



COSAM Covalence E-News, June 2010

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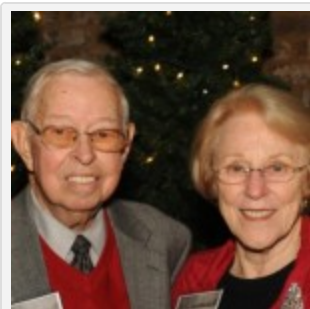
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Prominent COSAM Alumnus Dies at 79



The late Dr. William Lazenby
and wife Peggy

Dr. William D. Lazenby, Pre-Medicine '53, died on June 14, 2010. A 1957 graduate of Emory Medical School, Dr. Lazenby worked at Grady Hospital in Atlanta for five years and then served in the U.S. Army for two years where he attained the rank of captain before returning to his hometown of Opelika, Ala. Dr. Lazenby was instrumental in the expansion of the medical community in East Alabama and was a long-time member of the East Alabama Medical Center board of directors.

The respected civic leader served on the Opelika City Council, was acting president of the Alabama Medical Association and received numerous awards for his efforts. Dr. Lazenby was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Opelika where he served as a deacon and a member of the board of trustees. He is survived by his wife Peggy and their children.

- [OA News](#), June 16, 2010

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Interdisciplinary Team Receives FAA Funding



James Barbaree, Ph.D.

Auburn University scientists and engineers are teaming up on a research project to evaluate the actual risk of contracting a communicable disease during air travel. [The project](#) will study the ability of various microorganisms to survive in cabin air and on frequently touched surfaces.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded a \$300,000 grant to faculty members Dr. James Barbaree, Biological Sciences, and Dr. Tony Overfelt of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Administered by the Airliner Cabin Environment Research Program of the FAA's National Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Research in the Intermodal Transport Environment (RITE), the project is geared toward a better understanding of the possible disease transmission process within airline cabins and the application of existing and emerging technologies for rapidly determining the presence of potentially dangerous disease microorganisms.

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COSAM Professor Receives Research Award



The Auburn University Office of the Vice President for Research awarded [Dr. Geoffrey Hill](#), Biological Sciences, the 2010 Creative Research and Scholarship Award in Science, Engineering and Medicine.

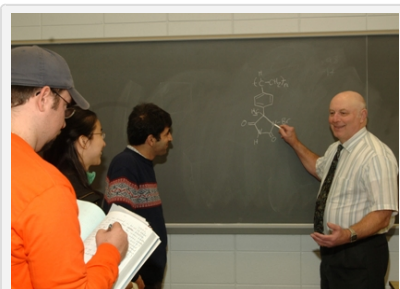
“I am truly honored to get this award. Throughout my career, Auburn University, COSAM and the Department of Biological Sciences have given me the time and support I needed to be a productive scientist, and I’ve worked hard to make good use of these opportunities,” Dr. Hill said. “For me, science is both my career and my passion, so I never really feel like I am working. Having the University recognize the work inspires me to produce more good studies in the future.”

The award recognizes faculty who have distinguished themselves through research, scholarly works and/or creative contribution to their fields. Dr. Hill has written five books, 178 peer-reviewed journal articles and obtained seven large federal grants including a Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering.

“Professor Hill has established himself as one of the most active and influential behavioral ecologists and evolutionary biologists in the United States and beyond,” Dr. Jack Feminella, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, said. “Based on his exemplary record of scholarly work, Dr. Hill is the personification of what the Creative Research Award signifies.”

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Retired COSAM Professor Receives EPA Registration



Dr. S.D. Worley and students

In September 2009, Dr. S.D. Worley, Chemistry '64, retired after a 35-year career as a professor and researcher in Auburn University's Department of Chemistry. During his time at Auburn, Dr. Worley conducted research that would eventually lead to the development of a new water-insoluble polymer that can be used to simply and effectively disinfect water.

Dr. Worley began research in this area in 1980 and created the polymer in 1993. The polymer was then licensed to Halosource, an international company that specializes in clean water and antimicrobial technology. For 10 years, Dr. Worley and Halosource perfected the polymer. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally registered the product in 2009, making it legal to produce and sell in the U.S.

“The polymer is particularly beneficial as a means of disinfecting water in developing nations like India, China and Indonesia, but it could really be used anywhere,” Dr. Worley said, adding it could also be an extremely beneficial tool for U.S. military operations.

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Auburn Helps Reintroduce Threatened Species into Alabama Habitat



Dr. Bob Boyd, a professor in

Auburn University is partnering with conservation and wildlife officials to help the [eastern indigo snake](#), the largest snake in the U.S. and a threatened species, once again become a thriving presence in Alabama. On June 16, Auburn researchers, along with conservation agencies from both Alabama and Georgia, released 17 juvenile eastern indigo snakes into the Conecuh National Forest near Andalusia. Eight of the snakes were released into 2.5-acre natural enclosures, while the remaining snakes were released into the forest. Auburn and Zoo Atlanta shared the responsibility of raising the snakes until they were mature enough to be implanted with Passive Integrated Transponders, as well as radio transmitters, which are used to monitor the location and survival of the snakes once they are reintroduced to their natural habitat. Dr. Craig Guyer, Biological Sciences, along

with graduate student Jimmy Stiles, will monitor the location and survival rate of the snakes using the transmitters, which send out radio signals specific to each snake.

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snake.

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National Science Foundation Supports Biodiversity Learning Center



These scallops in the COSAM invertebrate collection will be on display in the learning center.

A team of faculty members from the Department of Biological Sciences was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Biological Research Collections grant for the project, "Improvements to the Auburn University Natural History Museum." The team, which includes Dr. Les Goertzen, Dr. Jon Armbruster, Dr. Jack Feminella and Dr. Craig Guyer, will use the two-year award to help fund the Auburn University Biodiversity Learning Center (BLC). The award recognizes the significance of the BLC's natural history research effort and will fund improvements to the native plant, aquatic invertebrate, fish, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal collections in concert with their relocation to a new, central campus museum building. The BLC will be connected to M. White-Smith Hall and adjacent to Rouse Life Sciences.

The funding will ensure preservation of valuable specimens and improve access to specimens by researchers, students and the public. This award will provide numerous opportunities for the inclusion

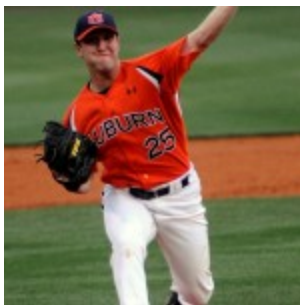
of undergraduate and graduate students in collections-based activities as part of their academic experience. Additionally, the award will facilitate integration of the collections into several popular and effective public education programs, including K-12 mini courses, museum tours and workshops designed to heighten public interest and to emphasize the importance of Alabama's natural heritage.



The Tallapoosa crayfish is another example of displays within the learning center.

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COSAM Student Named SEC Scholar-Athlete



Cory Luckie, a senior in Biomedical Sciences, was recently named the Southeastern Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The Prattville native carries a 3.94 overall GPA and has been on the Dean's List four times.

"First and foremost, I think the coaches and teachers deserve a lot of credit for giving me a chance to succeed in both areas. I believe that the key to success in both the classroom and on the field is looking at the big picture. By managing your time efficiently and arranging your priorities effectively, you will be more successful and reap the benefits later in life," Luckie said. "Sure you can complain now about the stress of doing both, but you have to realize the discipline you gain from the ball field and the knowledge you gain in the classroom."

Luckie, a left-handed pitcher, helped lead the Tigers to an SEC West Championship and an overall finish in 2010 of 43-21.

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COSAM Digital Updates



COSAM Student Services Parent's Website

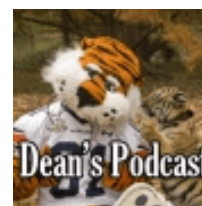
2010 Spring Graduation and COSAM Picnic

Graduation Farewell



COSAM Scrubbing for Germs

COSAM Limitless Learning

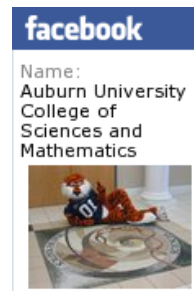
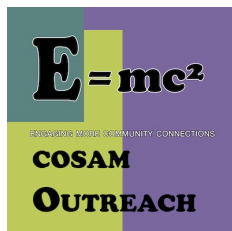


Program Episode 37: Dr. J.V. Ortiz Discusses the Department of Chemistry and His Research

Program Episode 38: Dr. Jack Feminella Discusses Successes of the Department of Biological Sciences

Program Episode 39: Physics Professor Ed Thomas Talks About His Plasma Research Program

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