



COSAM Covalence E-News, November 2009

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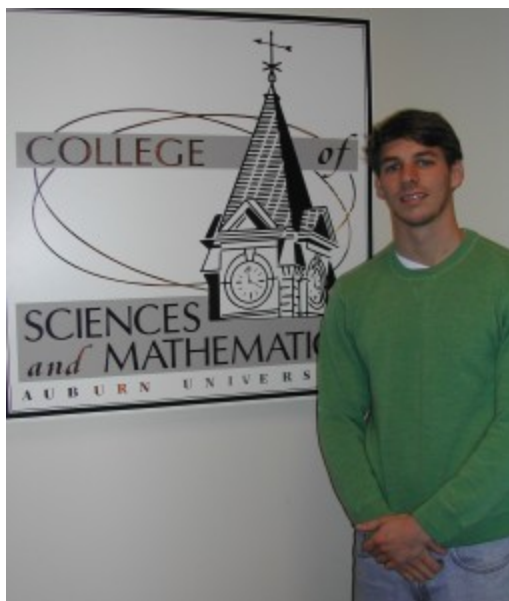
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COSAM Student Awarded Rhodes Scholarship



Jordan Anderson, a senior in Biomedical Sciences, was recently awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, joining only three former Auburn University students with this recognition.

“Mr. Anderson is truly an outstanding person who represents all for which Auburn University stands,” says COSAM Dean Stewart Schneller. “I convey my gratitude to him for this honor he has brought to our University and to his family for sharing this wonderful individual with us. My colleagues in COSAM and those across campus who mentored Jordan to this exceptional accomplishment are to be commended.”

The Rhodes Scholarship, the oldest international fellowship, was created in 1902 at the request of Cecil Rhodes to bring outstanding students from across the world to study at Oxford University in England. The Roanoke, Va., native began the application process last August with help of Dr. Paul Harris of the Honors College. After being named a District Seven finalist, Anderson traveled to Birmingham in November to begin a two-day interview process with 12 other finalists from Tennessee, Alabama and Florida.

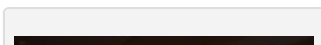
“There were so many great and qualified candidates, and to be in their company was a great honor,” Anderson recently said. “When they announced my name, I was overwhelmed at first, but then felt very honored and excited.” Anderson was the first Auburn student since 1980 to receive the recognition.

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In recent years, COSAM released a series of initiatives entitled [Imagine](#). Anderson turned imagination into reality by achieving this honor.

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Dr. Ed Wampold named 2009 COSAM Distinguished Alumnus



COSAM recently presented Dr. Edward L. Wampold, Biological Sciences '53, the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Wampold was honored at a dinner on Nov. 6,



Dr. and Mrs. Ed Wampold

2009, at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

The Montgomery native completed his undergraduate studies after serving in the Army during World War II. In 1953, Dr. Wampold joined Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation (A Johnson & Johnson company) as a territory salesman. Quickly proving to be a valued asset to the team, he was asked to join Ortho Diagnostics, Inc. in 1959. In 1963, he became the division manager of the southern division. While working with Ortho Diagnostics, Dr. Wampold attended Syracuse University in the Marketing Executives International program and later studied marketing at Columbia University.

In 1972, Dr. Wampold was promoted to general manager of the Arlington, Texas, manufacturing facility and served on the management board from 1969-1974. In 1974, Dr. Wampold co-founded Biological Corporation of America (BCA), a diagnostic company dedicated to immunohematology. Serving as executive vice president, Dr. Wampold helped build the company to the number two diagnostics company in the industry. After BCA was acquired by Cooper Laboratories, Dr. Wampold served as group vice president and a member of the board of directors.

Dr. Wampold retired in 1985, but was called back to the workforce by Technimed Corporation to serve as president and CEO and was subsequently elected to the board of directors. Dr. Wampold resigned in 1990 and relocated to Atlanta, Ga., where he lives with his wife Diane. Dr. Wampold has three children: Troy, Tracy and Chandler, and five grandchildren: Morgan, Tanner, Carson, Lauren and Clem.

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COSAM Professor Awarded NSF Grant



[Dr. Krystyna Kuperberg](#) of the COSAM Department of Mathematics and Statistics has been awarded \$176,850 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The award supports research in dynamical systems, and in discrete and computational geometry using topological methods. The funded study will have an impact on traditional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as application to population research, economy and medical imaging. The three-year award provides support for both national and international collaboration with other universities and for graduate students. Additionally, the award has two outreach components including promoting the advancement of women in mathematics and reaching out to high school students.

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Arboretum Hosts Class: What's So Great About Native Plants Anyway?



Arboretum Curator Dee Smith lectures class participants.

As part of the mission statement, COSAM's Donald E. Davis Arboretum has long encouraged the use of native plants.

“Even we had an epiphany after reading [Bringing Nature Home](#) and hearing (the author) Dr. Doug Tallamy speak on how our gardening choices can profoundly impact the diversity of life in our yards, cities and even our planet,” says Dee Smith, curator of the arboretum. “This message is one we think is important to spread, so we offered a class on the impact invasive and exotic species have on our ecosystems, the competition they create for our native species, and what we can do to support the ecological interactions between plants and wildlife.”

Nancy J. Loewenstein, past president of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council; Patrick Thompson, arboretum specialist; and Smith each gave a presentation on the detrimental effects of non-native

invasive plants such as privet, cogongrass, and Japanese climbing fern. Once these non-native plant species take root they have a tendency to infest the natural area, resulting in a decrease in wildlife diversity and forest productivity. As a result, in an effort to impede the continued spread of non-native plants, class participants were encouraged to rethink the way most Americans approach landscaping.

“In the United States, there are over 32 million acres of turf,” Smith says. “When we build a house, what do we do? We kill all the native plants and put in turf, which supports very little in terms of wildlife, except grub beetles. Then we plant a bunch of non-native trees and bushes around the house. This creates a very sterile environment.”

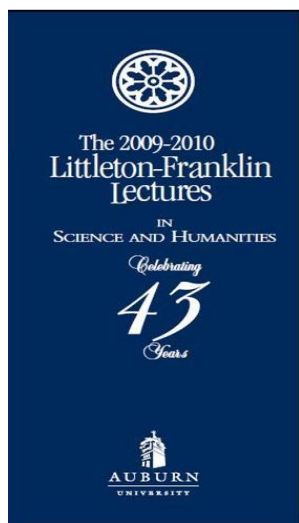
Instead, Smith, Loewenstein and Thompson encouraged participants to consider creating a natural landscape around their home that utilizes native plants species such as milk weed, American beauty berry, rabbit eye blueberry, black-eyed Susan and oak trees, all of which are aesthetically pleasing and encouraging wildlife diversity by providing food and shelter.

Class participants received two books, [Non-native Invasive Plants of Southern Forests](#) by James Miller, and [Bringing Nature Home](#) by Doug Tallamy, both of which provide detailed lists and descriptions of which plants are invasive and which are native.

Learn more about [non-native invasive plant species](#). Those interested in learning more should also plan to attend a lecture given by Doug Tallamy on Oct. 19, 2010. Details about the lecture are found on the [arboretum website](#).

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Acclaimed Digital Pioneer Addresses Students Through Littleton-Franklin Lectures



In November Dr. Natalie Jeremijenko, one of America’s most creative digital pioneers, presented “Don’t Ask What Robotics Can Do for You; Ask What You Can Do for Robotics” to students and faculty through the [Littleton-Franklin Lectures in Science and Humanities](#).

Dr. Jeremijenko directs the xDesign Environmental Health Clinic at New York University. Her experimental design (xDesign) explores opportunities that new technologies offer for non-violent social change. Her work draws on a background in art, biochemistry, physics, neuroscience and precision engineering. Dr. Jeremijenko was named one of the Top 100 young innovators by the *MIT Technology Review* and one of the Top 40 most influential designers by *I.D. Magazine*.

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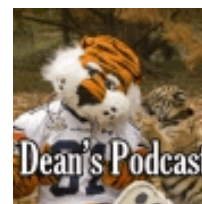
COSAM Digital Updates



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[COSAM Scrubbing for Germs](#)



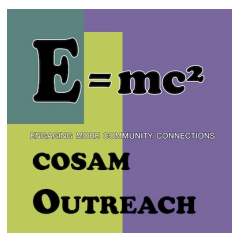
[Episode 20: Dr. Ed Wampold, 2009 Outstanding COSAM Alum](#)

[COSAM Leaders 10-Year Reunion](#)

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