



COSAM Covalence E-News, July 2009

Headlines

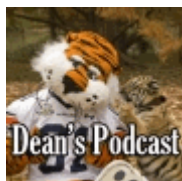
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COSAM Dean Begins Podcasts



In the fast-developing digital communications age, podcasting has emerged as a popular vehicle to communicate both audio and video messages. COSAM Dean Stewart Schneller has launched "The Dean's Podcast," available for download on COSAM's home page or by clicking the Dean's Podcast link to the left. Just a few of the topics covered in the podcasts include a COSAM update, a visit with COSAM's founding dean, Dr. Bob Kribel, and the latest from the Donald E. Davis Arboretum. Show notes and relevant links to the topics covered in the podcast are included, along with download instructions.

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Alum Elected Board Chairman of the American Birding Association



Dick Ashford, Mathematics '66, was recently elected board chairman of the American Birding Association. The Ashland, Ore., resident was elected to the board of directors in 2007 by a majority of some 15,000 constituents and has been a member of the organization since 1986.

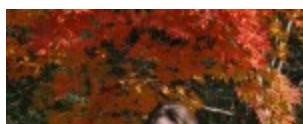
"As a long-time birding and conservationist, I wanted to join an organization that is in the forefront of North American birding. After 20 years of membership, I saw a need for new leadership, so I ran for the board," Ashford says. He added that his election as board chair, a two-year term, was relatively fast tracked.

"Like many non-profits, the association has experienced a membership and revenue decline in the recent past. We are now in a 'turn-around,' rebuilding phase. And we're getting there!" Ashford says.

The American Birding Association is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that provides leadership to birders by increasing their knowledge, skills and enjoyment of birding. For more information, visit aba.org.

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COSAM Faculty Member Co-investigator on Department of Energy Project



Dr. Anne E. V. Gorden, a faculty member of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department in COSAM, is a co-investigator on a project which was recently awarded over \$475,000 by the Department of Energy - Nuclear Energy Program for 2009. Dr. Gorden will collaborate with researchers Laetitia Delmau and Benjamin Hay from the



separations group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to investigate the design and synthesis of organic ligands for the selective extraction of trivalent actinides from depleted nuclear fuels. This would make it easier to recycle nuclear fuels and could drastically reduce (up to 95 percent) the amounts of highly radioactive materials leftover from the use of nuclear fuels to generate electricity in a nuclear-power plant that would require long-term storage in a geological repository. Dr. Gorden, who has

a strong background in organic synthesis and actinide chemistry, will work with up to three graduate students on the project for one year.

For more information, visit auburn.edu/cosam/departments/chemistry/faculty_staff/agorden/gorden_group/index.html.

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COSAM Faculty Member Instrumental in Launch of University Writing Initiative



Dr. Sharon Roberts, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, currently serves as the interim administrator for the Auburn University Writing Initiative, a campus-wide directive aimed to improve student writing at the University.

In 2008, the Writing Initiative Task Force (WITF) composed of faculty representatives from all of the colleges found that the University has a strong Freshman Composition Course program. But the task also recognized the need to develop a writing program for students beyond the first year that fosters improved written-communication skills with an emphasis on the development of expertise in the forms of writing used professionally in a student's chosen field of study.

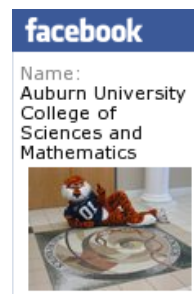
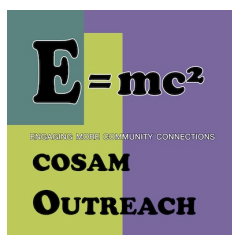
The task force shared its recommendations with the University Senate and University administration last fall. In its report, the WITF recognized that for students to succeed as educated and responsible citizens, they must be able to articulate and share their knowledge with other experts in their discipline as well as the general public. In addition to recommending the development of a writing in the disciplines program, the task force recommended shrinking the size of the Freshman Composition Class to 19 students and expanding The Writing Center.

This summer, the University is narrowing its search for a permanent Writing Program administrator to develop the program and expand the services of The Writing Center.

"With the hiring of an experienced Writing Program administrator, I anticipate that in the coming year, we will begin to move toward real support for faculty efforts to improve writing in their disciplines," Dr. Roberts says.

For more information, visit <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/story.html?1231194794016230>

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