

AUM NIBUS

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

Summer 2014

Warhawk Issue - 14

Read, Discuss, Connect: AUM Common Reading Program

Morghan Prude

AUM Connected: Common Reading Program is an organization on campus unlike any simple book club. Throughout the year, the program offers an array of events and activities for students, faculty and staff to participate in. The goal of AUM Connected is exactly what the name implies: to connect the campus and the Montgomery community through selected and engaging reading material. Reading books does not only open the door for good discussion, but is

also a great venue for socialization and fun among others. For students interested in reading fun, thought provoking works and participating in the many academic experiences the program provides, it's never too late to join. This year, AUM Connected is posing a contest with their chosen book: *Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace.

In addition, the "Picture Me Reading" Contest challenges students to take photos of themselves reading *Big Fish* in a variety of settings and encourages them to get creative. Pictures will be posted on the AUM Connected Facebook page so others may vote on which one people like best; the winner will be determined by the AUM Connected committee, and the number of "likes" it receives.

AUM Connect welcomes unique photos that are also tasteful and appropriate. The deadline for the "Picture Me Reading" Contest is Aug. 1, 2014, and all photo submissions must be emailed to Dr. Lee A. Farrow at lfarrow@aum.edu.

Below are some of the AUM Connected events planned for the fall:

- Aug. 22: A Discussion on Homer's *The Odyssey* and Wallace's *Big Fish* led by Honors Program Director Donnie Nobles
- Sep 5: Showing of the film, partly shot in Montgomery, *Big Fish* and book signing
- Sep 26: Campus-wide discussion and breakfast

If you love reading and are looking for a fun way to get involved here on campus, AUM Connected is definitely the program for you.



Curtiss reading *Big Fish*, which is apart of the AUM Connected: Common Reading Program.
Courtesy of Kyle Lesinger

A Step in the Right Direction

Chad Underwood

In May of 2010, I was a kid who had basically given up on the idea of being successful in school. I was stuck at a community college in the Birmingham area, while all of my friends were off at bigger schools. My girlfriend was at Auburn, a two-hour drive, so I spent a lot of time commuting between there and Birmingham to see her and my friends. I was miserable and my parents probably knew it. They approached me about transferring to a bigger school for my sophomore year, and I immediately accepted.

The problem: I had no idea where to go. I wanted to be closer to my girlfriend—that was very important to me. I also wanted to go to a school with a communication department. Driving down Highway 85 after another Auburn visit, I saw a sign for “Auburn University at Montgomery.” I called a family member and asked her to immediately look at the website. She told me AUM had a communication department, and that it looked pretty cool.

So by fall semester of 2011, I was moving into the North Commons dormitory and finally getting to have a real college experience. It was a terrifying process at first: watching my parents help me move all my stuff into a room not much bigger than a closet, then leaving me after saying a simple “Love you and good luck.”

After getting over the initial shock of everything, I explored the campus and found lots of things that still make it great today: I saw the beautiful soccer field first. Then, I made my way over to “The Quad” at the center of campus where people were throwing Frisbees and playing games. Finally, I found the Liberal Arts building where I would spend so much time in for the next three years.

All of the people, good and bad, taught me something. My roommate during my sophomore year was so loud I couldn’t stand it. So when he asked to live with me the next year, I kindly declined. My sociology professor was the first person to really talk to me about anything on campus, because we both love the sport of hockey. I learned the most valuable lessons from his courses and the people that were in them. I met a lot of friends and spent many nights (that should have been filled with studying) playing basketball (it happens).

In those relationships, I found the beauty of college. It was a chance for me to be a part of something bigger. It was a place where I have been able to grow into the adult I would probably be for the rest of my life. It was a chance to earn my degree and continue to develop my relationship with my now-fiancée. It was a chance to be a part of discussions about social issues and have my voice heard in a classroom setting. It was a chance to earn my degree.

In May of 2010, I was a kid who had basically given up on the idea of being successful in school. It’s 2014, and I graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery on May 10. I am very proud of that and I always will be.

Fun on Felder: The Fitzgerald Gala

Jessica Klinner

On May 3, the Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum hosted their 20th Annual Gala and Auction, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the world’s only museum dedicated to the iconic literary couple. Guests came to the residence on Felder Avenue decked out in 1920s-inspired costumes and masks in honor of the masquerade theme, commemorating the years the Fitzgeralds spent in Paris.

As guests made their way up a cobbled pathway to the museum, their ears were met with the musical arrangements of the The Lo-Fi Loungers, a ’20s and ’30s jazz band. A large tent covered the yard in front of the museum and served as a gathering place for guests to dance along to the music, dine on a variety of food items and enjoy the company of other guests. Owls, eagles and other exotic birds lined the entrance to the museum, allowing guests to interact with the



Ian Mercer proposing to Dr. Jacqueline Gimmler of Auburn, Ala. at the Fitzgerald Gala.
Courtesy of Thomas Lucas.

birds and their handlers from the Montgomery Zoo. Throughout the evening, guests were allowed and encouraged to explore the museum's extensive collection of memorabilia and relics.

Willie Thompson, executive director of the museum and gala host, welcomed guests to the event and introduced chairman of the board Julian McPhillips, who spoke about the history of the museum and thanked the guests for their attendance and support. The celebrity guest of the evening, author R. Clifton Spargo, spoke to the crowd about his novel, *Beautiful Fools*. The novel chronicles a trip taken by the Fitzgeralds before Zelda's death. Spargo spent a majority of the night selling and signing books for interested guests inside the museum.

While the gala provides entertainment and fun for guests, it also serves as a fundraiser for the museum. According to Thompson, the museum raised over \$10,000, which will go towards expanding the museum shop and finishing the parking lot. The silent auction was a huge hit, featuring items such as an autographed BB King album, art pieces from several local artists and gift packages from Old Alabama Town, River City Publishing and Doug's 2 Salon. The live auction included many beautiful and expensive pieces of jewelry, but a platinum and black gold diamond ring from Marqurette's Exquisite Jewelry



Willie Thompson, executive director of the Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum.

Courtesy of Thomas Lucas.

proved to be the most priceless item up for bid. As Thompson called the item off the market, the ring's highest bidder got down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend. The entire crowd gasped in surprise and awe, applauding the newly-engaged couple.

The rest of the night proceeded with dancing and celebrations of all kinds. Glancing around the yard, there was not one person without a smile on their face. The spirit of Scott and Zelda was among the guests even as they made their way towards their cars, dancing and smiling. The Fitzgeralds attended many parties during their lifetime, but even they would have been envious of the party thrown at their Montgomery residence.

AUM

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AUM Housing & Residence Life team is devoted to serve and support our Residents during their collegiate experience. Our Residence Halls range from economic to luxurious accommodations at **extremely** reasonable rates compared to apartments within a 5 to 10 mile radius of our AUMazing University. Our professional staff retains the experience and passion for creating and maintaining a desirable living community that upholds our University standard of excellence. From personalized Residential programming to 24/7 professional support, our community simply cannot be paralleled. Tours of our various Residence Halls are available M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., not including holidays, through our Residence Life Office in The Nest of Warhawk Hall. For more info call 334-244-3296.

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Summer Events

June 20	7:30 am - 5:00 pm Autism Conference
June 27	8:00 am - 5:00 pm Orientation
July 12	8:00 am - 5:00 pm Orientation
July 14	Political Film Series: Attack on Leningrand
July 28-29	Last day of classes
August 2	Summer Graduation date (no commencement ceremony)
August 13	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Orientation for International Students
August 14	9:00 am - 2:00 pm Orientation for International Students
August 15	8:00 am - 5:00 pm Orientation

Note from the Editor



I would like to take this time to thank you all for your support throughout my time as Editor-in-Chief of the AUMnibus for the past year and a half. This experience has been a wonderful journey that I have learned a lot from and that has opened new doors for my future. However, beginning in August, Jessica Klinner will become the new Editor-in-Chief of the AUMnibus. Because of my experience, I feel confident that the transition will be welcomed and will lead to new and exciting opportunities for the AUMnibus.

Corsica Taylor
Editor-in-Chief
Courtesy: Frank Williams

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Interested in Contributing to the AUMnibus?

Stop by our office, located in Room 401-402 of the Ida Belle Young Library Tower. You can also email the editor, Corsica Taylor at ctaylo35@aum.edu, or call us at 334-244-3662. Also, be sure to check us out online at www.theaumnibus.com!