



Melissa Humble, Photographic Services

### Flag for Iraq

Auburn resident Mike Watkins shows a flag he created commemorating Auburn University to send to his son-in-law, U.S. Army Sgt. Ben Bryant, for display with other collegiate flags at army base "Q-West" in western Iraq and to accompany some combat missions. The flag features signatures of University President Jay Gogue, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions, Congressman Mike Rogers, State Rep. Mike Hubbard, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Auburn Army ROTC Battalion Cmdr. Jon Segars and Coach Gene Chizik.

On April 30

## 'Auburn Pops!' benefit concert to raise funds for scholarships

The Auburn Community Orchestra, conducted by Howard Goldstein, will present "Auburn Pops!", a benefit performance of historic hits from Broadway, at Telfair Peet Theatre on April 30.

Proceeds from the event will support scholarships in the departments of Art, Music and Theatre in the College of Liberal Arts.

The evening begins with a pre-show celebration at the home of Auburn University President and Mrs. Jay Gogue for the first 200 ticket holders at 6:30 p.m., followed by the 75-minute concert performance in the Peet Theatre beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Billed as "a grand tour through some of the greatest hits in the history of the Broadway musical," the concert will feature tunes from "Cabaret," "Porgy and Bess," "Chicago," "Oklahoma," "Les Miserables," "A Chorus Line," "Hair-spray" and other popular musicals.

Daydrie Hague of the Theatre Department will serve as the evening's mistress of ceremonies.

Lighting designer Joel Shier — the assistant lighting designer for the current Broadway production of "The Addams Family" — will provide the production's main design elements, and the choreography is by Claudia Oates. The entire production is under the direction of University Theatre's Music Director Joseph Bates.

Works produced by art majors will adorn the Telfair Peet Theatre gallery during the performance and theatre and music majors will be featured in the show.

Individual tickets for the performance are \$125 and two tickets are \$200. To reserve tickets or for more information, contact Marjorie Teeter at teetemb@auburn.edu or 844-4154.

# Engineering student receives Goldwater Scholarship for 2010

David Marshall Harris, a junior in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering majoring in chemical engineering at Auburn, has been chosen as a 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar.

The scholarship, awarded to only about 300 students nationwide, is widely considered the most prestigious award in the United States for undergraduates in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

Harris specializes in biomedical applications of chemical engineering, and his goal is to use polymer engineering to make a safer and more effective drug-eluting stent. A graduate of Spain Park High School in Hoover, he is a member of the University Honors College.

Harris' research has been guided by Mark Byrne, the Mary and John Sanders Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and director of the Biomedical Devices and Drug Delivery Labs at Auburn.

"Receiving this scholarship was a pleasant surprise as well as a career validation for me," the honors student said. "I want to go to medical school as part of an M.D. and Ph.D. program and have a career in biotechnology and patient care. I chose my research project because there is a great need for safer drug-eluting stents and I hope to be able to provide that one day."

"David deserves this significant honor, and he stands out among his peers by his excellence both inside and outside the classroom," Byrne said.

"He has remarkable scholarship and is highly motivated, both contributing to his unparalleled professional promise. This scholarship and the recognition associated with it gives him the opportunity to make substantial strides in an open-ended educational pursuit such as research," Byrne continued.

"Competition for the scholarship is intense," said Paul Harris, associate director of the National Prestigious Scholarship Office. "We can select only four undergraduate students to submit applications at the national level. The applicants must write a research proposal and explain to the selection committee what their findings were and also submit three letters of recommendation. We select only the strongest candidates to move forward."

Meanwhile, Zachary Devries, a junior in the College of Sciences and Mathematics majoring in zoology and a graduate of Auburn High School, was named a 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Honorable Mention. An Undergraduate Research Fellow and member of the University Honors College, Devries' research involves the behavioral and physiological responses to low aquatic oxygen levels in two species of salamanders and was directed by Raymond Henry, professor and assistant chair in the Department of Biological Sciences.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program was established to provide scholarships to outstanding students who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. Each scholarship covers eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually for undergraduate tuition, fees, books and housing.

In awarding scholarships, the foundation of trustees considers the nominee's field of study and career objectives along with the extent to which that individual has the commitment and potential to make a significant contribution to the field of science or engineering.

*"This scholarship and the recognition associated with it gives him the opportunity to make substantial strides in an open-ended educational pursuit such as research."*

**Mark Byrne,  
faculty advisor**



## Spring, finally

March finally arrived in April this year, and Auburn students have been making up for the slow start to spring. A.K. Bruton, a public relations/pre-law major from Birmingham was one of several students who took advantage of a windy day for kite flying last week during a WEGL-sponsored event on Cater Lawn.

*Melissa Humble, Photographic Services*

## Program offers faculty, staff option of saving on health insurance

In exchange for having their blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels checked, Auburn faculty and staff can save \$25 a month on their health insurance premiums next year under the new Healthy Tigers Initiative.

Employee participation is optional for the program, which is a joint venture of the university's Office of Payroll and Employee Benefits and the Harrison School of Pharmacy. The medical screenings begin May 3, and insurance savings for participants will start Jan. 1, 2011, at the beginning of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama accounting year for Auburn's employee health insurance plan.

The savings, up to \$300 a year, will actually be the lesser of two benefits for some participants, especially those who are at risk for heart disease or diabetes and do not know it, says the initiative's coordinator, Kimberly Braxton Lloyd, assistant dean for pharmacy health services in Auburn's Harrison School of Pharmacy.

Based on a similar and well-received program for State of Alabama employees, the Healthy Tigers Initiative is designed to slow the annual increase in health insurance premiums by offering an incentive for university employees to learn more about their own health. "Based on the experience of plans elsewhere," Braxton Lloyd said, "a significant number of persons will use that knowledge to protect their health."

In addition to the benefits that individuals receive from early detection and management of potential medical problems, she said a widespread emphasis on health and wellness can provide additional insurance savings for all employees and the university.

If the experience is the same at Auburn as elsewhere, she said, everyone in the health insurance plan will benefit through a slower rise in premiums. "Studies have shown that implementing a health and wellness plan can decrease the rate of increase in health-care costs," she explained. "Disease states that are caught and managed early have better outcomes for the employee and are less expensive to treat."

Braxton Lloyd said the effort to slow the increase in health care costs is doubly important for Auburn's faculty and staff because the university is self-insured. Although Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama administers the plan, all claims are paid from a funding pool financed chiefly by premiums from employees and the university.

To qualify for the savings, faculty and staff members can either participate in a free health screening on campus between the first part of May and the end of November or have their physician submit a form, available soon, with the results of a health screening by the individual's physician before the end of November.

Braxton Lloyd said the screening will measure a limited number of indicators — blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels — that are important to everyone who cares about his or her health and quality of life. She noted that many individuals already receive regular health screenings from their physicians, and many of those are following the advice of their doctors to protect their health.

Others assume that they are in good health and don't bother to get routine medi-

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