



COSAM Covalence E-News, April 2009

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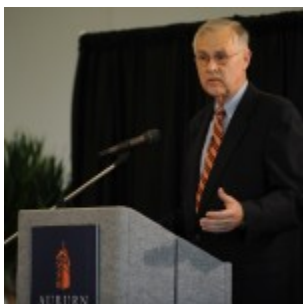
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Associate Dean of COSAM Delivers Final Lecture



COSAM Associate Dean Larry Wit, Ph.D., was the speaker at Auburn University's SGA-sponsored Final Lecture on Thursday, April 9. Wit was nominated and elected by the Auburn student body during SGA elections last fall.

"I thank you students for bringing this honor to me," Wit said in the beginning of his talk, adding that his family suggested that maybe he was elected because he was either about to die or retire after more than 40 years with the University.

"If that's why you voted, I still thank you, but I hate to disappoint you in that neither one of those is about to happen," Wit said with customary humor.

In his talk, Wit says students should expect change. He noted that when he joined the Auburn faculty, a movie was \$2, tuition was \$540 a year and there were only 17,000 students enrolled on campus. He advised graduates to note the increases and decreases of life post-graduation including an increase in freedom while experiencing a decrease of free time, among others.

Another point was the importance of serving other people. "True servants should be willing to serve downward," he said, suggesting that people should serve generously and anonymously.

Wit reminded students that it is necessary to fail. "Failure is an event, not a person. Sometimes failure is a redirection on the road to success," he said. Wit rounded out his six points by encouraging students to be faithful to the ordinary things in life and to not neglect their spiritual side.

Rohan Kambeyanda, SGA director of the Final Lecture and a COSAM leader, said he was honored to introduce Wit as the recipient of the Final Lecture. "Getting to know him over the past few years, Dr. Wit has greatly impacted me both academically and personally. It was great to see how much it meant to him and even better to hear his words of wisdom."

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BEST Moving Headquarters to Auburn



The national program Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST), designed to promote technology-based careers to teens, is moving its headquarters to Auburn University.

Mary Lou Ewald, COSAM director of Outreach, serves on the BEST board of directors. "Having the second largest robotics-educational program in the country headquartered at Auburn University will provide a great deal of positive exposure



South's BEST Competition
2008

and name-recognition opportunities for AU to the 12,000+ students from 16 states that participate in BEST," Ewald says.

In the fall, COSAM partners with the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering to co-direct two BEST competitions - War Eagle BEST for schools in Central Alabama and the Tennessee Valley BEST for schools in North Alabama. Each December, Auburn hosts South's BEST, one of the national organization's three regional championships. "Over half the students that participate in BEST report they are

interested in pursuing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) career," Ewald notes.

BEST, which began in Texas in 1993, is a non-profit, volunteer-driven program that invites teens to participate in science-and-engineering-based robotics competitions.

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COSAM Student Awarded Fulbright Scholarship



Rebecca Ludvigsen, a senior in Biomedical Sciences, was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to study the protein fetuin-A in Germany. Ludvigsen is the first Auburn Fulbright scholar since 2002 and was one of 40 students out of the more than 500 applicants nationwide to be awarded the scholarship to study and conduct research in Germany.

"Rebecca is an ideal representative for COSAM and Auburn because she is not only bright and focused, but she is engaging and friendly," says Paul Harris, Ph.D., associate director for National Prestigious Scholarships at Auburn University. Harris, a former Fulbright scholar to Germany in 1994-95, was instrumental in guiding Ludvigsen through the rigorous application process.

The Lilburn, Ga., native says she was ecstatic to learn she had received the award. "As a Biomedical Sciences student in COSAM, I feel I have received excellent preparation from the challenging curriculum and my professors for any endeavor I pursue in the health sciences upon leaving Auburn." The four-year member of the Honors College conducted research during her junior and senior years with Suresh Mathews, Ph.D., in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences in the College of Human Sciences.

Ludvigsen will graduate Magna Cum Laude on May 9, 2009.

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COSAM Student Awarded SEC Brad Davis Scholarship



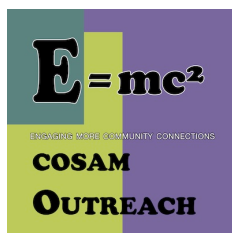
Andrew Smith, a senior in Biomedical Sciences, was named the 2008-2009 Brad Davis Southeastern Conference Community Service Leader of the Year.

The SEC Community Service Post-Graduate Scholarship was named for former Associate Commissioner Brad Davis, and recipients are chosen by a committee of faculty athletics representatives from SEC universities. Smith, along with Brionna Dickerson of the University of South Carolina, were each awarded a \$6,000 post-graduate scholarship, provided by the SEC.

The Trussville, Ala., native has been an Auburn Academic Top Tiger and a member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll for three years and received the Tiger basketball team's Academic Achievement Award in 2008, among other academic accomplishments.

As a four-year-letter winner for the Auburn men's basketball team, Smith has also been active off-campus. Smith founded and led a ministry for local students and the community entitled, "The Backyard" and has been a mentor for children through Project Up-Lift and the Boys and Girls Clubs, among others.

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