazine, which involves some frantic phone calls and leaving her mark at Jimmy Choo.

Ellery Badcock – Lucky Magazine

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At one of the most successful fashion magazines, Lucky Magazine, I couldn’t have been more excited to tell my friends and family that I would be spending the holidays in none other than New York City! I quickly pushed my nervousness aside because the day after exams ended, I boarded a plane and headed straight to my “winterbreak” adventure.

Luckily, I had my own personal tour guide as my older sister, Merris, had moved to the city only a few months before. If it wasn’t for her, I probably would have had a mental breakdown trying to navigate my way around town. On a sidetone, the subway was definitely my biggest fear about moving to the big way around town. On a side note, the subway was definitely my biggest fear about moving to the big city. Luckily, I had my own personal tour guide as my older sister, Merris, had moved to the city only a few months before. If it wasn’t for her, I probably would have had a mental breakdown trying to navigate my way around town. On a sidetone, the subway was definitely my biggest fear about moving to the big city. Luckily, I had my own personal tour guide as my older sister, Merris, had moved to the city only a few months before. If it wasn’t for her, I probably would have had a mental breakdown trying to navigate my way around town. On a sidetone, the subway was definitely my biggest fear about moving to the big city.

I started out the door. I had only been in the office for about 30 minutes when my boss asked me to go on a pickup. She handed me the address to none other than Jimmy Choo, and I was out the door.

I immediately called my sister and she calmly and patiently told me how to get across town using the subway, so instead I hopped in a cab. I wasn’t about to get lost all alone down in that deep dark abyss.

“I do this,” I kept thinking to myself, and before I knew it, I was riding the elevator up to one of the most iconic shoe designers ever. I couldn’t believe it. I had successfully gone on my first pickup, and was walking out of Jimmy Choo, bags in tow, feeling like the coolest girl in the world when—BAM! I ran right into the super-chic glass doors leaving an oh-so-attractive lipgloss smudge behind. A humbling experience to say the least.

Nine pickups, two bruised feet, and one broken ego later I was on my way home. Of course, I didn’t exactly know just how to get home, so once again I called my sister. I also didn’t realize that as I was making my way into the dark abyss that is the subway, I would lose cell phone service. Cue minor panic attack. Right as I felt that first hot tear of defeat begin to roll down my cheek, I heard someone call my name. Of course I assumed I was in an exhausted delusional state, because the only other logical explanation was that there was a psychic homeless man close by who knew my name and was going to try read my fortune for money. “You must be Ellery,” I heard a deep voice say (the hysteria must have given it away). When I turned around, all too sure that I was about to be abducted thanks to watching the movie Taken one too many times, I was so shocked to see my sister’s friend Skip standing as a beacon of light right there in the depths of the subway. Out of the eight million strangers in the city, there he was. I dramatically threw my arms around him, and all of the emotions of the day started pouring out of me. Thankfully, he pointed me in the right direction, and I returned home somewhat unscathed.

Now I know I may have painted a slightly horrifying picture, but I promise things got better. I didn’t have any The Devil Wears Prada encounters, and no, not everyone wore Yves Saint Laurent to work. In fact, everyone I met and every single person I worked with was incredibly kind and helpful. Our office was just like any other office environment (except with a slightly more fashionable twist). We celebrated birthdays and holidays, and the head accessories director even threw us a pizza party one day just for fun!

I can honestly say that I have never worked so hard in my life than I did that first day of my internship, and yet the longer I was there, the more confident I became in my intern abilities. When I made mistakes (and trust me, you will), I learned not to take it personally but instead figured out how to fix the problem at hand. I learned how to communicate professionally with clients and got to know exactly what it was like to work in a super fast-paced environment (efficiency and effectiveness are key). I took away more from this internship than I could have ever imagined.

The subway ended up not being as creepy or as difficult to figure out, and each day I discovered something exciting and new.

The editorial world can be intimidating, but with a little bit of backbone, lots of hard work, and a ton of passion, you will be just fine. Future interns, remember: Always bring an umbrella as the weather can be very unforgiving, NEVER wear heels unless you bring a pair of flats to walk in (after working a 10 hour day you will thank me for this), Google Maps will be your new best friend, and always be prepared. Most importantly, smile and have fun! Talk to everyone, learn as much as you can, and take it all in. After all, it can be the experience of a lifetime!

Alison Hudson –
City of Auburn and Auburn University

Alison Hudson is a senior in public relations. She interned with the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation and is currently interning with the Office of External Affairs as she prepares to graduate in May. She talks about her differing experiences at both of these places.

I remember the first time someone told me the only way I was going to get a job after college is if I had experience through internships. So me that meant if I didn’t get an internship ASAP I would forever be jobless, meaning I’d never make money, meaning I’d be living at home for my entire life, meaning I’d never find anyone to love and would end up being the crazy woman in her 70s who never had a real job, watched too much TLC, and only had her cats and knitted scarves to snuggle with. A little much? Maybe. But it scared me enough to really think about my career and how I wanted to get where I was going.

After that I was on a mission to get as much experience as I possibly could before entering into “the real world.” I now can happily say I have two internships under my belt, one currently ongoing.

The first internship I had was with the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation. I learned so much through this experience and it really helped me to understand what kind of drive and passion it takes to plan event after event. My two bosses, Alison and Dana, are amazing, upbeat women who put their whole hearts into what they do. One of my favorite things was working with the Special Olympics and being introduced to people who I never would have met otherwise. With the City of Auburn internship I was constantly on my feet with whatever we were doing. It definitely is the internship for someone who is interested in community event planning. It helped sharpen my people skills and made me realize how important it is to be a team player.

My current internship with the College of Liberal Arts has been a completely different kind of internship. I’ve had to put my writing and creativity skills to work. I’ve learned through this internship that I can’t sit back and wait to be told what to do. I am constantly checking my agenda to make sure I have everything turned in on deadline. All of this has helped me learn that responsibility doesn’t always have to be scary and that it can be fun. Along with the deadlines and such, I’ve also come to know a good majority of the CLA faculty and staff and it’s something I would never give back. I have been beyond blessed with these internships and am thankful every day for the experience I’ve gained and am still gaining, so I won’t have to end up the crazy, knitted scarves, cat lady.
Walking through the campus today, alumni might notice big changes, but the fundamentals and traditions of Auburn and the College of Liberal Arts remain strong and steadfast.

“The College of Liberal Arts has grown not only in size but also in influence and reach. In addition to providing a first-rate education, initiatives and programs that prepare its students for successful careers in the real world.”

Kay Acton, ’84, Public Relations-Speech Editor-in-Chief, Society South Magazine

Vice president of The Coca-Cola Company and president of the global McDonald’s Division Javier Goizueta was invited to Auburn’s campus this spring as the commencement speaker for the College of Liberal Arts’ first independent graduation ceremony. Goizueta, a 1981 Public Relations-Speech graduate, admits he was surprised and honored by the invitation. “When Dean Gramberg talked to me about it when we met in Atlanta, I said I’d love to do it. Frankly, I didn’t think it would actually happen because I assumed she would have a lot of other options,” said Goizueta.

During his speech, Goizueta spoke to the students about hard work and the importance of family. He charged the crowd to stay focused and diligent and encouraged students to pursue a career doing something that they love. “Success means different things to different people, and how you measure success is very much an individual thing,” Goizueta said. “I love what I do at The Coca-Cola Company, and it’s what helps me get motivated each and every day to be a little bit better tomorrow.”

Goizueta was involved in several extracurricular activities as a student, including intramural sports and writing for The Auburn Plainsman. Both history and philosophy intrigued Goizueta, and he credits Dr. Joe Kicklighter as one of his most inspiring professors. “He makes learning fun, and yet he’s not easy,” Goizueta confesses. “He’s hard and challenges you, but he relates so well to the students, and in that respect he’s just wonderful.”

Although so much has changed on Auburn’s campus, Goizueta believes that the core of the university remains the same. By staying true to long-standing traditions and a strong sense of community, Auburn has been able to grow and exceed students’ demands. “For those lucky enough to attend Auburn, they leave with so much more than a diploma. I firmly believe that you really learn as much outside of the classroom at Auburn as you do inside the classroom. The whole experience of being a student at Auburn is terribly enriching.”

by Ellery Badcock

Liberal Arts Commencement with Coca-Cola

This spring, the College of Liberal Arts was proud to host the first-ever independent graduation ceremony for students. Invited by Dean Gramberg, Javier Goizueta, ’81, stood as the commencement speaker.
How important do you think it is to build student/professor relationships?

So very important. Many students might view these kinds of connections as trying to be a teacher’s pet or brown-nosing, but for me that wasn’t the case. Just like in any relationship, it’s all about finding personalities and characteristics that work with your own. You aren’t going to be best friends with all of your professors, but five years later there are still some of my past instructors who I keep in contact with and value their friendship.

Did you have a favorite professor or mentor in CLA?

That’s such a hard question! I could never pick just one. As I said before, you connect with different people for different reasons. I loved Jane Teel and Dr. Fitch-Hauser. Robert French was a favorite of mine because his Style & Design course was invaluable. I loved Dr. Brunner because she genuinely wanted all of us to succeed, and she made sure we knew that and were prepared for the working world. And last but not least, Julie Huff because she understood where we were in our lives and developed a unique relationship with all of her students.

Do you feel that the CLA prepared you well for the “real world?”

Absolutely. As soon as my time at Auburn was over, I launched directly into my own business. I already had a web presence, portfolio, knowledge of current social media trends, and so many other things that allowed me to grow into the recognizable brand I am today.

What has been the biggest struggle upon graduating and entering the working world?

I suppose just simply making it. I was well equipped with the tools I needed—I just had to implement them.

What do you feel your biggest accomplishment has been since graduating?

My biggest accomplishments are constantly changing. Every new job I book or article I’m featured in gives me a new accomplishment to celebrate. Even just being acknowledged for putting in years of hard work—it’s reassuring that I’m doing something right.

What advice would you give to graduating seniors in CLA?

Listen to your professors! Students hear this all the time, but they know what it takes to make it in your industry and they actually want you to succeed.

What is your mission or goal?

My goal is to always be better than the day before. Good is never enough, and great is just cutting it. I hold myself to a standard of excellence. I want to consistently produce on a higher level than those around me.

What inspires you? Does it differ from client to client?

It sounds so generic but for me inspiration comes from everywhere. Nature, music, architecture, emotions... everything! With my clients, it does vary from person to person. Every event needs to have a different atmosphere that evokes the emotion reflective of that client.

Where do you see your company in the next 25 years?

I can’t say where I’ll be in 25 years. The world is constantly changing, so I want to always be one step ahead—always evolving. It’s simply survival. Being better than everyone around me, but not being afraid to have someone on my team who has more knowledge in certain areas. You are the sum of the people you surround yourself with, so I want to surround myself with greatness. I never settle for mediocrity. Everyone has the potential for greatness, and I will strive for it every day.

Find out more about Confere Design at www.christopherconfero.com

Do you have a most memorable moment as a designer?

There are SO many memorable moments; it’s hard to nail down just one. Every time one of my brides tears up when she sees the complete reception space all together, or when the phone rings a second time for a repeat corporate client. Those moments are the assurance that I did my job right—that I made their dreams come true.

What is your favorite Auburn memory?

I was blessed to be a part of the Auburn University Singers, so a lot of my emotional memories come from that experience. I will never forget performing my first fall show. I was a bundle of nerves! And I will always remember my last spring show. I enjoyed knowing that I belonged to something bigger than just the current group of 36 singers.

I was connected to so many generations before my own and endless generations after.

What do you think is the most important thing a student in CLA can learn?

I think it’s important to always be better than those around you. You aren’t going to be best friends with all of your professors, but five years later there are still some of my past instructors who I keep in contact with and value their friendship.

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BY | ALISON HUDSON

Auburn University alumnus Christopher Confero has been climbing the ladder to success since he graduated from the College of Liberal Arts in 2007 with a degree in public relations. Even with Confero's up-and-coming professional stardom he still stays true to his alma mater and gives back to the college's students. This past summer he hired three of Auburn's Liberal Arts students to be full-time interns so they could gain experience in the event planning and design world. Confero himself is always open for gaining new experiences and recently accepted the role of Vice President at David Beahm Design in New York City.

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In this 1987 Auburn Plainsman article, Kicklighter discusses the inspiration for his the Last Lecture speech. Kicklighter was honored once more when the student body chose him to give the Final Lecture in 2008.

The Good Fight: Brookshire’s Battle Against Bullying

by Alison Hudson

Turning wounds into wisdom is a rigorous act. It involves unearthing battle scars and painful memories and is not something most people want to do, but for one of our alumni, it was a healing experience—one she is sharing with others. For Jessica Brookshire, a 2009 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and recent Young Alumni Achievement Award winner, turning her wounds of being bullied as a young girl into wisdom and direction for others was a healing experience.

“I was a victim of bullying throughout my years in school,” says Brookshire. “Bullying puts such a dark cloud over everything, that as a child it is hard sometimes to see that things will eventually get better. If someone had told me that it would eventually be ok, and I could succeed in life, then my school years would have been very different for me.”

Turning her wounds into wisdom, Brookshire established the anti-bullying organization Kids Against Ridicule, Meanness and Aggression, or K.A.R.M.A. With K.A.R.M.A., Brookshire set out to teach children the power of their words and encourage kindness toward everyone. K.A.R.M.A.’s website is filled with numerous stories, educational material, and resources to help address and prevent the issue of bullying.

“Bullying tears an individual down to the point that they feel they will never succeed in anything,” Brookshire says. “Sometimes children just need to hear that they are important, smart, and incredible people, no matter what their classmates may say.”

Brookshire studied international trade and Spanish at Auburn, minoring in political science. In 2011, she earned her master’s of Hispanic studies with concentrations in Latin American history and women’s studies. Recently Brookshire, who has spoken to over 200,000 students and another 600,000 plus adults across the nation in the past three years, was named a recipient of the Young Alumni Achievement Award, sponsored by the Auburn Alumni Association.

While at Auburn, Brookshire was active in her sorority as well as various campus clubs and organizations and multiple academic honor societies. She served as a senator on the Graduate Student Council during her second year of graduate school. Brookshere became involved in the Miss America Organization, competing in the Miss Alabama pageant as Miss Auburn/Opelika Area 2009, Miss Fountain City 2010, and most recently Miss Tombigbee 2011. K.A.R.M.A. was Brookshire’s chosen platform community service project during her involvement in Miss Alabama.

“I believe very firmly in always giving back to others,” says Brookshire. “It is amazing to see the gratification of something that you have poured your heart and soul into for so long. I love Auburn and am ecstatic to be able to represent the Auburn family in such a magnificent way.”

Brookshire, originally from Snellville, Georgia, says Auburn is a family tradition. “Nothing compares to the feeling you get just walking around campus, or through Samford Lawn as the clock tower plays the fight song,” says Brookshire. “I love Auburn so much, and I am proud to call myself an Auburn woman in everything I do.”

Find out more about K.A.R.M.A. at www.thekarma.org

“As the university has interests both inside Alabama, so has the I am so awed by the students in terms of they can pursue during The college has also honor excellence both and those who learn. college’s life at asset for all of us who in education and for...
Soaring with BraveHearts
by Alison Hudson

Both Auburn and Opelika offer various activities year round for residents. From outdoor movie events to downtown art walks, it would seem there is something for everyone. Yet, one woman noticed something was missing. Angie Colvin Burque, an associate clinical professor in the Social Work Program in the College of Liberal Arts, noticed something that most others hadn’t—the need for more opportunities for young adults diagnosed with moderate to severe disabilities. Thus, Expressions of a BraveHeart Fine Arts Program, more commonly known as BraveHearts, was born. BraveHearts was started in 2010 and gives these teens a chance to engage in art, music, and dance classes. The classes are held at the Opelika Sportsplex every second and fourth Monday during the spring and fall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Every class has two teachers and at least one of those teachers has experience with special needs youth. This is a unique program because each participant is guaranteed a primary coach (an Auburn student volunteer) who serves as a buddy to provide whatever degree of assistance is needed.

“BraveHearts is the intersection of a few different experiences and a collection of observations,” Burque says.

Burque attributes being a social work professor and having a history of social work practice experiences to the development and implementation of the program. “A key part of social work is about doing and helping those who are underserved and most vulnerable in society,” Burque says. “I see kids with disabilities being very much in that element.”

Burque also has a personal reason she wanted the program to come to fruition. Burque said she has been blessed with two children, one of whom has a disability, and she noticed there was a need for a program like BraveHearts. “I’ve gone through the experiences of what they are able to have access to and what they’re able to participate in,” Burque says. “I was thinking in the back of my head there needs to be a really safe and fun place for this population to grow and thrive.”

Burque is also a believer of offering students experiences to prepare them for their futures. “I’m a strong advocate of [the principal] that if you’re teaching students how to be helpers they need real-life experiences with real-life people.” Each participant has an Auburn University student who serves as an individual coach and buddy during each class. Being a coach and buddy is open to anyone who is interested, not just social work or special education majors.

“You can’t go through life and not experience every person who is out there,” Burque says. “There is value to every person and you have to be open to understanding a population that’s different than you are.”

Dr. Danilea Werner, an assistant professor in the Social Work Program says, “Everybody gets something out of it. My Auburn students always say they learn so much. It’s equally a learning experience for them.”

The coaches are taught to look for change and growth in much smaller quantities. “We tell our students, ‘don’t make any assumptions.’ Just because one of these participants is nonverbal doesn’t mean they aren’t taking in what’s happening,” says Burque.

“There is value in everything we do. If even a child doesn’t go into the class there is value in sitting there with his or her coach in the quiet room. They’re still making friendships.”
The college has had three out of the four Final Lecturers, and this year it’s Macy Finck, an economics instructor who has been named to the 2012 Princeton Review’s “The Best 300 Professors.”

You could say economics instructor Macy Finck has been prepared to teach since before he flipped his mortarboard tasseled from the right to the left. Finck, who was nominated by the 2012 senior class to give the Final Lecture and also listed in the 2012 Princeton Review’s “The Best 300 Professors,” says he enjoys everything about the college campus environment and never seriously considered any other career path.

“Spending my career at a university as a professor appealed to me a great deal,” Finck says. During his undergraduate years Finck was known not just for taking notes on material presented in class, but also taking notes about professors’ teaching styles and what he did or did not like.

“I was constantly thinking about the style I would eventually develop when I was teaching my own classes,” Finck says. This habit helped Finck become the beloved teacher he is today.

“My teaching style is a combination of those of my favorite undergraduate professors,” Finck says. “I attempt to structure my courses so that students have an incentive to pay attention, because that is a skill of utmost importance.”

It would seem someone who started to exhibit this kind of dedication to his classes and students far before they even existed wouldn’t be shocked by the eminent nominations and awards he’s received, yet Finck says he experienced an entire spectrum of emotions upon learning about the Final Lecture nomination.

“I felt validated yet humbled, honored yet completely shocked,” Finck says. “I honestly have no idea who nominated me or why, but I am overwhelmed that I was able to touch a student’s life in such a way that he or she felt a nomination appropriate.”

When it came to choosing a topic for the Final Lecture, Finck chose an overall theme of how to achieve success and happiness in the current economic climate.

“As an economist, I wanted students to be aware of what they will be facing with regard to the current labor market after graduation and learn to define their self-worth according to more than just the size of their paycheck,” Finck says.

Finck also drew from his experience at Auburn as both a graduate student and an instructor. “I thought students might have an interest in hearing about my personal experiences over the last 13 years,” Finck says. Finck says the most nerve-racking aspect of giving the lecture was simply not knowing what to expect. He says the positive reaction to his lecture was nearly as humbling as being listed in the 2012 Princeton Review’s list and being voted this year’s final lecturer.

Women in Philosophy

Dr. Keren Gorodeisky, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, was recently awarded the 2012–13 Philip Quinn Fellowship for Young Women in Philosophy at the National Humanities Center. The worldwide honor is only given to one woman in philosophy during the early stages of her career.

“Receiving the Phillip Quinn Fellowship means the world to me,” said Gorodeisky. Centering her research on philosophic aesthetics, the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, and 18th–19th century German philosophy, Gorodeisky is excited to spend the tenure of her fellowship at the National Humanities Center. “The opportunity to focus solely on my research for the whole academic year, free of any other academic duties, will prove crucial for the development and the completion of my book project,” she added.

This summer, Gorodeisky also received a research grant from the College of Liberal Arts that she used to further work on her project’s introduction and the final research necessary for writing the chapters she will be concerned with during her fellowship.

During her spare time, Gorodeisky serves as the advisor to the Philosophy Club, a role she says is one of the greatest joys in her job at Auburn University. “I get to spend a lot of cherished time with the Philosophy Department’s dedicated majors and often with non-majors who wish to engage in philosophical activities,” Gorodeisky said. She is also involved in several new club initiatives such as the “Philosophy and Film Series” held at a local coffee shop, the GNU’s Room. Gorodeisky maintains and advertises the club’s schedule and encourages students and faculty to participate.

“Although I know I will miss my terrific colleagues, students, and friends here in Auburn, I have no doubt that my project in particular, and my thought in general, will greatly benefit from the intellectual interactions with the other 2012–13 National Humanities Center fellows,” said Gorodeisky.

Ed Williams Retires

Since his arrival to Auburn in 1983, Ed Williams has served as more than just a professor or advisor. "Those words simply don't do him justice. At best Williams can be described as a role model, friend, mentor, confidant, or hero to those who cross his path. At worst he is hardworking and tenacious and consistently pushes students to perform to the utmost of their abilities."

"Ed treated his students as adults. He provided a forum for us to make—and own—our decisions. He set the stage for us to make mistakes or thrive beyond our wildest expectations," says Lee Davidson, a ’99 Auburn alumna and former student of Williams. "His dedication, brutal honesty, and consistency set him apart. You have to earn it with Ed, and when you do, you receive the blessing of knowing him. It's a gift you carry with you for the rest of your life."

Since the announcement of his retirement earlier this year, Williams says his immediate plans are not to make any commitments for a year, but he knows he will stay active and busy.

"All these years in the classroom, and then as faculty advisor at The Auburn Plainsman, and seeing students put their classroom lessons into practice—it's been fun and a pure job," Williams says. It is challenging to try and sum up what Williams means not just to the College of Liberal Arts, but also to the whole of Auburn University. In 2008, when Williams stepped down as advisor for The Plainsman, the staff published a column in the spring edition of the paper dedicated to Williams.

"We wish every student had the opportunity to come into contact with him, to get to know him the way we have," said the 2008 staff. "Ed Williams has touched all of our lives in more ways than he or we will ever really know. Ed Williams cares. He genuinely wants to know and love people. Such people are few and far between on this earth. He has fought the good fight. He has finished the course. He has kept the faith. He is the spirit that is not afraid."
Dr. Anna Gramberg, a native of Norderney, Germany, joined the Auburn faculty in 1992. As Dean of the College of Liberal Arts since 2005, Dr. Gramberg has implemented programs in research, civic engagement, sustainability, study abroad, and the arts. She serves on the Executive Board for the Alabama Germany Partnership and the Board of Directors for the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Do you recall what you were doing 25 years ago, and did you envision yourself to be where you are now?

Twenty-five years ago I came to this country as an exchange student, and I fell in love with the United States of America because I saw it truly as a free country where everyone has an opportunity. I knew if I worked hard and applied myself, I could be successful. So in that sense, did I know I would be a dean, no. But I did know that I would be successful.

The College of Liberal Arts is very committed to their students. What kinds of initiatives are being taken to benefit the students?

There are literally hundreds. One big initiative we have is the Community and Civic Engagement initiative. We offer a minor in CCE, but there are dozens of other opportunities as well. One such in particular is the Living Democracy initiative, which was just featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Together with the Kettering Foundation, we are supporting students who spend three months during the summer in communities in Alabama. Right now we have seven students living in small communities throughout the state like Hobson City and Selma. Blake Evans, a senior who spent his summer in Linden, put together a PR tape to promote the city. Evans spent time with the citizens of Linden and became friends with the mayor, Mitzi Gates, attracting quite a lot of positive attention. Living Democracy is something I really believe will continue to grow.

Another exciting addition to the College of Liberal Arts is the new internship programs being offered in London and Beijing. While the College of Liberal Arts is sponsoring the students, this is a joint project with the two cities as they are supplying the students with free housing. In London, students can intern in fields such as banking and finance, public relations and advertising, publishing and graphic design and in museums, theatres, hotels, and legal firms. In Beijing, students have the opportunity to learn Mandarin Chinese while engaging with the city through the Learning Through Internships experience.

We also give research scholarships to students for presenting papers or for travel, and we support internships within the country. Through the research scholarships, students are able to work with a faculty member. So that’s another unique opportunity where our faculty gets involved and personally mentors a student on a certain project. Next fall, I am teaching a brand new class called “Careers in the College of Liberal Arts.” That’s going to be a wonderful opportunity where I bring in some of our outstanding alumni to speak about their career paths and give real-world advice to our students. There will be people from different areas and careers who are very interesting people, so I hope to have an enthusiastic class.

We also just created the Mosaic Theatre Company, which is dear to my heart. It’s a wonderful outreach activity for our students, and I hope that eventually it will be able to carry itself financially where these young students can go out into the world and be paid for their performances. I am eager to connect the idea of outreach and research with bringing in money for our students so that they have financial opportunities as well as career opportunities. We want to put a special emphasis on employing our students and making sure that students are given resources to find jobs.

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be and why?

One piece of advice that a professor in Germany actually gave to me was probably the best advice I’ve ever received. I asked him if it made sense to have a certain major versus another, and he said, “You will be good in anything that you are interested in.” In other words, apply yourself in the things you actually like to do because it will automatically lead you spending a lot of time in that area and will make you more successful. If you become something that you don’t like and aren’t passionate about, you won’t apply yourself, and then you aren’t competitive. Unfortunately, not all people have a lot of choices. I didn’t have a lot of choices. I always knew that I had to make a living, and I just moved forward. I know a lot of time today is spent on asking yourself “what do I want to do?” and if people are in the kind of environment that affords them this kind of time, I think that’s great. But if you don’t have that, you don’t need it. Just put one foot in front of the other, and just walk. Look for the next ladder, find your passion, and walk up.

From someone who has been very successful in her own career, what advice do you have for the students in the College of Liberal Arts?

A liberal arts education is wonderful because it gives you the kind of background that keeps you flexible. Everybody knows our world is changing.
drastically and will change even faster in the future. The College of Liberal Arts gives you the tools to adapt. So I would tell everyone to add something unique to their education. It could be adding a double major or a minor, learning another language—just add something to your experience that distinguishes you from others.

Who inspires you?
Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany. I really admire her, and she plays an incredibly important role in the whole world because there are not too many women who are real role models for other women, or for anyone for that matter. In that sense, she is truly unique, and I admire her greatly.

Since you started teaching, how has the College of Liberal Arts grown? What’s changed?
I became the dean in 2005, and since then a great deal has changed. We’ve become a lot more efficient and hired wonderful people, both faculty and staff, who have really advanced us. We have, of course, employed much more technology. We make many opportunities available for our students, faculty, and staff. We’ve dramatically increased our scholarship funding. We have numerous programs and minors now that reach beyond just Liberal Arts, including Community and Civic Engagement, Africana Studies, the Women’s Leadership Institute, Asian Studies, Women’s Studies, International Trade, and so forth. We’ve also strengthened our relationships with other colleges such as the College of Engineering. The Fine Arts have really grown in the past few years. We are able to bring more events to campus such as the Maya Angelou lecture in November—we’ve never done anything close to that before. We’re really focusing on getting our students outside the classroom to gain “real world” experience. Every year we do a student survey, and over 90% of our students say they are satisfied with their Liberal Arts experience. They love their department, their advisors; they are pleased with the administration and the advice they receive from our faculty. They feel happy within the College of Liberal Arts. This is huge! So in that sense, I think we’ve grown into a much bigger college. We have brought the thirteen departments together and created an identity—Find Your Place. We want to leave everyone room to find their place, but we are all about team spirit and we try to achieve great things together. To put it simply, we are a different place.

What’s on the horizon for the College of Liberal Arts? Where do you see the college in the next 25 years?
The next 25 years could be complicated because of all of the advances in technology. That being said, I would like to see a performing arts center in Auburn, an emphasis on technology, better access to online learning, and even stronger engagement with our communities. We need to look at creating new revenue streams. These objectives can be combined through projects such as the new LUCIA lab, for instance, a communication-research lab that provides services to industry and businesses. We are also reaching out to the community with our new Mosaic Theatre Company which uses theatrical representations to speak to a broad array of audiences about diverse issues. We believe that these programs and others like them will become self-sustaining and generate revenue streams. We are constantly on the lookout for these kinds of opportunities so that we can fund more scholarships and provide more support generally for everyone associated with the College and the communities we serve. The future will be exciting, and we plan to lead the way with innovative programs.
New & Notable

English faculty are helping to build literacy through the establishment of The Community Writing Center, which offers free writing, coaching, and resume-building workshops to community members of all ages.

Kathleen Hale, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, was honored in 2012 by practitioners and academics for her book, *How Information Matters: Networks and Public Policy Innovation*. She received the National Media Award from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Psychology faculty members are active in multidisciplinary research at the Auburn University MRI Center. Dr. Jeffrey Katz, in conjunction with Dr. Thomas Denney (College of Engineering) has received support from federal sources to research the effects of service in combat areas on members of the military.

The College of Liberal Arts and Departmental Peer Advisors are a group of students selected and trained to serve as academic assistants and professionals with the college or an academic department. The goal of the peer advising program is for students to provide support to other students that leads to satisfaction and the achievement of educational goals.

More than 60 students from the College of Liberal Arts participated in “Experiencing Citizenship,” a collaborative event at the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery based on the theme of active citizenship. Students attended a naturalization ceremony and the Mock Trial Team practiced a trial, while art students practiced courtroom sketches.

The New Media Club is dedicated to students working and learning together as they produce audio and visual projects to increase knowledge and appreciation for new media types and, through doing so, stimulate a hands-on approach to learning both pre-existing technologies and newer mediums. These projects include, but are not limited to, social networking, non-terrestrial radio and podcasting, video for the web, web design, etc.

Faculty in the Department of Communication Disorders worked with faculty in the Department of Music to join the Adopt-A-Band Program, which educates musicians about the importance of wearing hearing protection during practice and performance. With financial assistance from both departments, all members of the AU Marching Band were provided with high-fidelity earplugs and cord, educational materials on safe listening levels, and industry news and updates.

Freshman journalism student Allie Davison was selected as a 2012 National Scholastic Press Association finalist in the multimedia feature competition. She helped produce a video about sign language for the 2012 Florida Scholastic Press Association competition which placed second in the state competition.

Mitchell Brown, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, was recently appointed by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley as a member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention “Childrens’ Trust Fund” Board representing the Third Congressional District.
LUCIA

The Lab for Usability, Communication, Interaction, and Accessibility (LUCIA) is a communication-research laboratory codirected by Dr. Ed Youngblood, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, and Dr. Jo Mackiewicz, an associate professor and the Director of Graduate Studies for the Master of Technical and Professional Communication program. LUCIA is designed to facilitate a wide range of communication-related inquiries, including research on human-computer interaction, media consumption, group communication, and interpersonal communication. While LUCIA’s primary purpose is to extend and enrich the research of faculty and graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts, its mission also includes working with industry clients. In addition to the recording capabilities of experimental rooms, they offer access to a range of media research tools appropriate for evaluating both traditional and new media. These tools include the Perception Analyzer—an industry-standard system for continuously tracking an audience’s response to any audio or video, a resource unavailable at most academic institutions. LUCIA is also equipped with EyeGuide eye-tracking software and Morae usability-testing software.

Mosaic Theatre Company

The Mosaic Theatre Company is dedicated to the creation and performance of original works of theatre that interrogate current issues of diversity in the hopes of facilitating productive dialogue and crafting lifelong alliances. The Mosaic Theatre Company is comprised of Auburn University students from an array of academic, geographic, racial/ethnic, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Artistic director Dr. Heather May, along with visiting director Joan Lipkin, train company members in the legendary techniques of Augusto Boal’s Theatre of the Oppressed, as well as work collaboratively with the ensemble year-round to develop new materials, hone theatrical skills, and perform their work in university and community settings. Some of the issues explored by the ensemble include immigration, interpersonal relationships, coming out, Greek life, substance use, racism in the classroom, and domestic violence. Patrons applaud the talent displayed and the issues covered by Mosaic. Some have commented that they never thought a night of theatre could do so much that hours of family therapy have never been able to reach.

Living Democracy: A Project for Students and Citizens

Living Democracy, a College of Liberal Arts initiative recently featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, places students into a yearlong relationship with a participating community in Alabama for a unique civic engagement experience during the summer. During the 2012 summer, seven students lived and worked for 10 weeks in the following communities: Bayou La Batre, Elba, Hobson City, Linden, Marion, Selma, and Valley. The students coordinated projects with local people on issues that matter to the communities. To read about the project and experiences, visit alivingdemocracy.wordpress.com.
Like our Facebook page!
facebook.com/AULiberalArts

Come celebrate with friends at the
College of Liberal Arts Tailgate Extravaganza!
Saturday, November 10, 2012 — Auburn vs. Georgia
The tailgate will be held in the Telfair Peet Theatre parking lot at the corner of Duncan Drive and Samford Avenue.
The party begins three hours before kickoff with free food and 80s themed fun for all!