



USING BUGS AS PESTICIDES

Auburn's Positive Effect on One Family

Student's Research Connects Civil War
History to the Present

Learning about Life in South America:
Erika Goodwin's Service Learning Project



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Tolulope Morawo, an Entomology doctoral graduate, studies the connections between plants and pests.

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Message from the Dean

Dr. George Flowers



During my time as graduate dean, I have watched thousands of students successfully graduate and begin excellent careers. The goal of the Graduate School is to help each of our students succeed on a daily basis. Therefore, I am excited about the leadership and new initiatives from President Steven Leath during his first year at Auburn University.

Auburn is working hard to grow scholarly enterprise and doctoral programs. By 2022, Auburn plans to hire 500 tenure-track faculty to target a wide array of research and scholarly disciplines. President Leath has also established the new Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship program, which will be offered annually to enhance the profiles of Auburn's doctoral and terminal degree graduates.

The research conducted by our graduate students positively reflects Auburn's mission to provide the knowledge base for outreach programs. A few examples can be found in this edition of the Graduate School magazine.

Three Minute Thesis winner Lauren Woodie outperformed researchers from 47 universities across the South with her presentation on time-restricted feeding and its impact on obesity. Aspiring historian Peter Thomas shares his research work and observations on the Civil War. Tolulope Morawo examines chemical communication between plants, pest insects, and beneficial insects as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Lastly, Erika Goodwin shares how a service learning project with the master of accountancy program impacted her life.

The Graduate School takes joy in watching our students make an impact on the world. We sincerely appreciate the support we receive from our alumni and friends. Your support makes a huge difference in the lives of our graduate students.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George T. Flowers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

George Flowers
Dean of the Graduate School



Top Rankings

Auburn is among a distinctive body of institutions designated as land-, sea-, and space-grant universities and receives many accolades from accrediting agencies and ranking publications. A comprehensive list is available at auburn.edu/rankings.

- Auburn is one of *Forbes'* America's Best Value Colleges, ranked highest in the state of Alabama.
- According to *Forbes*, Auburn is one of America's Top Colleges, ranked in the top 30 percent nationally.
- *The Princeton Review* ranked Auburn No. 17 in "Colleges with the Happiest Students."
- Niche ranked Auburn as the best university in Alabama.
- Auburn has been ranked in the top 50 public universities for 25 consecutive years by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- *Kiplinger's* listed Auburn as one of the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" for 2018.

AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sumaiya Islam is a doctoral student in chemical engineering from Bangladesh. She serves as the president of the International Student Organization.



“When I first came to Auburn, I really did not know what to expect. The diversity this campus has to offer is very impressive, and I am overwhelmed by the hospitality I receive every day from the people around me, especially people working across the university. Everyone at the graduate school, my department, and other offices are very welcoming and helpful. I have made some very special friendships around campus, and it has all made my experience in Auburn as an international student much more fulfilling.”

Auburn's Positive Effect on One Family

Auburn has a charm that draws many people to its traditions. Mynor Rodriguez-Hernandez and his family, natives of Costa Rica, spent four years on the Plains while Rodriguez-Hernandez pursued—and earned—his doctorate degree in kinesiology from Auburn. Those few years were more than enough to make them fall in love with the city of Auburn.

Auburn was more than a place for him to earn his degree. It was a place to enhance his children's education, relationships, and athletic abilities. It was a place for him and his family to develop relationships that will last a lifetime.

The Rodriguez-Hernandez family cherished every opportunity they had while living in Auburn. Rodriguez-Hernandez considers his family's time in Auburn the best experience they've had.

"My family has really enjoyed living here," he said. "They enjoyed every opportunity, every experience."

Upon arriving, the Rodriguez-Hernandez family immediately felt loved by the citizens of Auburn. From the beginning, they received lots of support. Adjusting to the university, its environment, and the Auburn community was an easy process, one Rodriguez-Hernandez considers a blessing.

Rodriguez-Hernandez considers his time as a graduate student at Auburn a huge accomplishment for himself and his family. He is the only person in his family to earn an education from a university.

In Costa Rica, people begin working to provide for the family after sixth grade. In the country's culture, people often look

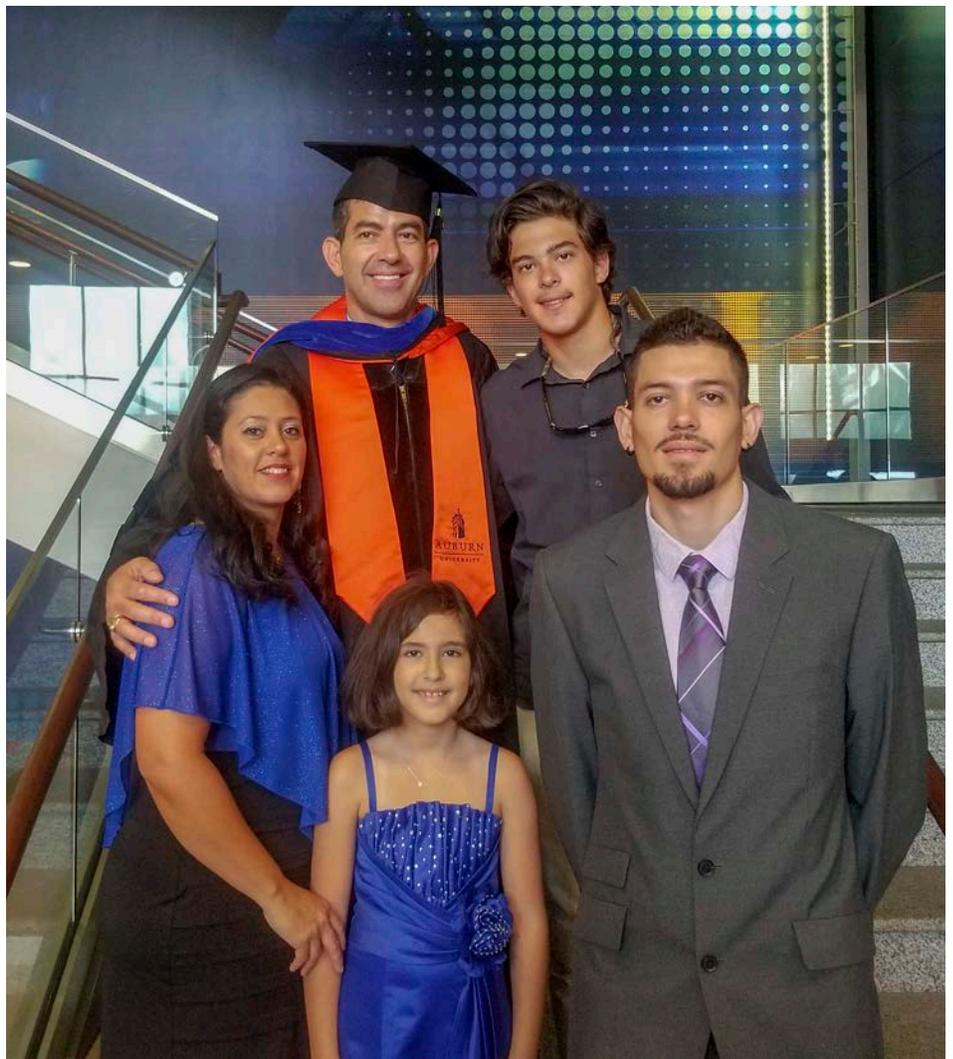
down on their peers who choose to continue their education. Rodriguez-Hernandez was determined to receive a higher education, so he worked hard to achieve his goals.

"I had to work on weekends, holidays—any time I could to be able to pay for my studies," said Rodriguez-Hernandez.

Hard work and dedication led Rodriguez-Hernandez to earn his doctorate in kinesiology from Auburn in August 2017.

Rodriguez-Hernandez and his family are now readjusting to life in Costa Rica. He is working on research while also serving as a professor at the University of Costa Rica.

Eventually, Rodriguez-Hernandez hopes to start his own lab at the university. There, he will attend and evaluate people during physical activity and address ways to improve physical health and decrease their risk of developing lifestyle-related diseases.



“My family has really enjoyed living here. They enjoyed every opportunity, every experience.”

AUBURN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S DISCOVERY



Auburn President Steven Leath has established a new graduate research fellowship program to significantly enhance the profiles of the university's doctoral and terminal degree graduates as academic and societal leaders.

The Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship will be offered annually to a select number of highly qualified new students who intend to pursue doctoral and terminal professional degrees in established and emerging areas of excellence.

A minimum of 33 new fellowships will be available to recipients every fall semester. Each award will be for three years and will consist of a \$10,000 presidential fellowship, along with a minimum \$5,000 dean's fellowship and a minimum \$15,000 graduate research assistantship, as well as tuition and fees.

Nominees cannot already be enrolled in a doctoral program at Auburn and must be enrolled for nine hours during fall and spring semesters and at least one hour during the summer semester.

For more information, visit aub.ie/presidentialfellowships.



USING BUGS AS PESTICIDES

“Parasitic wasps are beneficial insects—the ‘good bugs.’ You can think of it as plants making a 911 distress call!”

Tolulope Morawo

Plants make up a substantial percentage of our food, but insect infestation accounts for billions of dollars in annual crop losses. Most farmers rely on the use of synthetic insecticides to control pests in various crop production systems. Using pesticides comes with risks of overuse or improper use, which can lead to insect resistance, food safety concerns, and environmental pollution. Tolulope Morawo, a doctoral graduate from entomology, spent his time as an Auburn graduate student researching the chemical communication between plants, pest insects, and beneficial insects. He then used that knowledge to improve pest management strategies in agricultural systems.



Dr. Tolulope Morawo feeds parasitic wasps (*Microplitis croceipes*) with sugar water. These tiny wasps are beneficial insects that help control the population of pest insects in crop fields.

Morawo's Research

He and other researchers in the field of chemical ecology study the natural compounds that mediate chemical interactions among living organisms. Morawo used cotton, tobacco budworm caterpillars, and *Microplitis croceipes*, a parasitic wasp, as a study system to understand the chemical reactions among three ecological feeding levels.

From this study system, Morawo discovered that plants are the primary producers, but insects attack them in search of food. When insect pests damage plants, both infested plants and pest insects emit volatile compounds which attract natural enemies such as parasitic wasps.

"Parasitic wasps are beneficial insects—the 'good bugs,'" said Morawo. "You can think of it as plants making a 911 distress call."

Female parasitic wasps are drawn to the odor emitted by the plant. The wasp then lays an egg in the caterpillars, causing them to eventually die upon emergence of the new baby wasp from their hosts. This process is good for the plant because the wasp essentially kills the caterpillar that otherwise would have killed the plant.

Pest Management

Morawo's research can be applied to the development of more efficient attractants for beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps and predators to enhance biological control of insect pests.

"The use of natural compounds is significantly safer than spraying potentially toxic insecticides around homes," said Morawo. "Home gardens, orchards, lawns, and greenhouse vegetable production can benefit from biological control of pest insects."

The best approach to managing pests in agricultural production is integrated pest management (IPM). Unlike other methods, IPM does not seek to eradicate entire pest populations which may cause an undesirable imbalance in the ecosystem. The goal of IPM is to manage and reduce pest populations below the levels where they can cause damage, while maintaining human and environmental safety.

Insects are everywhere, so it's important to pay attention to their populations at an early stage.

Growers can use insect sampling to determine when to take action on insect populations once they have reached pre-determined thresholds. According to Morawo, at high pest pressure it may be necessary to use conventional insecticides following a decision-based approach rather than spraying indiscriminately, while at low pest pressure, botanical insecticides and biological control can be used. Combining multiple control tactics and insecticide rotations yields the best results.

"We can beat these pests at their game. We just have to be savvy about it," said Morawo.

The type of area infested often determines the pest management strategy that should be used. Auburn researchers have developed programs for fruits and vegetables as well as row crops IPM, urban IPM for residential and public areas, and school IPM for campuses.

Areas with high human movement are potentially very susceptible to infestation because many pest insects are capable of using humans to hitchhike.

Leadership and Achievements

While working toward his degrees, Morawo served in various roles. In 2013, he was appointed as a senator on the Graduate Student Council (GSC). After serving one year as a senator, he was elected vice president of student affairs in 2014. This leadership role allowed Morawo to represent the entire graduate student body in university committees and on campus.

His primary role was to advocate for graduate student welfare, which led him to chairing the Welfare Continuous Improvement Committee. He also assisted the Graduate School with various events and served as a liaison between graduate students and university administration.

"This position sharpened my leadership skills, taught me how to be a good steward of human and financial resources, and gave me an opportunity to interact with various university administrators," said Morawo.

Morawo was a member of numerous university committees during his time



“ We can beat these pests at their game. We just have to be savvy about it.”

Tolulope Morawo



Pictured above are small vials used to store plant odors in liquid form. These natural chemicals can be used to attract beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps in crop fields.



Cotton plants (*Gossypium hirsutum*) are pictured above in a growth chamber where growth conditions can be controlled. Whole plants or leaves are used in plant-insect interaction research.

as a GSC board member including the Traffic Appeals Board, Student Insurance Committee, and the Concessions Board.

Post-Graduation

Upon earning his PhD from Auburn in December 2017, Morawo began working as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Auburn in 2018. He hopes to eventually have a career in academia, conducting researching and teaching.

His role during his postdoctoral studies consists of working on research similar to what he did for his graduate program,

chemical ecology of plant-insect interactions. He investigated cues mediating the preference of female parasitic wasps for pest insects that feed on several plant species, also known as generalists.

Morawo's goal is to be able to collaborate with researchers from other disciplines such as plant pathology, biology, and chemical engineering to develop new and improved devices for pest detection and monitoring crop production systems.

Connecting Past to Present: Unearthing the Stories of the Civil War

History has been compelling to Peter Thomas from an early age. After grade-school football practice, he would find himself exploring books in the library. He became increasingly interested in history after he completed a memorable undergraduate oral history project on the significance of bootlegging in rural Appalachia. During the project, he met people who had made a living by bootlegging, and he learned about its importance to the region. That's when he knew he had a passion for history.

"That project stuck with me," said Thomas. "It was not only something where I learned about the history of a topic, but for the first time, I was also able to see how people's own connections to history shaped a culture."

Even though his undergraduate project made a huge, positive impact on his perception of history, he didn't pursue history immediately after completing his undergraduate degree. Instead, he took a job in construction where he was in charge of property maintenance and built apartments. He also coached youth league football which

made Thomas realize he was interested in teaching.

He would often think back to the passion he had for coaching and teaching after he accepted a job handling investments in Jacksonville, Florida. It didn't take long for him to decide history was definitely his calling and he was ready to go back to school. Encouragement from Jack Roper, Thomas' undergraduate advisor at Emory and Henry College, led him to pursue a career in history with a focus on the Civil War.

Historians have a passion for connecting to the past and using the past as a way for people to have a better understanding of what exists around them. Thomas uses his Civil War research to help connect soldiers from the past to soldiers of the present.

Thomas' research focuses primarily on soldiers and their day-to-day experiences during the Civil War. He wants to know what the motivations were in order for Civil War soldiers to continue fighting.

Many of the men who fought went from their average careers to suddenly having to



Pictured, from left to right, are history professor Matthew Sparacio, Peter Thomas, and Hollifield Professor of Southern History, Kathryn H. Braund.

march and fight in the Civil War. The style of warfare is much different today, but Thomas hopes that uncovering the experiences of Civil War veterans can help today's soldiers reintegrating into civilian life feel less isolated. Civil War soldiers faced traumatic situations just like soldiers today face. There are similarities between the reactions of combat veterans today to the trauma of war, as well as the similarities in reactions Civil War historians read about from soldiers involved in the 1861–1865 conflict.

Civil War soldiers from the North and the South were able to share their experiences after the war, which was a way of connecting and a process of healing the wounds of conflict that took place.

“I feel like I can give back to society through my research,” said Thomas. “With war being so central, we all have friends or family who have been sent overseas.”

Warfare during the Civil War differs greatly from today’s style of war, and the veterans of each war endured their own, distinct experiences. However, both the mental and physical experiences of war affect a soldier’s morale despite the conflict. Thomas finds that one way soldiers during the Civil War were able to keep fighting despite the difficulties was through camaraderie.

Civil War historians recognize that one way camaraderie spread was through the common hardships of war, and for some soldiers this created an atmosphere of relief, which also raised the commitment levels. Thomas also hopes to contribute to Civil War literature by thinking about the environment and how experiences within the environment affected commitment levels. His research considers soldiers’ relationships to the environment particularly military encampments. It discusses how Civil War soldiers used the natural and physical surroundings to help them by materially altering the landscapes to fit their needs. This could range from using a fence post to help make a bed, or to understanding the types of trees that burn better for a fire.

Thomas is currently looking for instances over the course of the Civil War, when soldiers’ relationship to encampments change. A soldier who was miserable in 1862 may have been dealing with the trauma of what happened during the first battle experienced, but by 1865, that same soldier may have had a different perspective on war. Thomas wonders if the encampment played a role in changing this perspective.

“I’ve found instances where just by being involved in the day-to-day routine of camp activities, soldiers regained a sense of purpose,” said Thomas. “This acted as a way to handle the trauma and the stress of being a soldier in the Civil War.”



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Peter Thomas

The Civil War has always been a topic of history, but Civil War historians are just beginning to capitalize on what the methods of environmental historians can tell about the war. Following the guidance of his advisor, Kenneth Noe, Thomas hopes his research can continue to build on this relatively new field of inquiry.

Thomas is currently working on a project focused on Civil War hospitals in Mobile, Alabama. There were five hospitals in Mobile during the Civil War, and while there has been an amount of research done on the city’s Civil War experience, little research has been conducted on the city’s hospitals. Thomas hopes to provide more answers on how the conditions of 19th-century hospitals during the Civil War affected the citizens of Mobile and their perceptions of war.

“I’m curious to look at change over time,” said Thomas. “In 1861, Mobile was considered one of the more cosmopolitan cities in the United States, but by 1865, it was one of the most heavily fortified cities in America.”

Over the course of the war, there was a drastic change to the city. Thomas is

seeking to unearth information on citizens’ reactions to the wartime conditions in the area, including how the hospitals affected the environmental health of the city.

Thomas conducts his research by studying primary documents such as letters, diaries, newspapers, and military correspondences from the time of the Civil War. Information Thomas has collected regarding the hospitals in Mobile comes from newspapers between 1861 and 1865. He also uses the personal letters and diaries from people who lived in Mobile during that time for insight into how the war impacted not only soldiers, but also local citizens and physicians.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery has a logbook of medical journals that covers patient symptoms and diagnoses from 1863 to 1865. Descriptions range from gunshot wound records to cases of diseases and even mental trauma.

One interesting bit of information Thomas found by exploring these logbooks is that physicians in the 1800s thought homesickness was a type of disease.



Foul.—We believe the offended olfactory nerves of every individual who walks Royal street and the other principal thoroughfares will bear testimony to the truth of the averment that Mobile was never more sorely afflicted with villainous odors. They come up in troops of foes to health and comfort from gutters, alleys and yards. An military rule has relieved our Magisterial and Police authorities of most of their municipal cares, we should think they might find leisure to abate an evil that "smells rank to Heaven."

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Mobile Register and Advertiser, August 2, 1862
An example of the conditions along Royal Street in Mobile, AL during the Civil War. Taken from the Alabama Department of Archives and History's digital history project, "Alabama Civil War and Reconstruction Newspapers."

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Peter Thomas

“The logbook is pretty revealing in terms of the types of cases that went through this particular hospital,” said Thomas. “There are hundreds of cases, and I’d say maybe only 20 percent of them are people who were from Mobile.”

An influx of people would come to the city visibly showing the scars of war for treatment.

Even though the logbook is a great source, historians can’t use it to find out how people perceive the war. But it does allow them to understand locations and conditions that may have had an impact on the perceptions of the war.

Thomas’ dissertation focuses on the Civil War’s Stonewall Brigade (a Confederate unit) and the Iron Brigade (a unit within the Union’s Army of the Potomac). He picked these two brigades to measure change over time and space like with many of his projects.

“These two brigades pretty much mirrored each other from the start of the Civil War to the end of the Civil War,” said Thomas.

The regiments encountered similar conditions such as the weather conditions and terrain. Focusing on encampments helps Thomas gauge the difference in reactions between Union Soldiers and Confederate Soldiers. He will be able to figure out how their perception of camp life affected their perception of war.

When you learn about the experience of soldiers, issues concerning masculinity and manhood emerge said Thomas. Men didn’t want to let down their comrade and their opinions toward one another changed significantly.

His research on this will take him to archives in various states across the country. The digitized archives have significantly helped Thomas with much of his research to this point.

The goal of his research is to add new details and insights to the voluminous Civil War literature by shedding additional light on soldier motivations, the military history of conflict, and the outcome of the war.

Thomas’ plan is to turn his dissertation into a book.

He currently works as a world history graduate teaching assistant. Each week, he has discussion sessions with his class about the historical documents they read. The students would come to the lab and discuss the context and significance of the documents.

History is important in Thomas’ mind because it gives people the opportunity to connect to the past but it also helps them understand the world around us. Interpreting history requires critical thinking. Objectivity is important, and he emphasizes there are always two sides of the story.

“Having an objective lens as you go through life sets you up for success,” said Thomas.

Thomas knows that most people aren’t going to leave a history class saying they had a life changing moment. Although Thomas would prefer to teach college courses, his main hope is that at least everyone gets one thing out of the class and that students find the course memorable regardless of where he teaches.

Learning about life in South America: Erika Goodwin's Service Learning Project



“Meeting these students opens your eyes to cultural differences. Being in their corner of the world is a much different experience than the diversity we see here.”

Erika Goodwin

Each fall, the Auburn master of accountancy (MAcc) program goes abroad. This year, students from the MAcc program traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Santiago, Chile, to participate in a service learning project.

Graduate student Erika Goodwin was one of the students in the program who had the privilege of experiencing life abroad.

Goodwin's Journey to Traveling Abroad

Student groups were asked to design a T-shirt for the trip. After a vote, the group with the winning design received funding assistance. Goodwin put much time and effort into the winning design.

The shirts were sold as a fundraising opportunity to friends, family, and Auburn faculty and staff in support of the students' trip.

“We had a goal to raise \$7,500, and we actually exceeded that goal,” Goodwin said. “We raised close to \$10,000.”

Service Learning Project

Goodwin and her peers boarded a bus to get to the school where they met the principal, faculty, and translators. They toured the facility and met the children they would be working with over the next few days.

MAcc students introduced themselves to the students in Spanish. While chatting with the class, students shared the story of the Auburn tradition of the gameday eagle flight as well as the meaning of “War Eagle!”

For the next few days, MAcc students worked to beautify the school. They eliminated weeds, painted a mural, and put up nets to be used as a shield for schoolchildren working on



Pictured, from left to right, Erika Goodwin and fellow students Dorothy Dickmann, Lauren Grantham, and Chris Peinhardt stand in front of a mural of Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*. The 2018 MAcc class painted the mural on an exterior wall of the Liceo Violeta Parra school in La Pintana, Chile as part of their Service Learning Project.

outdoor projects. When they weren't working on making improvements to the school, the MAcc students played sports with the children.

For Goodwin, the biggest takeaway from this opportunity was the humbling experience of seeing the way life in other parts the world differs from American life.

“Meeting these students opens your eyes to cultural differences,” Goodwin said. “Being in their corner of the world is a much different experience than the diversity we see here.”

Small things, like air conditioning in classrooms, are often taken for granted in the United States, but the children attending school without this luxury did not seem bothered.

This experience led Goodwin to the conclusion that we might not really need the things we think we need.

Goodwin encourages other students to participate in similar service learning trips if they are given the opportunity.

“The whole trip was so much fun, and it flew by,” Goodwin said. “It was rewarding and had so many benefits. Even if you can't do a service learning project, go somewhere and experience another place for what it is—the benefits are neverending.”

Accounting

During her time in Santiago, Goodwin attended a lecture where she learned how people are applying accounting in ways different from what is normally taught in the classroom. She heard an Auburn alumni speak about his job with Carsol, a fruit export company, as well as a woman who works for Microsoft in Santiago.

Goodwin's Career Path

After her May 2018 graduation, Goodwin began work at Deloitte. She is grateful for her journey as an Auburn graduate student, and she feels the MAcc program prepared her well for career.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Journey to Becoming a Faculty Member

Christopher Wilburn defines what it means to be successful. Upon completion of his degree, Wilburn became the first African American to receive a PhD in biomechanics in Auburn history, but how did he get to this point in life?

The individuals of his personal and educational backgrounds instilled a personal quality of perseverance.

“Despite the difficulty brought throughout the different aspects of life, whether it is emotional, physical, or spiritual, the task at hand must always be completed,” said Wilburn.

After being presented with the idea of pursuing a graduate degree while attending a graduate school workshop during his junior year at Morehouse College, Wilburn began exploring his options.

Wilburn participated in the Future Scholars Summer Research Bridge Program which promotes the enhancement of individual and collective skills that advocate overall success. The Summer Bridge program revealed to him the investment the School of Kinesiology, the Graduate School, and Auburn were willing to put in him, which helped make his decision to pursue a graduate degree at Auburn easy.

“Although many schools do not have the opportunities to expose recent graduates

with an academic future in biomechanics, Auburn’s Summer Bridge program showed me that the university and department were fully committed toward directing me down the path that would provide successful acceptance into graduate programs in the School of Kinesiology,” said Wilburn.

The Summer Bridge program helped Wilburn build the appropriate relationships to remain successful in graduate school. The interactions with faculty and staff informed him of the continuous celebratory displays of personal and academic accolades. Because of his positive Future Scholars Summer Research Bridge Program experience, Wilburn encourages others to participate in the program.

“I definitely encourage students to partake in the Future Scholars Summer Research Bridge Program,” said Wilburn.

After meeting with Jared Russell, Wendi Weimar, and David Pascoe from the School of Kinesiology, he became aware of the research being conducted and immediately knew Auburn would be the perfect fit for him. However, upon coming to Auburn, he did not think he would last four years on the Plains as a New York native, though he was quickly and thoroughly impressed with the Auburn Family.

“Individuals in the School of Kinesiology, College of Education, Graduate School, and Black Graduate Professional and Student Association embraced me daily and this allowed me to develop a love for Auburn,” said Wilburn.

Wilburn says Auburn will be embedded in his heart forever and he is truly living up to that statement. After earning his doctorate, Wilburn began working in the School of Kinesiology as an Assistant Clinical Professor of exercise science. Wilburn now educates future aspiring physicians, physician’s assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, personal trainers, and strength and conditioning coaches to understand the anatomical, neuromuscular, and biomechanical principles of human movement.

From a research perspective, Wilburn is currently collaborating with Wendi Weimar and Jaimie Roper on various projects analyzing the influence of footwear, canines, and physical ailments on locomotive tasks. He is also analyzing fitness measures with pre-school children in collaboration with Weimar and Danielle Wadsworth and, lastly, he is examining the developmental process of children’s feet with Weimar and doctoral students within the Sports Biomechanics and Sports Medicine and Movement Laboratory



“As a sneakerhead scientist, I integrated my passions to develop a multi-sided approach quantifying the effects of footwear and specific arch types have on human movements.”

Christopher Wilburn

on an interdepartmental collaborative study with Florida A&M University and Delaware State University.

Wilburn considers himself a sneakerhead, also known as a footwear enthusiast or a person that embodies the culture of collecting, trading, or discussing the history of sneakers. Sneakerheads are often portrayed as being financially irresponsible and being excessive with footwear, however, it actually plays an integral role on the progression of the technological and modernized advancements in today’s footwear industry.

“As a sneakerhead scientist, I integrated my passions to develop a multi-sided approach quantifying the effects of footwear and specific arch types have on human movements,” said Wilburn. Some of my research has investigated the effect of various sock types and shoe-lacing strategies have on walking patterns.”

Many people believe sneakers and other types of footwear are a source of protection from the surrounding environment, but they

could be incorrect. The variation in shoe type can influence the way a human moves and how the motion is achieved. Arch type can also impact the way humans produce motions in locomotive tasks, such as walking, running, and jogging.

The sneakerhead demand of innovation catalyzed the increased production of materials that provide prolonged comfort during athletically vigorous tasks and self-automated lacing sneakers.

Wilburn says the sneakerhead culture has contributed to the continuation of annual health fundraisers such as the Doernbecher Freestyle Partnership between Nike and the Oregon Health and Science University. Doernbecher Children’s Hospital utilizes all proceeds of unique sneakers developed by children battling various illnesses to raise awareness.

“One of the most fascinating components of the sneakerhead culture is that it develops an inclusive environment that can bring individuals from different ethnicities,

genders, socioeconomic status, and ages together to discuss one common passion—sneakers,” said Wilburn.

He is currently working with Weimar and Roper to develop a diversity and inclusion initiative that incorporates the promotion of STEM to enhance the knowledge of careers in the footwear industry for underrepresented demographics. Their goal is to create a program which utilizes an online platform at no cost. The platform should provide coursework of high-tier colleges and universities in order to establish a pipeline that will promote engineers and biomechanists for the footwear industry.

The STEM diversity program has intentions of generating successful individuals, like Wilburn, who develop a career that they are passionate about while making an impact on those in the world around them.

Lauren Woodie wins two Three Minute Thesis Competitions



“What helped me the most was being comfortable with my script. I was so nervous before both events, but I knew I had my script down and wouldn’t forget it.”

Lauren Woodie

Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management graduate student Lauren Woodie was named the first place winner of Auburn’s fall 2017 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) on November 16, 2017. She then spent several months preparing to present at a regional 3MT competition at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she won first place. She outperformed researchers from 47 universities across the South, including 10 SEC and 6 ACC institutions.

Woodie’s research focuses on time-restricted feeding and its effect on obesity, metabolic dysfunction, and cognitive impairment. She uses mice to conduct various behavioral and metabolic tests. The mice live in cages that measure everything they do every seven seconds for three days to see how much they eat, breathe, and move, as well as whether their bodies are burning fats and carbohydrates at a particular time.

In preparation for her presentation at the CSGS competition, Woodie spent much of her time reciting her speech to the mice.

Woodie encourages future 3MT competitors to practice as much as possible. She believes practicing while doing another task helps prepare for distractions that could occur during the competition.

“What helped me the most was being comfortable with my script,” said Woodie. “I was so nervous before both events, but I knew that I had my script down and wouldn’t forget it.”

She had plenty of alone time with the mice which was beneficial to Woodie because it allowed her to go through her presentation repeatedly.

Woodie says running through a three-minute presentation while wrangling 64 mice may not be for everyone, but it helped lead her to success in both competitions.



TOP 15 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POPULATION:

1. China
2. India
3. Bangladesh
4. Iran
5. South Korea (Republic of Korea)
6. Saudi Arabia
7. Turkey
8. Nepal
9. Nigeria
10. Brazil
11. Vietnam
12. Taiwan
13. Jordan
14. Sri Lanka
15. Spain

Fall 2017 data



Master's Accelerator Program

For international students, the transition from a bachelor's degree in your home country to graduate school in the US can be challenging—complicated admissions processes, a new language, new ways of learning, and a new home.

The Master's Accelerator Program (MAP) eases this transition by providing four simple routes to enter your graduate program at Auburn. MAP combines credit-bearing courses from your master's degree with additional support, teaching, and cultural experiences to ensure your future success.

English language and academic support.

The program allows you to begin your graduate program (subject to entry requirements), with a 2.5-2.75 GPA and IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

It's flexible.

Depending on your qualifications, you can join one of three different MAP options. Don't meet the English language requirements? No problem, we also offer Pre-Sessional English.

A streamlined admissions process.

Auburn Global offers a simple, fast admissions process for MAP applicants. No references, resumes, essays, work experience, or GRE / GMAT scores are required.

Concierge support services.

MAP students have access to exclusive concierge services including a 24/7 support line for all inquiries, large or small, as well as airport pickup.

Dedicated student advisors.

The MAP team will provide support on all issues, academic and personal, and practicalities such as housing, airport pickup, opening a bank account, and mobile phone registration.

A year-long orientation.

Cheer on the Tigers at a football game, one of the many experiences you'll take part in during your first year.

global.auburn.edu/map



Student Profile

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	29,776
Undergraduates	23,964
Graduate students	4,707
Professional students	1,105



Auburn graduate students hail from 77 countries.



Graduate Education A Wise Investment

An Auburn graduate degree can help you achieve your goals for the future. Graduate alumni stand out to potential employers and demonstrate the value of a global education.

Nationally, the projected number of job openings increases with the level of education, as does the level of potential earnings. In Alabama, where many graduates choose to remain after graduation, the projected earnings reflect the national forecasts.

General Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework from each school previously attended
- GRE or GMAT (if required by program of interest)
- Complete application online at graduate.auburn.edu
- \$60 for domestic students, \$70 for international students
- Three letters of recommendation (to be sent to your department)

Additional Requirements for International Students

- TOEFL Scores: 79 on the TOEFL (iBT) – (minimum of 16 in each section), 550 on the TOEFL (pBT), 213 on the TOEFL (cBT), or a 6.5 Overall Band score on the IELTS
- Proof of ability to finance graduate studies, if accepted

All documents and fees should be submitted at least 45 days (domestic students) or 90 days (international students) prior to the desired date of enrollment.

Apply Online at graduate.auburn.edu

Admission to any graduate degree program is granted by the dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the department of proposed study. Deadlines are listed in the Auburn University Bulletin (auburn.edu/bulletin). However, most academic units make admission decisions several months in advance. Applicants should check with the department to which they seek admission to determine when materials should be submitted.

Resources for International Students

- Office of International Programs international orientation document processing
- International Student English Center
- Free English language tutoring for enrolled international students
- International Student Organization
- Social support
- Airport pickup for new students

George Flowers

*Dean of the Graduate School
Auburn University*

Contact Us

Auburn University Graduate School
106 Hargis Hall
Auburn, AL 36849-5122
Phone: 334-844-4700
Fax: 334-844-4348
Email: gradadm@auburn.edu



Areas of Study

College of Agriculture

Agricultural Economics (Interdisciplinary)
 Agronomy and Soils
 Animal Sciences
 Applied Economics (Interdisciplinary)
 Biosystems Engineering (Interdisciplinary)
 Entomology
 Fisheries
 Food Science
 Horticulture
 Plant Pathology
 Poultry Science
 Rural Sociology (Interdisciplinary)

College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Building Construction
 Integrated Design and Construction
 Industrial Design
 Landscape Architecture
 Real Estate Development (Interdisciplinary)

Raymond J. Harbert College of Business

Accountancy
 Business Administration (with Executive and Physicians MBA options)
 Finance
 Management
 Management Information Systems
 Real Estate Development (Interdisciplinary)

College of Education

Curriculum and Teaching
 Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology
 Kinesiology
 Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling/School Psychology

Visit the Graduate School website for detailed program listings for the College of Education.

Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

Aerospace Engineering
 Biosystems Engineering (Interdisciplinary)
 Chemical Engineering
 Civil Engineering
 Computer Science and Software Engineering
 Electrical and Computer Engineering
 Industrial and Systems Engineering
 Materials Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering
 Polymer and Fiber Engineering

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Applied Economics (Interdisciplinary)
 Forestry
 Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
 Natural Resources
 Wildlife Sciences

College of Human Sciences

Consumer and Design Sciences
 Hotel and Restaurant Management
 Human Development and Family Studies
 Marriage and Family Therapy
 Nutrition

College of Liberal Arts

Applied Economics (Interdisciplinary)
 Audiology
 Clinical Psychology
 Communication
 Communication Disorders
 Community Planning
 Economics
 English
 History
 Psychology
 Public Administration
 Public Administration and Public Policy

Rural Sociology (Interdisciplinary)
 Sociology
 Social Work
 Spanish
 Technical and Professional Communication

School of Nursing

Nursing (Nurse Educator and Primary Care – Practitioner options)
 Doctor of Nursing Practice

Harrison School of Pharmacy

Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Professional program also available.*

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Applied Mathematics
 Biological Sciences
 Chemistry
 Geography
 Geology
 Mathematics
 Physics
 Probability and Statistics
 Statistics

College of Veterinary Medicine

Biomedical Sciences

**Professional program also available.*

For an extensive list of programs or program advisor contact information, visit graduate.auburn.edu.



Online Education

Auburn is committed to addressing the needs of the modern student. The educational opportunities you will find through the online education program meet the same exacting standards as on-campus offerings.

Courses are carefully designed by Auburn faculty members with the aid of online education professionals, who assist in the development of instructional materials, academic resources, technical support systems, telecommunications, and student services.

In addition to the opportunities listed below, numerous independent learning and professional development courses are offered through online education.

Auburn offers nearly 50 online learning programs, many of which are consistently ranked among the top 10 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. The following colleges at Auburn offer online learning programs:

- College of Agriculture
- College of Architecture, Design and Construction
- Raymond J. Harbert College of Business
- College of Education
- Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
- College of Human Sciences

auburn.edu/online

Tips For Applying To Graduate School

Letters of Recommendation

- Select writers who know you well and can comment on your potential as a researcher and scholar.
- Choose writers who can also speak of your goals, motivation, and commitment to graduate study.
- Even better, if possible, select individuals who are known to the people at the institution where you are applying.

Personal Statements

- Convince your audience you have what it takes to succeed in graduate school.
- Provide evidence you are motivated and eager to learn.
- Show you are familiar with the program to which you are applying and that you are a good fit.
- Proofread: typographical errors and grammatical mistakes can undermine your best efforts.

General Advice

- Take the GRE early, in case you want to take it again.
- If possible, gain undergraduate research experience.
- Apply as early as possible, and confirm your department's priority deadline.

Faculty Profile



1,439

Number of full-time faculty



92% are full-time instructional faculty

90% of full-time faculty have the highest terminal degree

19:1

 Student-to-faculty Ratio



Graduate Certificates

Auburn offers a variety of graduate certificates for working professionals who want to enrich their personal knowledge, educators who aim to enhance their teaching credentials, as well as students considering the possibility of a graduate degree. Graduate certificate programs consist of a minimum of nine and a maximum of 21 hours of graduate-level course work. Auburn offers certificates for the following programs:

- Accountancy
- Adult Education
- Adult Education and English Language Teaching
- Automotive Manufacturing Systems
- Brewing Sciences
- Business Analytics
- College/University Teaching
- Communication
- Community Music
- Construction Management
- Construction Management, Executive Integrated Processes Certificate
- Construction Management, Executive Technical Certificate
- Educational Leadership
- Elections Administration
- Extension Educator
- Information Systems Management
- Instructional Leadership
- Instructional Technology for Distance Education
- Intervention for Students with Autism and Developmental Disabilities
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Movement Skills Analysis
- Nonprofit Organizations and Community Governance
- Nursing Education
- Occupational Safety and Ergonomics
- Program Evaluation
- Public History
- Public Horticulture
- Reading Instruction
- Rehabilitation Leadership and Management
- Teaching English as a Second Language/ Foreign Language
- Technical Communication
- Technology Educator
- Transition Specialist

To learn more about Auburn's certificate programs, visit graduate.auburn.edu/certificates.

ABM Program

The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program offers outstanding Auburn students the opportunity to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in less time and at less cost than usual. It does so by allowing these exceptional students to count up to nine hours (in a 30-hour master's program) or 12 hours (in a 36-hour master's program) to count toward both degrees.

ABM programs

- Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
- Agronomy and Soils
- Biosystems Engineering
- Community Planning
- Consumer and Design Sciences
- Entomology and Plant Pathology
- Fisheries
- Geography
- Horticulture
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Nutrition, Dietetics
- Nutrition, Hotel and Restaurant Management emphasis
- Physics
- Poultry Science
- Public Administration

Other programs are currently under development. To learn more about the ABM program, visit graduate.auburn.edu/abm.

Research Highlights



- MRI Research Center
- Center for Advanced Science, Innovation, and Commerce
- Space Research Institute
- Radio Frequency Identification Lab
- Dauphin Island Sea Laboratories
- Oak Ridge Associated University
- Scott-Ritchey Small Animal Research Facility
- Institute for Biological Detection Systems
- Agricultural Experiment Station
- Poultry and Animal Nutrition Center
- Canine Detection Research Institute
- Alabama Water Resources Research Institute



Estimated Cost of Attendance

2017-18 Academic Year – Fall and Spring Semesters

	AL resident (9 hours)	Non-resident (9 hours)
Tuition and fees	\$11,282	\$30,542
Room and board	\$13,332	\$13,332
Miscellaneous (books and supplies, transportation, and personal)	\$6,982	\$6,982
TOTAL COST	\$31,596	\$50,856

Fees

Student services fee	\$826
Auditing fee	\$535 (resident) \$1,605 (non-resident)
GRA/GTA enrollment fee	\$615
International student fee	\$130
Harbert College of Business fee	\$200 per credit hour

Professional tuition and fees	AL resident (9 hours)	Non-resident (9 hours)
Architecture	\$15,596	\$34,844
Pharmacy	\$21,848	\$41,108
Veterinary Medicine	\$20,336	\$47,626

Professional books and supplies

Architecture	\$5,150
Pharmacy	\$4,040
Veterinary Medicine	\$3,328

There are no additional charges for credit hours above nine for graduate students.
For more information, visit graduate.auburn.edu/tuition.



Join the Graduate School's Cross-cultural Programs as we welcome and befriend our international graduate students.

Learn how you can become involved at graduate.auburn.edu/crosscultural.



Raghu Baireddy earned his master's degree in civil engineering from Auburn in December 2017. During his time at Auburn, he served as the secretary and vice president of Auburn Student Chapter Institute of Engineers from January 2016 until August 2017.

SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

“The time I spent at Auburn was the best period of my life. Auburn offered me great opportunities to help solve America's transportation problems. Our research group came up with a novel way to prevent wrong-way driving crashes in Alabama, we worked to enhance pedestrian safety in Illinois, we studied the impacts of autonomous vehicles on American transportation infrastructure, and we explored new ways to improve safety in work-zones across the US. The list goes on. Because of the skills and experiences I acquired while working on these projects, I was hired by one of the world's largest engineering firms. The icing on the cake is that my boss is an Auburn alumnus, too. The Auburn community—my professors, fellow students, and friends—all played a major role in my success. Thank you, Auburn, for being what you are and making me who I am. War Eagle!



Meet the Graduate Student Council Executive Board

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the only student-led organization representing the entirety of Auburn's graduate student population. The GSC serves as a liaison for graduate students to communicate with university administration and the Student Government Association, and it provides both social and research showcase opportunities for a diverse graduate student body. The GSC is an advocate for graduate students on multiple issues, including health insurance, housing, and funding for academic-related travel. The GSC partnered with the Graduate School in bringing the Three Minute Thesis competition to Auburn in 2013.

The GSC organizes and assists with a variety of events to engage and entertain graduate students. One of these events is the GSC colloquium series, where students gather to learn about a variety of topics involving campus life or academia over a free lunch. The GSC also helps organize

the annual Student Symposium, where all graduate students are invited to present their research by poster or oral exhibition and are critiqued and scored competitively by faculty judges. At the end of the spring semester, graduate students are honored with a special luncheon and awards ceremony that accompany Graduate Student Appreciation Week events.

If you would like more information about joining the GSC, either as a senator or a participant, contact Melisa Martinez, GSC administrative vice president, at mzm0127@auburn.edu. More information can be found at auburn.edu/gsc.



Elizabeth Devore
President

Elizabeth Devore is a doctoral student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Her research is focused in power systems. She earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 2013 and her master's degree in electrical engineering in 2017, both from Auburn. Devore represented her department as a GSC senator from 2014 until 2016, and she served as the GSC vice president from 2016 until 2018. As GSC president, Devore is committed to supporting university initiatives, promoting positive work environments for graduate students and advisors, and being a voice for graduate students at Auburn.

Follow us on social media:

-  /AuburnUniversityGSC
-  /au_gsc
-  /au_gsc



Melisa Martinez

Administrative Vice President

Melisa Martinez is a doctoral student in counseling psychology in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling. Her research interests include spirituality and meaning-making, and how they affect mental and physical health. Martinez is extremely passionate about patient advocacy, particularly in making mental health services accessible for marginalized populations. A native of Santa Ana, California, she received a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in experimental psychology from St. John's University in New York.



Hallie Burt

Vice President for Childcare Initiatives

Hallie Burt is a master's student seeking a degree in clinical mental health counseling in the College of Education. Her research focuses specifically on child trauma. She earned her bachelor's in child development with a minor in psychology from Texas Christian University. Her work with children who have been abused and neglected has led her to become very passionate about the subject. Burt's ultimate goal is to work in a private practice setting.



Ishan Anjekar

Treasurer

Ishan Anjekar is pursuing his master's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on environment. Anjekar is working on reactive transport modeling of carbon dioxide at the geologic carbon sequestration conditions. He is from Chandrapur, Maharashtra, which is one of the 10 most polluted cities in India. The detrimental conditions in his native country led him to work in the field of environment studies. Anjekar has set a goal to improve the conditions of his hometown by introducing more stringent rules for pollution abatement by industries and suggesting appropriate measures on how to do so. In his spare time, he enjoys watching anime and playing DOTA.



Mengdie (Cassie) Chen

Vice President of Student Affairs

Mengdie (Cassie) Chen is pursuing her master's degree in industrial and systems engineering at Auburn. She works on business analytics as a graduate assistant for Auburn Athletics. Her research focuses on the experience of football fan analytics, ticketing sales analytics, and digital marketing analytics. She has a strong passion for improving business by turning data into actionable insights. As vice president of student affairs, Chen is looking forward to promoting interconnections among graduate students and is dedicated to the continuous improvement of graduate student welfare. She received her bachelor's degree in finance and master's degree in international business in China. She also earned dual degrees in MBA and master of science in finance from Auburn.



Katherine "Kat" Cler

Vice President

Katherine "Kat" Cler is a doctoral student in counseling psychology in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling. She is from Pendleton, Indiana. Before coming to Auburn, Cler earned her bachelor's degree in psychology with minors in sociology and nutrition from the University of Southern Indiana. Afterwards, Cler received her master's degree in counseling and counselor education from Indiana University. Currently, her research interests include choking under pressure and inclusion and diversity. Cler is passionate about how systems and personal experiences affect mental health and well-being. Through her work and research, she hopes to continue creating a more equitable, understanding, and safer world.



Audra Edwards

Secretary

Audra Edwards is pursuing a MEd in business/marketing education in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching. She earned a BSBA in accounting from Auburn University Montgomery and gained 20 years of experience in the business setting before returning to school to pursue a master's in education. Edwards is from Prattville, Alabama. She is highly interested in the topic of subvocalization. The ability to read fluently is the main indicator of a student's ability to succeed in school, and it is also a skill which many students struggle to master. She hopes to improve literacy through the elimination of subvocalization. Upon graduation, Edwards would like to teach locally and reach students who may have limited family support. She is committed to making a difference in the lives of students who are just going through the motions at school and help them see the importance of their education in achieving their future goals.

A Guide to Giving

Your loyal and steadfast support makes the most impact. Here's how you can make planned and annual gifts to the Auburn University Foundation, leaving a legacy for the future.

- ▶ Name the Foundation in your will
- ▶ Endow a fund in honor of a loved one
- ▶ Make a gift of stock
- ▶ Set up an automatic recurring gift to the Graduate School Gift Find
- ▶ Make the Auburn University Foundation your life insurance beneficiary
- ▶ Give \$1,000 in one fiscal year to create an Annual Graduate Award
- ▶ Ask your employer about a matching gift program to double your impact

Here's How to Give:

By Check

Payable to "Auburn University
Foundation"
106A Hargis Hall
Auburn, AL 36849

Securely Online

Visit
graduate.auburn.edu/give

Credit/Debit Charges

Give with a credit card
over the phone by calling
334-844-2160

Contact Us

Call the Graduate School
at 334-844-2160

BECAUSE THIS IS AUBURN.

A Campaign for Auburn University

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

“ Before the Future Scholars Summer Research Bridge Program, my expectations were ambiguous. As an incoming student seeking a terminal degree, the environmental and cultural norms at Auburn contrasted with my historically black college and university background. The bridge program eased my uncertainty and provided an environment conducive to my holistic self. Auburn has given me the opportunity to unlock my potential as a professional and cultivate lifelong relationships. Charles Barkley’s generosity has propelled a new hope and future for me. Furthermore, he is an inspiration and a staple in the academic community. Thank you, Mr. Barkley.”

Michael Morris is a doctoral student in Kinesiology. Before enrolling at Auburn, he participated in the Future Scholars Summer Research Bridge Program. The impact of giving has allowed him the privilege to capitalize on new opportunities.



Graduate School Staff



George Flowers
Dean



Maria Witte
Associate Dean



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THE AUBURN CREED

I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only on what I earn. Therefore, I believe in work, hard work.

I believe in education, which gives me the knowledge to work wisely and trains my mind and my hands to work skillfully.

I believe in honesty and truthfulness, without which I cannot win the respect and confidence of my fellow men.

I believe in a sound mind, in a sound body, and a spirit that is not afraid, and in clean sports that develop these qualities.

I believe in obedience to law because it protects the rights of all.

I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.

I believe in my country, because it is a land of freedom and because it is my own home, and that I can best serve that country by “doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with my God.”

And because Auburn men and women believe in these things, I believe in Auburn and love it.

– George Petrie



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THIS IS RESEARCH.

STUDENT AND FACULTY SYMPOSIA
A SHOWCASE OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Program information can be found at auburn.edu/thisisresearch.



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