

Highlights



WINTER • 2020





A Message From the Dean

This fall, we welcomed a record number of students to campus! It is an excellent sign our students have continued embracing the great campus experience in their educational process, inside and outside classrooms. The students' college experience also includes using the library collections, working on their projects and assignments in library study spaces, taking advantage of technologies at the library and consulting with our knowledgeable liaison librarians when they have questions. We are very happy to see them around this fall!

The pandemic situation has indeed presented new challenges to the Auburn Libraries' daily operations. The library faculty and staff have put much needed efforts into planning and preparing for the reopening of the fall semester. These efforts included rearranging furniture to enable social distancing, displaying relevant signage everywhere in the libraries to remind people of the needed protocols, installing touchless faucets for safe handwashing and ensuring thorough cleanliness for all study spaces in the building. These actions enable us to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

In this issue, you will also see the recipients of the library faculty and staff awards for their contributions for better library service. It has been a gratifying experience for me to work with a group of high-caliber faculty and staff who are dedicated to constantly improving library services.

The Libraries' newly renovated facility, the Innovation and Research Commons, is shaping up well. Located on the first floor of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, the new facility will provide services and advanced technologies to support student and faculty teaching, learning and research endeavors. The new facility will be occupied by a makerspace, Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR) exploration space, audio studio, DataSpace and Adobe Creative Space. We are excited about this new facility and look forward to seeing the many ways our students and faculty will use it.

This fall, we are also bidding farewell to Dr. Rob Buchanan and Dr. Midge Coates as they retire. Both have made many positive impacts on the education outcomes of our students and I send my best wishes for their new journey.

You will also meet the recipients of the student scholarships. They are taking full-load classes, working in the Libraries for up to 20 hours per week and have kept excellent academic records. The scholarships will enable them to achieve their high goals. The funding of these scholarships come from generous donors like you. I am grateful for your confidence in us to provide the best services for our Auburn students and faculty. I am also grateful for your funding donations that enable us to do more...thank you for your support.

War Eagle!

Shali Zhang
Dean, Auburn Libraries

Rob Buchanan and Midge Coates Retire

It is a rare thing for a husband and wife team to work in the the same unit of Auburn University. Rarer still when they retire at the same time. Spouse librarians Rob Buchanan, head of the Cary Veterinary Medical Library, and Midge Coates, systems department, retired on Oct. 1, 2020 and will be greatly missed by both their colleagues and patrons of the Auburn University Libraries. Their contributions to the success of Auburn Libraries over the last 17 years were numerous and varied.

Buchanan joined Auburn Libraries in July of 2003 as a reference and instruction librarian in chemistry and physics. In addition to being a chemistry subject librarian, Buchanan also stepped in to teach CHEM 3000, a class on chemical literature, for the next 17 years. Rob became the Libraries' resident expert on EndNote, the industry standard software tool for publishing and managing bibliographies, citations and references and taught both faculty and students the intricacies of this important research-enhancing tool.

In August 2008 Buchanan was promoted to librarian III and was named head of the Cary Veterinary Medical Library, a position he held until his retirement.

Buchanan's research and publishing career includes published articles such as "Accuracy of cited references: The role of citation databases" in *College & Research Libraries* (2006) which was followed up by "Science Citation Index Expanded: The effect of journal editorial policies" in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. Buchanan has also written 18 "Beyond the Chemistry Web" columns over a seven-year period for *SciTech News*. Research for this column taught Rob much about useful websites for science librarians.

While at the Auburn Libraries, Buchanan was a major contributor to projects that helped serve patrons better, such as the Article Linker, which connected patrons to electronic articles, the 2010 redesign of the

library homepage to improve its usability and appearance, and the development and implementation of VuFind (a discovery catalog still in use) that made finding books and journals easier.

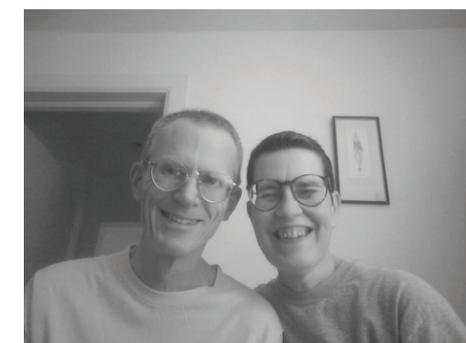
He was awarded the Library Faculty Award in 2016 for contributions to usage statistics and assessment, and the Dean's Award for Outstanding Service by a Non-College of Veterinary Medicine Employee in 2015 by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Buchanan is proud of the extensive veterinary medical e-Book collection and the subject-based e-books page for the Veterinary Medical Subject Guide (2019-2020). He is also grateful to Marcia Boosinger, former Libraries associate dean, for taking a chance on a freshly-minted library school graduate.

Coates joined Auburn in 2005 working as



a project manager on *This Goodly Land: Alabama's Literary Landscape*, the online literary map for Alabama. The literary map was a project of the Alabama Center for the Book, at that time part of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts.



Coates joined Auburn Libraries in October 2009 as a digital projects librarian. In that position she was responsible for creating, expanding and enhancing the collections of the Auburn digital library. These collections disseminate materials produced by Auburn scholars, provide access to historic materials from the university and its predecessor institutions, highlight Auburn Libraries' physical collections and support the educational missions of Auburn students and faculty. During the 11 years she worked on the digital library, she launched 40 new digital collections and significantly revised and/or expanded 19 existing collections.



Auburn Libraries and LWV of East Alabama Promote the Democratic Process

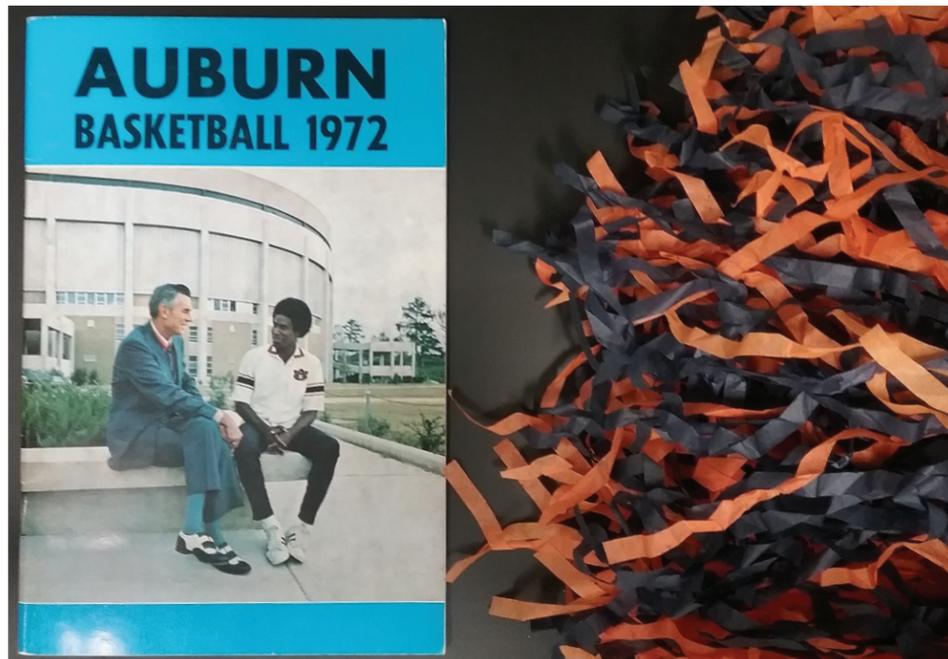
Dozens of students and Auburn employees took advantage of voter registration and information drives offered during the fall semester at Ralph Brown Draughon Library. The three events were offered through a partnership between Auburn Libraries and the League of Women Voters of East Alabama. The League of Women Voters volunteers helped participants register to vote, apply to receive absentee ballots and help clear up questions about voting in Alabama.



Archives Reaches Out to Black Alumni

The Auburn University Libraries Special Collections and Archives department was contacted by Erin Hutchins, inclusion and diversity coordinator in the Office of Alumni Affairs, to discuss how the department might play a role in the virtual Black Alumni Week(end) event Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2020. For the past couple of years, Hutchins has worked with the archives to coordinate exhibits to coincide with the annual event. This year, with the plan to go virtual, Hutchins worked with Lisa Glasscock, processing archivist, to plan several projects. First, the Black Alumni Stories featured on the Auburn alumni website were archived in the library to be available for future generations. These stories and images, submitted by alumni, express appreciation for time spent at

Auburn, career goals attained and hopes for the future. Second, a collection of historical images of Auburn's Divine 9 fraternities and sororities was digitized and made available to individuals in the alumni office as well as Student Affairs to assist in work conducted to bring the NPHC Legacy Plaza to campus in 2022. Lastly, the archives created a video titled, "Nine Ways We Know," featuring the kinds of university history materials the archives make accessible. The presentation listing yearbooks, photographs, artifacts, journals, newspapers, audio recordings, moving images, letters and records among the sources available, concludes with an appeal to Black alumni to consider donating material to the archives.



The Auburn Libraries Innovation and Research Commons (I&RC)

The Research Support Unit (RSU) is a new department of the Auburn University Libraries (AUL). It grew out of policy recommendations from the 2019 AUL strategic planning goal 2 working group, which identified ways in which the Libraries can support the university's strategic emphasis on "transformative research."

The RSU was formed in March 2020 and currently consists of two full-time faculty members, six IT, instructional and library tech specialists, one TES employee, student workers and a visiting research scholar. Its mission is to provide targeted, individualized support to Auburn University faculty members and students for research (including externally sponsored research), course design and classwork, with a heavy emphasis on research data services and innovative technologies.

The RSU's work is informed by the AUL research support and partnership working group, which includes ex officio members from other AUL departments and the Auburn University Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development (OVPRED). Among other services, the RSU offers support in the areas of research data management, grant funding and proposal development, creativity and design assistance, IT tools and consulting, patents and intellectual property, systematic reviews, open access publishing and maximizing research impact. Library faculty affiliated with the RSU have recently been consulted on major federal funding opportunities by the Auburn University Huntsville Research Center, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Innovation and Research Commons (I&RC) on the first floor of RBD Library is the physical embodiment of the RSU's mission. Inspired by faculty requests for a conveniently located interdisciplinary research commons on campus and created with support from Alabama-

based EBSCO Industries, the I&RC is a place for turning ideas into reality. Its purpose is to help faculty and students find new ways to incorporate digital and analog technologies into their classroom and research projects. It is also designed to serve as a campus-wide incubator for interdisciplinary research ideas and projects. To that end, the I&RC includes a hands-on workshop (the I&RC makerspace), as well as work areas for interdisciplinary research activities and discussions and meeting space for university research bodies.

The I&RC offers 3D printers and 3D scanners for additive manufacturing, an electronics bench, a laser cutter, programmable sewing machines, a tabletop letterpress book press, virtual and augmented reality equipment for course development and virtual instruction, an audio editing studio, high-end workstations for computer simulation and large-format printers and scanners. The I&RC also includes an Adobe Creative Cloud open learning and presentation space; a data services and visualization hub — the DataSpace — to help researchers organize their datasets, troubleshoot their computational workflows and comply with data-management requirements from federal and private funding agencies; and a large, interactive digital display — the Liquid Galaxy — that provides a platform for 3D geospatial visualizations, panoramic images, exhibits, videos and tours in a shared immersive environment.

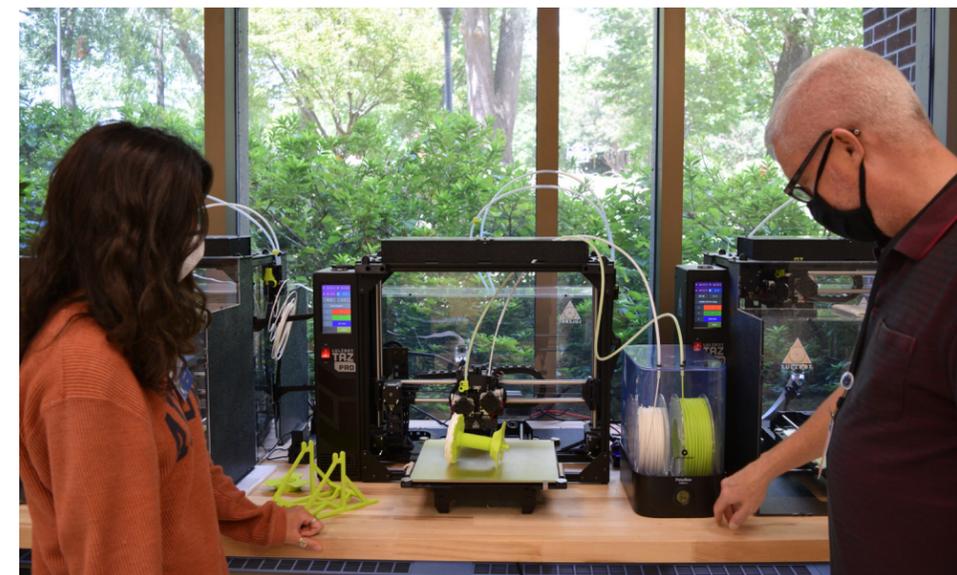
The I&RC opened in August 2020 and demand for its services is growing. Graduate student workers in the I&RC DataSpace began offering Zoom consultations on data questions through the I&RC website in mid-August. The Liquid Galaxy is being used by faculty members in COSAM and CLA for innovative

classroom instruction and student-centered digital projects. The I&RC Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality station is being used by researchers in pharmacy and engineering to apply haptic technologies to real-world issues in health care delivery. The 3D printers in the I&RC makerspace are turning out jobs for faculty and students in COSAM, CLA and veterinary medicine. And the I&RC Adobe Creative Space is offering online and on-demand workshops on digital creation and digital literacy skills for students, faculty and staff.

Finally, the I&RC is the home base for Dr. Christopher Loughnane, the AUL visiting research scholar in digital scholarship and innovation for the 2020-2021 academic year. Dr. Loughnane has a Ph.D. in information studies from the University of Glasgow and has taught at academic, public and prison libraries in the UK and the United States. His research interests include haptic media

studies and media archaeology, exploring multimodalities and sensual engagements through VR/AR technologies, information studies, digital humanities, digital and computing history, phenomenology and philosophy of technology, literary studies, environmental humanities and science and technology studies. His role in the I&RC is to facilitate digital scholarship by faculty and students and to incorporate digital scholarship into teaching and engagement in the classroom and in the larger Auburn community. Dr. Loughnane is building relationships with the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation and other campus units. He is available for consultation, project planning and support for cutting-edge digital work.

You can find information on the RSU and the I&RC at lib.auburn.edu/researchsupport/ and lib.auburn.edu/irc/ respectively.



 **MORE THAN
110,000
PAGES**

scanned and electronically delivered to researchers on campus and worldwide
(March 15 through Sept. 30, 2020)

Innovation and Research Commons Brings Hub of Activity

1. Ali Krzton (right) works with a researcher on a data management plan (DMP) for a grant application.
2. The I&RC service desk is the best place for the new user to start their experience.
3. The electronics workbench area in the I&RC will give students the opportunity to build projects and test them.
4. Dr. Giovanna Summerfield of the College of Liberal Arts teaches her Italian class using the immersive Liquid Galaxy wall display to give them a tour of Italy.
5. Liza Weisbrod (right) works with Dr. Lee Johnson in the new I&RC music studio.
6. Gary Hawkins (left) helps students in the virtual reality/augmented reality (VR/AR) area of the I&RC.
7. The numerous 3D printing stations in the I&RC will allow students to see their designs come to life in the real world.
8. Eileen Hall (left) explains the use of loaner equipment to a student. Loaner equipment allows students to take their projects beyond the building.



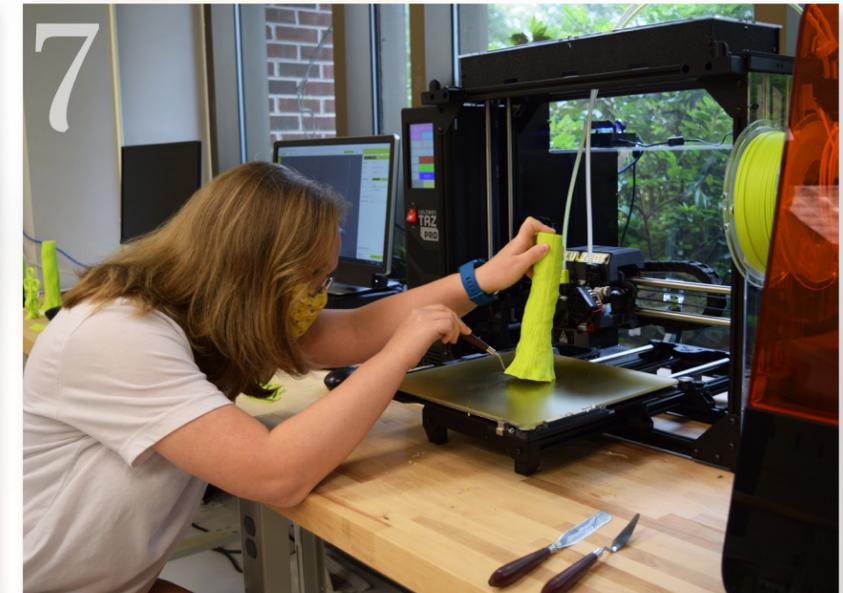
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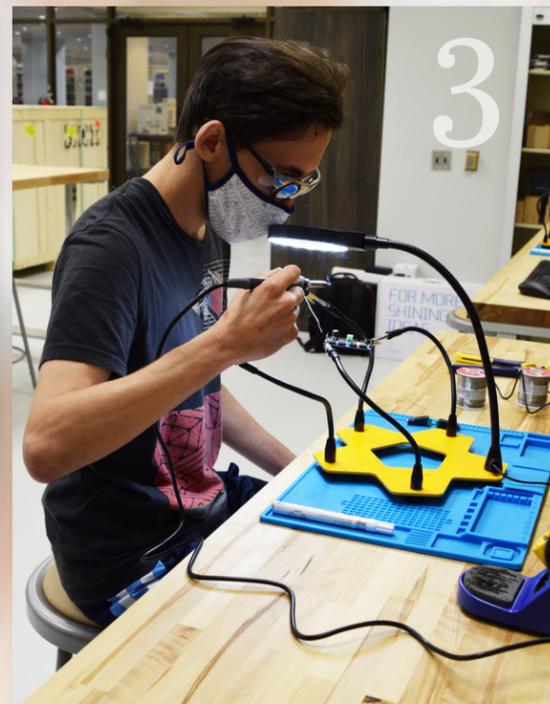
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Library Excellence Awards

Each year Auburn University Libraries recognizes faculty and staff that have given exemplary performance in their duties. These individual's valuable contributions to the library make the myriad of services provided by Auburn University Libraries to its patrons possible.

The Library Faculty Excellence Award recognizes two individual Libraries faculty who have gone above and beyond to advance the strategic goals of Auburn University and/or Auburn University Libraries. This annual award was established through the Auburn University Foundation by the Galbreath Family.

This year's Library Faculty Excellence Award recipients are Jaena Alabi and George Stachokas.

In recognizing Alabi's contributions, the nominator wrote, "In addition to the important work of scheduling tenure and promotion reviews, I would like to commend Jaena especially for all of the extra work she has taken on with this position when it comes to things such as addressing the topic of professorial ranks for librarians and, most recently, updating and confirming annual evaluation guidelines for ranking purposes [...] By putting in place such important aspects of the Libraries' work, this helps both recruit and, just as importantly, retain library faculty of a high quality."

The nominator for Stachokas wrote, "George has been an excellent colleague and his leadership of online acquisitions has been everything we could have hoped for when we hired him. His purchases are well chosen in collaboration with the librarians and his negotiating skill ensures we receive them at a good price. He has negotiated price caps from vendors who have never offered them before. He has collaborated with the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) to get purchases at a great deal that serves Auburn's interests."

The Model of Excellence Award program celebrates the extraordinary achievements of full-time university staff and administrative and professional employees of Auburn University Libraries that reflect collegiality, leadership, efficiency and commitment to service. Library staff are often deeply engaged in their daily work and they do not want to brag about it. Nonetheless, their quality of work has helped sustain the high impact of library services.

The Administrative and Professional Model of Excellence Award recipient is Madhu Nadar. In recognizing Nadar's outstanding work, her nominator wrote, "I am a new employee and Madhu took the time to sit with me and go over policies and procedures regarding accounting. She always responds to my emails and requests promptly and professionally [...] When I have a question, she is always happy to help and give her input for anything that would benefit the Library."

The University Staff Model of Excellence Award recipient is Lisa Glasscock. Glasscock has put in the extra effort on outreach activities. She curated the popular Story of Aubie exhibit, created a table display for Black Alumni Weekend honoring Henry Harris and James Owens, and organized the Auburn University women exhibits. Her nominator wrote "Lisa has done extraordinary work on the exhibits [...] Her displays have gotten noticed widely on campus and brought positive attention to the library and department."

In addition to the usual awards, Dean Shali Zhang also gave special recognition to the systems department for the way they handled the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. With very short notice in early March 2020, the systems department (Denise Baker - Head, Jesse Tebbetts, Clint Bellanger, Michael Stone, Adam Chalkley, Adam Wendling and Brad Hughes) were able to put the Auburn University Libraries' personnel into a remote working posture while providing uninterrupted essential online services to the Auburn University Libraries users.



15,625
WORLDWIDE
LENDING
REQUESTS

fulfilled for research materials
(March 15 through Sept. 30, 2020)



Jaena Alabi



George Stachokas



Madhu Nadar



Lisa Glasscock

New Campus Building Database Coming to Digital Collections

A new project from Auburn University Libraries' branch Library of Architecture, Design and Construction (LADC) is going to be an outstanding research tool for faculty, staff, students and anyone who ever wondered about the history of buildings on campus. A new digital database will be cataloging the buildings of Auburn University, both past and present, giving users a window into the changing Auburn campus landscape.

"I've long wanted to create a digital scholarship project on Auburn University buildings," said Kasia Leousis, head of the LADC. "A common question we receive at the LADC help desk from architecture or building science students involves one or more aspects related to our built environment on campus."

At the LADC, there was a legacy library website documenting campus architecture from 1856 to 2010 that contained a wealth of information — architects, contractors, dates of renovation and additions, biographies and profiles. However, this information was collected across older webpages that were challenging to update and maintain with a quickly growing and expanding campus.

The vision for this new digital project is to pull together the built environment metadata that documents the creators, intent, process, execution and history for each building on campus. It will include historic and current photographs, archival papers and letters from Special Collections and Archives, and information about the architects and contractors purpose and use over time for each building. Augmenting this project, digitized historical maps will allow viewers to trace the layers of Auburn University's architectural history by the decade.

Leousis also plans to include phantom architecture or those buildings planned but never built, along with built, destroyed, renamed and temporary structures. Viewers will be able to search and find buildings based on a number of different factors, including architect, contractor, history, style, purpose and date range, allowing a user, for example, to see the growth and distribution of science laboratories over time. When complete, this collection will fulfill a teaching and research

resource need for comprehensive information about our campus architecture.

"I hope all users of the Auburn University Buildings Digital Collection will find something interesting and rewarding when they delve into the wealth of information offered," Leousis said. "The Auburn campus has a rich built environment, and I hope that this new resource will let more people learn and appreciate it."

Look for this new building database in the near future in the Auburn University Libraries digital collection at diglib.auburn.edu.



Carroll Strickland Donations Make Major Acquisitions Possible

In 2013, Auburn University Libraries was able to purchase a historic collection of Civil War documents that were created by union and confederate leaders during the February 1865 Hampton Roads Peace Conference. The documents in the Hampton Roads Peace Conference collection clearly illuminate the negotiations between officials at a time when both governments knew the end of the Civil War was near. Auburn University Libraries holds in its archives a great collection of Civil War diaries, correspondence and records, of which the Hampton Roads Peace Conference collection is a highlight. The peace conference was a central part of the movie, Lincoln, and since 2013 these records have drawn both scholarly and popular interest.

Major collections such as these serve purposes beyond that of research. Having the collection in its archives shows donors the Libraries is a trusted and worthwhile repository for donations. The addition of the peace conference papers to the Libraries' digital library underscores its commitment to

sharing our resources with the world. Auburn Libraries is proud of their collections and collecting strengths. Its archival strengths include not only the Civil War but also Alabama history, aviation and aeronautics, southern politics, agricultural and rural life and architecture.

The Hampton Roads Peace Conference Collection acquisition was made possible through a grant from the B.H. Breslauer Foundation and matching funds pledged by Carroll Strickland of Huntsville, Alabama. In 2020, Ms. Strickland fulfilled her pledge to Auburn Libraries, and the Libraries is honoring her commitment by making additional strategic purchases, in her name, to build upon its strengths.

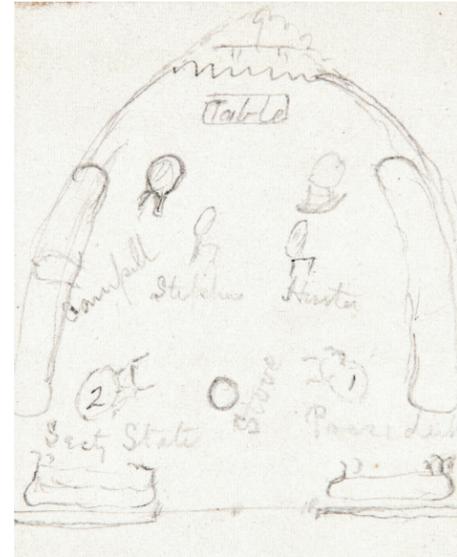
Building on their Civil War and southern history strengths, the Libraries purchased an original archive of 17 manuscript letters handwritten by Archibald M. McLaughlin. Originally of North Carolina, McLaughlin wrote from a number of locales in Alabama over the years and maintains a

correspondence with family back home; sisters Mary and Sarah and brother Neil. The letters from Archie, as he often signed himself, were written between 1858 and 1876. This fascinating group of historical letters is richly filled with details of Archie's life and times in the Deep South and all the more interesting as they span the pre-Civil War era with the post-Civil War era.

To build upon our Alabama politics strength, Auburn Libraries purchased a collection of letters (1932-1938) to Sen. James Thomas "Cotton Tom" Heflin, an early 20th century Alabama legislator. Heflin was noteworthy for making Mother's Day a national holiday. This archive of approximately 95 original, manuscript letters and ephemera sent to or belonging to Heflin offers a fascinating insight into the power and politics of the day and the persona of this controversial figure in American politics. Also in this collection is one typescript letter from Sen. Heflin, dated 1932, in which he writes bitterly about his Senate re-election loss to John H. Bankhead

II, blaming Congress for giving him a "raw deal" and claiming the vote was corrupted by Al Smith and the Democratic Party leadership.

The final collection purchased to honor



Maj. Eckart's hand-drawn seating map from the Hampton Roads Peace Conference collection.

Carroll Strickland's generosity is a fascinating collection of speeches and records, dated from 1963-1972 from NASA executive Jesco von Puttkamer. Puttkamer, born in 1932 and educated in Germany, joined Wernher von Braun at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, in 1962. He played a large role in the successes of the Apollo program and this collection follows one of the most storied chapters in human history: The race to the moon. Auburn University is proud not only of its astronauts and engineers, but also of our faculty and students who are leaders in researching the history of aeronautics and space exploration. The Puttkamer collection will give researchers insight into NASA administration and growth during the height of the Space Race.

Auburn University Libraries wants to again thank Strickland and all its other donors for their continuing generosity. Auburn University Special Collections and Archives has many research strengths, but one of its greatest strengths is not in its world-class collection of rare books, manuscripts and archival records, but its donors who allow them to achieve their collecting goals.

Student Scholarships

When it comes to running a library system the size of Auburn University Libraries, it takes a lot of people to staff it for the many hours the library buildings are open for patron use. Student workers make building operations possible and are a vital part of the Libraries family. Rewarding their work diligence and loyalty is a high priority.

This year, Auburn Libraries awarded three scholarships to students who were exemplary in 2020 for their academic and work achievements. These scholarships were endowed by individuals who have shown great affinity for student achievement and support, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity. The three scholarships and recipients are:

The Marcia L. and Timothy R. Boosinger Endowed Scholarship \$2,000

- Kyle Stewart, a Circulation Department employee and electrical engineering student in the College of Engineering, received this year's Marcia L. and Timothy R. Boosinger Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship was given by former Ralph Brown Draughon Library associate dean Marcia Boosinger and her husband, Timothy Boosinger, a former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and university provost. Kyle has worked at the library for four semesters and has learned invaluable time management skills which will transfer to his professional career in engineering. He believes his experience working "frontline" for the library has taught him to be more confident interacting with new people and in public



Kyle Stewart won the Marcia L. and Timothy R. Boosinger Endowed Scholarship.

situations and has enabled him to improve the academic and user experiences of fellow students who need information and assistance with library services.

The Auburn University Libraries Scholarship \$1,000

- Ayeh Trish, a Circulations Department employee and a biomedical sciences major who is working to become a pharmacist, was awarded an Auburn University Libraries scholarship. Trish is grateful for the invaluable communication and teamwork skills she has learned during her past two semesters of employment at RBD as well as the opportunity to help solve patrons' problems and make their days better. Trish values charity and kindness and strives to always bring a positive attitude to work.

The Auburn University Libraries Scholarship \$1,000

- Dylan Dunn, a Systems Department employee and a computer science major with a minor in business, was awarded an

Auburn University Libraries scholarship. In the past six semesters Dunn has worked at the library, he has been able to explore many different facets of the computing profession. He is interested in working in the technology field to make systems easier to use and more secure, and his employment at RBD provided him the opportunity to strengthen the career skills necessary to succeed in the technology industry as well as connect with other student workers with similar interests.



Constituent letters to James Thomas "Cotton Tom" Heflin dated from the 1930s.

*Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.
Produced by the Auburn Office of Communications and Marketing. December 2020*

Adopt a Special Collection

Auburn Libraries' extensive special collections feature a variety of books, photographs and a robust digital collection. The Auburn history collection is one of the largest collections and presents a treasure trove of notable people, places and events in the history of Auburn University. This collection contains images of student life, sporting events, campus leaders and landmarks during some of the most turbulent decades in Auburn's history, including the last quarter of the 19th century, World Wars I and II and desegregation in the 1960s. Offering both a physical archive and a digital collection ensures patrons have access to these unique artifacts in person or from the comfort of their homes, residence halls or classrooms.

Philanthropy ensures the Auburn Libraries continue to curate and grow these special collections, providing

a valuable and enduring resource. Our archivists are always working on conservation efforts of fragile and damaged items and volumes. Special collections are also digitized, expanding our Libraries' capacity to preserve them. These digital collections became even more relevant during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Secure the Future of Our Collections

Did you know you could make a long-lasting impact through an endowment? Endowments are vitally important to our Libraries because they provide permanent, self-sustaining sources of funding for our collections and special collections. By providing distinguished books, periodicals, journals and online databases to Auburn's students and faculty members, endowments creating stability, flexibility and opportunity for years to come. Because they are invested and only the generated interest income



is used to support Auburn, endowments grow and provide funding for their designated purpose in perpetuity. They are an effective way to establish a lasting legacy to benefit Auburn Libraries beyond your lifetime.

Endowments are created with a minimum philanthropic investment

of \$25,000 — either as an outright gift paid overtime or through a bequest from your estate. Once established, an endowment is held permanently and is managed and invested by the Auburn University Foundation. Its principal continues to grow and produce income in perpetuity for a designated purpose.

If you are interested in an endowment or adopting one of our special collections and supporting our efforts of restoration and digitization, please contact our development officer, Margherita Ligorio, at 334-740-1856 or by email at mzl0134@auburn.edu.