On Track to the Best and Brightest

Greetings from Auburn University and Happy Spring! I want to take a moment and tell you how excited we are that many of your students will enroll at Auburn for Fall 2010. We are on track to have the best and brightest freshman class in Auburn’s history and much of the thanks goes to you for continually sending your highest achievers to campus.

The spring edition of the Counselor Chronicle has exciting news to report. Inside you’ll find information regarding new procedures for the Math Placement Test; a profile of Auburn’s own Jordan Anderson, a 2010 Rhodes Scholar (the only one from an SEC school) and information on Auburn’s introductory Common Book Program. The featured book for 2010 is “Three Cups of Tea” which will bring an international flavor to our campus and expose our students to global educational concerns and opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you at your school’s academic honors and awards program. If you have students who are accepting their scholarships to Auburn and you would like an Auburn representative to attend your program, please contact Wendy Sims at wendysims@auburn.edu. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

We wish you all the best the remainder of the school year!

War Eagle!

Jim Parrish
Assistant Director
Office of University Recruitment
The World in Focus

As part of the Spirit of Auburn Scholarship program, Presidential Scholarships include the Auburn Academic Guarantee. The Auburn Academic Guarantee assures automatic admission to the Honors College and a customized academic enrichment experience valued at $4,000 one semester after the second year. Some students, like Kevin Johnson, choose to study abroad as their enrichment experience.

Kevin spent six weeks in Capetown, South Africa, as part of an independent study project. He worked with advisors to pair his interest in photography with an extension of his church’s mission trip. Kevin says, “I worked with Living Hope Community Centre, a non-profit HIV/AIDS care organization, archiving pieces of their story as an organization. I first made contact with Living Hope, and then realized that I could use what I was doing for them to get some course credit here at Auburn. So, I talked to the art department, and we made my ‘own experience.’ I received an Intro to Photography credit for the photography and video work I did for them.”

Auburn Abroad has programs on every continent and features a variety of disciplines including intensive language training, cultural experiences, and courses in every college and school. Auburn faculty members lead more than 60 programs. The first opportunity for incoming freshmen is the Human Odyssey program in Europe. Two Auburn professors specializing in the sciences and humanities lead a group throughout Italy while fulfilling core courses in world history and fine art. Students see where history was made and explore the connections between science, art, architecture, philosophy, and literature firsthand.

Freshmen Take Math Placement Examination by May 15

In the past, incoming freshmen were asked to take the Mathematics Placement Exam on staggered dates based on their Camp War Eagle registration. This year, the deadline for all students who have paid a deposit prior to May 1, 2010, and are enrolling in the Fall 2010 class, is May 15. Students who deposit after May 1 will have extended time but should complete the test before their Camp War Eagle session.

The online Mathematics Placement Exam test determines the level of algebraic skills and is used to place students in a mathematics course that best corresponds to that skill level. The exam consists of two parts: algebra and trigonometry. If a student has not taken trigonometry, they will not be required to take the trigonometry portion. Knowledge of trigonometry is a prerequisite for the calculus course required of engineering and science majors (i.e., Calculus I, MATH 1610).

The algebraic skills test should take less than 45 minutes, without any special preparation and the use of calculators. The trigonometry portion should take approximately 45 minutes. The tests are independent and may be taken at separate sittings.

For students who have not taken a mathematics course during their senior year, encourage them to review before taking the exam. The following topics are covered: arithmetic of rational numbers, operations with algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities, factoring and algebraic fractions, exponents and radicals, graphing and distance, fractional and quadratic equations and inequalities, logarithms, functions, complex numbers, absolute values, and systems of equations.

Test results will be available immediately upon completion with a chart showing recommended placement in Auburn’s mathematics classes corresponding to each score. Visit auburn.edu/mathtest for more information.
Auburn University’s swim-team captain is headed across the pond in October to study as a Rhodes scholar at the University of Oxford in England.

Senior biological sciences major Jordan Anderson, who hails from Roanoke, Va., is one of 32 U.S. students and the only student from a Southeastern Conference school to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which was established upon the death of 19th-century businessman Cecil Rhodes. Funded by Rhodes’ estate, the scholarships are designed to help students increase their international understanding and advocate for peace.

Famous American Rhodes scholars include basketball player-cum-politician Bill Bradley, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, feminist social critic Naomi Wolf, singer/songwriter Kris Kristofferson, MSNBC political analyst Rachel Maddow, U.N. ambassador Susan Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter and former White House communications director George Stephanopoulos.

Anderson plans to enroll in a master’s program in global health science, which promotes an understanding of health conditions in third-world countries. Boasting a 3.91 grade-point average, he is a captain of Auburn’s top-ranked swimming-and-diving team, and is a College Swim Coaches Association of America Academic All-American and a two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll member.

“It really wasn’t something I planned on winning,” Anderson says. “I just wanted to be named a finalist, so it took the pressure off while interviewing. It is really a huge honor and an incredible opportunity.”

In addition to swimming and academics, Anderson, a second-generation college student, worked with the interdenominational Christian outreach organization Young Life and was a mentor for students at Lee Scott Academy, a private prep school in Auburn. He also aided in research on the phototyzing effects of ultraviolet light on the eye and was named an “Unsung Hero” by the Virginia Health Care Foundation for assisting dentists in his hometown with an effort to provide dental care for low-income families.

Paul Harris ’97, associate director for national prestigious scholarships at Auburn, says Anderson embodies what a Rhodes scholar is supposed to be. “He excelled in academics, exemplified leadership through being elected captain of the swim team, demonstrated athletic abilities and showed character with his work at Young Life. This shows you that the Rhodes Scholarship committee really valued who he is.”

Anderson is the fourth Auburn student to be named a Rhodes scholar, joining alumni Hugh Long ’47, Ed Gentle ’75 and Susan Karamanian ’79.

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Auburn Selects 2010 Common Book

Auburn Connects! is a new program featuring a specially chosen book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Selecting a common book for Auburn students to read promotes a shared academic experience. Freshmen are able to form bonds during the discussions with other students and faculty members. The common intellectual experience can unify the class and help create a support system for the students to reach their full academic potential. A large number of freshman classes will integrate the book into course work and class discussions. All Learning Community sections will use the book in UNIV courses. In addition, the university and its departments will sponsor public lectures, small group discussions, film series, and service-learning projects based on the themes and cultural references in the book.

The common book selection committee based their recommendations on a list of six goals: to promote intellectual community on campus; to help students gain a global perspective; to promote a culture of service; to emphasize individual empowerment, responsibility and the need for hard work; to help set the stage for intellectual engagement; and to link to several types of programming on campus during the academic year.

2010 Book Selection
The author, Greg Mortenson, is the founder of the Central Asia Institute, which is dedicated to promoting peace through the creation of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The book tells the tale of how he found his passion for his work and his struggles to get his first school built. For more about the book, visit www.threecupsoftea.com.