
The Honors Eagle

Auburn University

Newsletter of the University Honors Congress

Spring 2007

Out and About

Looking for a way to relieve that spring fever and get out in the community to enjoy the outdoors? Auburn offers more opportunities for such experiences than you might think. Alone or with friends, there are more than a couple of places one can go for outside exercise, relaxation, or socializing. From parks to picnicking, biking, running or volunteering, there is no excuse for being stuck indoors, even if it is getting a little warm outside!

Check out these ideas for taking advantage of the opportunities and facilities for outdoor recreation afforded by the Auburn community:

1. **Kiesel Park** has over 2 miles of walking paths and is an ideal place to walk your dog and enjoy being out of the city limits. Kiesel Park is located out Hwy 14 past Auburn City Limits Restaurant. Call (334) 501-2930 for more information.

2. Less than 15 minutes from campus, 600 acre **Chewacla State Park** offers hiking and mountain biking trails, as well as picnic and camping facilities. Located at the end of Shell Toomer Parkway and Wrights Mill Road, the entrance fee is \$2 on weekdays and \$3 on the weekend. See <http://www.alapark.com/parks/park.cfm?parkid=14> for trail and map info.

3. Just outside the State park entrance is the beginning of an approximately three-mile path that runs through the woods alongside **Shell Toomer Park-**



way. With pleasant scenery winding around a small stream, it is an ideal running and walking path since it is mostly away from the road.

4. A few minutes from campus, **Town Creek Park** on South Gay has a small lake, a short walking path, and is one of Auburn's newest city parks.

5. AU's very own **Arboretum**, on Lem Morrison Drive near the AU Medical Clinic, is accessible from College Street and is usually quiet and shaded all year round with a pond, bridges, benches, and a covered picnic/event pavilion. It's open everyday until sunset and is home to ducks, turtles, and a variety of birds. Interested in doing some gardening yourself? Contact the

AU Environmental Awareness Organization at eao@auburn.edu for information about the garden plot they're working on.

6. For some truly rewarding physical activity, volunteer with **Habitat for Humanity**. Volunteers are constantly on a work site in the Auburn area generally Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. See their website for directions and more information.

7. The **Jule Collins Smith Museum** on South College Street, is free to all students with an ID, so after checking out the galleries, take a pleasant stroll around the lake or the gardens at the back of the museum. Check their website at jcs.m.auburn.edu/ for special events or current exhibitions.

8. Tucked away on the far end of North College Street (Hwy 147 N.), just past the fishery ponds, is a lesser known attraction, the AU School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences **Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve**. The preserve has several lakes, ponds, and walking trails and is open from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday. See <http://www.sfws.auburn.edu/ecosite/default.htm> for more details.

9. Willing to drive a little farther? **Callaway Gardens**, 45 minutes north up Interstate 85, is especially beautiful in the spring and offers more than a days worth of biking and walking trails, garden tours, and even a butterfly house.

—Elizabeth Williams

New Honors Congress Officers

Congratulations to our new officers for the 2007-2008 school year! They were voted on at the first Spring Convocation by fellow Honors College students.

President, Jay Owens; Vice President, Elise McClanahan; Secretary, Sarah Teague; and Treasurer, Tyler Stutheit

From the Desk of the Director

All around campus at the end of every academic year, deans, department chairs, and program directors are filling out progress reports, submitting financial requests, and laying out goals for the coming year. As the end of my first year as Director of the Honors College approaches, I have done the same and wish to share with you the major goals I have in mind for Honors as we move towards the 2007-2008 academic year and beyond.



First, offer an improved quality Honors “product” in terms of curriculum, facilities, program, and scholarship opportunities for what will be a record number of students entering the Honors College this fall.

Second, add greater flexibility to the Honors curriculum by ending the absolute requirement for Honors Writing Seminars (allowing Honors students to take regular sections of English Composition), adding a year of foreign language to the menu of Honors Options, and enhancing course offerings generally by getting targeted departments and colleges to offer additional Honors courses that will be attractive and helpful to students.

Third, target an incoming freshman class of 350 students for Fall 2008, and recruit for and market the Honors College accordingly.

Fourth, establish an Honors Alumni Advisory Board and develop a plan for Honors alumni development specific to the Honors College. Develop a comprehensive Honors alumni list and publish an inaugural edition of an Honors Alumni newsletter.

Fifth, increase by no less than \$100,000 the amount of money internally administered by the Honors College for scholarships to AU Honors students.

Sixth, hire and work hand-in-hand with a Director for National Prestigious Scholarships (Goldwaters, Trumans, Marshalls, Rhodes, Fulbrights) to develop a much more effective system for mentoring student applicants and earning a greater number of distinguished external scholarships for Auburn students.

Seventh, foster a greater feeling of investment in the Honors College on the part of Honors teaching faculty. Develop more direct consultative interaction between the Honors Director and the Honors teaching faculty. Inaugurate an Honors Faculty Appreciation Dinner hosted by Honors students.

Eighth, prepare an Honors College Manual to be presented to all members of the Honors teaching faculty as well as to all academic departments and responsible administrators on campus.

Have a great summer knowing I’ll be hard at work on all of these items!

—James R. Hansen, Director

Philanthropy

On February 27th, 2007, the Honors College worked tables at Tiger’s Den to raise money for the Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., for our annual Philanthropy Event. We had a great turnout, raising almost \$200 in tips alone! There was fantastic entertainment, including Evan Everett and Taylor Garret playing guitar and singing, as well as a stand-up comedian. The volunteers were amazing, as all Honors students are, and they were the reason this night was a success!

—Heidi Owen, Philanthropy Committee Chair

Formal Casino and Game Night

The third annual Honors Congress Formal Game and Casino Night was held on Friday, March 9, 2007, at seven o’clock in the evening. This year, Casino Night was held at the Greystone Mansion on Magnolia Avenue. The event featured plenty of food, games, prizes, music, and, of course, Spades and Texas Hold ‘Em tournaments. About 25 people competed in the Texas Hold ‘Em tournament and six teams played off in Spades; the winners received gift card prizes to local stores and restaurants. While the tournaments were underway, other members of the Honors Congress enjoyed playing games and catching up with friends. Casino Night continues to grow into a fabulous annual event and the Honors Congress is excited to see what will happen next year.

As always, Casino Night would not have been possible without great volunteers. Drew Winstel directed the Texas Hold ‘Em tournament and Aaron Bush, Jay Owen, and Aaron Chastain volunteered as dealers. Byron Caudle graciously lent his sound equipment and provided the music for the event. Kathie Mattox helped in the kitchen and kept the refreshments coming. Thanks to all of you for your help!

—Kathryn Chandler, Social Committee Chair



From Behind the Lecturn

As a former student of Dr. Thomas Webb, I found joy in being asked to interview him. He always showed such passion in his work. He also strived to keep class interesting: He brought dry ice and made fog; we made homemade ice cream that he ate with hot sauce; he brought in cow placenta to demonstrate how smell disperses; and one fall morning he froze my boots and pants with liquid nitrogen. Though all that stood out to me, one thing stands out the most: he took special interest and time out of his day to make every student feel as though they were his only student. Now, after 32 years, Dr. Webb is retiring from teaching at Auburn University. Faculty, staff, and students alike will miss him.

What has been your crowning achievement here at Auburn?

I'd say all the students I have had in class over the years.

Any special plans for retirement?

Travel, fossil hunting...I will still be doing some research. I have some money to spend and I have some reactions that I tried starting twenty years ago that didn't work so well and I'd like to see what's going on there. I won't be cutting all ties from campus—far from it.

Are you considering going mainstream with your hot-sauce ice cream? Maybe jalapeno flavored?

That recipe is in the public domain. I don't see any reason why I have to go

mainstream with it or anything else. So anyone who wants to make it can. It's out there.

What has been your favorite chemistry experiment?

In lecture, probably the sulfuric acid demonstrations.

As a former student, I discovered you found joy in teaching us. Where did you find the inspiration?

When I was a student taking freshmen chemistry, back 40-some years ago, the person who was my freshmen chemistry teacher was absolutely wonderful. He was involved in administration, but he was also involved in teaching. And he gave us the idea that when he was teaching us, there was no place he'd rather be than with us. And he was a master of demonstrations. I think he could make demonstrations work that shouldn't have worked. He was that good. And it dawned on me after watching this guy for a couple of weeks that he was having or seemed to be having a heck of a lot of fun and he was getting paid. Well, I started out as a chemistry major, with the idea that if I didn't like chemistry, I always had math to fall back on. And after watching this guy doing what he did, enjoying it, and getting paid for it, it made an impression on an impressionable eighteen year old. And I decided that's what I wanted to do, and so something like ten or eleven years later I got the chance to do it and I have been here ever since.

Any advice for the next Honors Chemistry professor?

Any advice? Give me a minute to think . . . I'd say, be organized, show in-



Dr. Thomas R. Webb

terest in the kids, and make sure that you make an impression on them.

What are you going to do with all this stuff in your office?

Well, I don't know. I haven't thought about that yet to be honest with you. I know what I'm going to do with some of it. There's a box down there for Science Olympiad and some other things will get burned.

And one final question: Are you going to perform any more magic shows?

Well, I'm supposed to be doing something in two weeks for a group of students. I don't know if it's high school students or junior high students or exactly what the age group is and I've got forty-five minutes on Friday afternoon the twenty-seventh when I'm supposed to be making stinks. I think we can do that. After that, I don't know.

—Thomas Bittle

Get Involved Around Auburn's Community: Volunteer With Impact

IMPACT is a community service organization that is centered around the student volunteer. The goal of the organization is to present various opportunities for students to become involved in the Auburn community through projects such as those at local schools and shelters around the City of Auburn.

IMPACT makes it easy for students to volunteer, creating a schedule of times that groups will go to any one of our eleven projects. Students are encouraged to go online to <http://www.auburn.edu/impact> and check out the table of events to find a project that best fits their busy schedules. Once you have your desired project, which could be anything from an after-school daycare to Habitat for Humanity, you just meet the IMPACT Coordinator at the intramural fields and enjoy an afternoon of service. Students can come as often or as little as they like, we only ask that if you do decide to volunteer with us, that you stay at the project for the full two-hours.

—Austin Walsh, Service Committee Chair

2007-2008 Honors Ambassadors

The following students were chosen to serve as Honors Ambassadors for the 2007-2008 academic year: Judith Bailey, Abbie Basten, Brittani Berbette, Danny Bradford, Katharine Brown, John Ellithorp, Meg Gafford, Amy Gordon, Sarah Graham, Sarah Hardekopf, Anne-Marie Hodge, Abby Hogelin, Teresa Kilborn, Rebecca Ludvigsen, Kelly Moreland, Hollie Nolan, Charlsie Pannell, Lindsey Reid, CeeCee Savrda, Christine Taylor, Sarah Teague, Jennifer Trobaugh, Katie Westbrook, Katherine Willis, Sandy Wolf, and Emily Wood.

Dead Day Study Break

May 1st, 7:00 pm
Honors Center
Pizza-Soft Drinks

University Scholars

Neda Alford
Kathryn Chandler
Aaron Chastain
Elaine Ellis
Kylene Farmer
Jessica Jerabek
Kelley Kendrick
Mary McFadden
Stacey Moore

Sara Peckham
Stephanie Qualls
Brian Sullivan
Michael Taylor
Austin Walsh
Jennifer Wilder
Chad Wilgenbus
Lacey Williams

The Honors Eagle is published by the University Honors College of Auburn University.

Managing Editor
Kathie Mattox
Editor
Jessica Jerabek

For other information about the Honors College, see <http://www.auburn.edu/honors>.

Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer

Senior Honors Scholars

Daniel Bradford
Chandler Combest
Robert Cox
Sarah Kemppainen

Elizabeth Kent
Lauren Littleton
Bonnie Shamp
Laura Whitaker

The University Honors College
Ralph B. Draughon Library
Auburn University, AL 36849-5360

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bulk Rate
Permit #9
Auburn University, AL
36849