Warhawk Issue #33
Sept. 2016

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

Welcome Back!



AUM welcomes students back for the 2016 fall semester. Photo by Erin Mills

Reading is one of the most fundamental parts of attaining an education, and AUM is actively encouraging greater literacy through the AUM Connected Common Reading Program. The program annually picks a book to engage the entire campus in reading. This year, the program has chosen "The Dinner" by Dutch author Herman Koch. As told through the perspective of Paul Lohman, the plot revolves around Lohman having a dinner with his brother Serge and their families. The conflict of the story comes from the revelation that Paul and Serge's children have been involved in a murder.

The decision to make this the featured reading of the year is important because this book "explores serious and relevant issues about politics, the family, and human nature – all three treated equally and truthfully" according to Dr. Cliff Browning, an English instructor at AUM. Students are more readily engaged in reading or watching something when the subject matter is relevant. The issues, coupled with an incredibly enticing plot, mentioned by Browning are common to most people, and this book thoroughly explores them.

The Common Reading Program regularly uses its selected reading as a catalyst to host events that are related to the subject, or some relatable subject matter expressed in the book. While this particular reading is more about drama and crime, it is also about a dinner, as

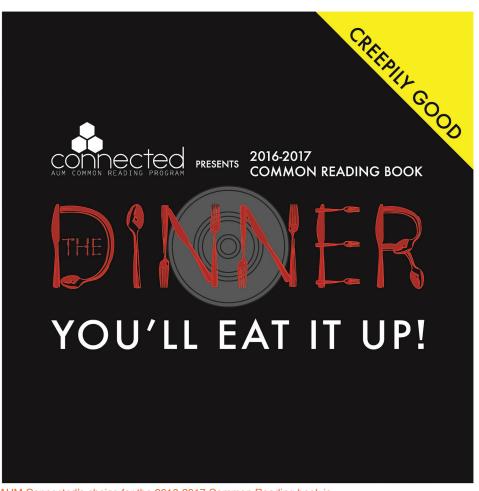
the name suggests. This topic has given the program a platform to talk about eating and food related issues through various events that provide information on these subjects.

One such example includes a "Zombie Bash," an event that featured free food and a movie to "feed your brain," according to the Common Reading Program. Other events are being hosted by the program to discuss issues such as food insecurity. The program is hosting a lecture to discuss the struggles of lacking access to food while being a college student and as a way to give information AUM Food Pantry, which helps feed students who are facing food insecurity.

As the name "AUM Connected" suggests, this program was created to bring together all students and faculty together and create unity on campus. Head to the library or a bookstore and pick up a copy of "The Dinner," and check the AUM website for information on the program's upcoming events so you can be a part of this experience.

Upcoming AUM Connected Events:

- •September 22: Showing of the film, "The Last Supper"
- •October 7: Lecture: What Were They Thinking?:
 Understanding Teen Brain Development and Decision
 Making, Bridgette Harper, Psychology
- •October 27: Showing of the film, "Hannibal"
- •November 9: Showing of the film, "The Dinner"



AUM Connected's choice for the 2016-2017 Common Reading book is "The Dinner" by Herman Koch.

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What is Hiding in your Facewash?

By Erin Mills

There is something dangerous behind those little beads that make your face scrub the perfect exfoliating wash. They are called microbeads, which are defined as manufactured plastic pieces measuring less than five millimeters in diameter. These microbeads are so small that they cannot be filtered through municipal water systems, and as a result wash directly into waterways. In rivers, lakes and oceans these plastic particles become a real threat to marine life, which may either mistake them as food or ingest them unintentionally. Because of the composition of plastic materials, the beads may soak up toxins from the water, and the plastics come full cycle when humans ingest the fish. According to Nature, onefourth of the fish sampled in Californian and Indonesian fish markets were found with plastic particles in their stomach contents.

Thanks to 5 Gyres, a leading nonprofit organization in activism against plastic pollution, this severe threat to oceans and wildlife will soon come to an end with the Microbead-free Waters Act, which became law on Dec.28, 2015. According to the law,

the manufacture of microbeads will be banned across the country beginning on July 1, 2017, and the sale of products containing them must end by Jan. 1, 2018. This means that between now and the effective date, products containing microbeads will continue to wash into rivers, lakes and oceans. 5 Gyres estimates that over 7.3 trillion microbeads will be washed into waterways before the Microbead-Free Waters Act becomes effective in 2018.

Because of the continued risk. extra precautions are recommended when selecting beauty and healthcare products. The easiest way to identify products containing microbeads is to check the ingredients list-if it contains polyethylene, it should not be used. According to 5 Gyres, some other names used for microbeads include polypropylene, polylactic acid (PLA) and polyethylene terephthalate. As for those microbead filled products already by your sink or in your shower, it is safer to seal containers tightly and toss them in the trash than to wash them down the drain. Alternatives to products containing microbeads can often be found on the same shelf in stores. All it takes is a glance at the inactive ingredients.

For more information on microbeads and plastic pollution, please visit www.5gyres.org and www. storyofstuff.org.

Gotta Catch 'Em All!

By Samantha Dunaway

If you could live out a dream from your childhood, you probably would, right? Well, people are doing exactly that with the cultural phenomenon known as Pokémon Go. With roughly 20 million daily active users, it has become one of the most popular apps available.

The influence of Pokémon Go is evident here at AUM. Throughout the day, students take to the quad to work on becoming the ultimate Pokémon trainer by hitting "PokéStops," which allow users to obtain "Poké Balls" and healing sprays that are scattered across campus. They can also be found battling at gyms and trying to catch nearby Pokémon.

Not only is the game fun, but it also comes with more than one benefit.

•Being active: Walking is essential in catching and hatching Pokémon, making players walk distances they normally would not. This gives players a fun and exciting way to get extra exercise each day.

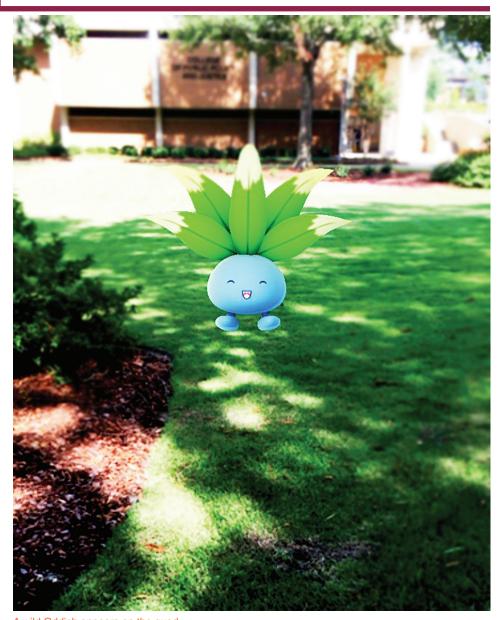
•It helps with mental health: Many individuals struggle with depression or social anxiety, and the game serves as a motivation to get out and possibly meet new people.

•Learning the metric system: Americans usually consider the metric system to be difficult to understand. Yet with Pokémon Go, players walk in kilometers for rewards, prompting many to become familiar with the system of measurement. It is always exciting to finally see what will hatch out of two, five, and ten km eggs.

•It brings its users together: Pokémon Go makes it easier to walk up to someone you might not know and start up a conversation. When asked why he plays Pokémon Go, Kodi Robertson said, "To make long-term connections with people from my generation." Many have developed new friendships from trying to take down a gym together, or just from going to the same PokéStop at the same time.

Pokémon Go benefits users not only at an individual level but also the community as a whole. The Montgomery Humane Society has created a program for those who play Pokémon Go to sign up to walk dogs that are waiting for adoption. "All the dogs need walking and anyone can volunteer for it for as long or short a time as they like," AUM student Trevor Jayroe explained when talking about his own experience with the program. While hatching eggs, players can provide animals with exercise and alleviate workers at the shelter from extra day-to-day work.

Pokémon Go became an instant overnight sensation that is both entertaining and beneficial to users. It is the 90s kid's nostalgic dream. Marquis Robinson put it best when he said, "It's my childhood." So go out and get active. You gotta catch 'em all!



A wild Oddish appears on the quad. Photo by Samantha Dunaway.

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The Story of My Life

By Crystal Weissenberger

Some claim that I missed my calling as a stand-up comedian. I am not sure if it's true, but the sad fact is that my life can really be outlined by the ridiculous things that occur in it. Occasionally, it is just extremely absurd: I go on vacation to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, get on a ski lift, and break my ankle getting off. This typically would not be funny, I know, but you would have to hear the entire story. You see, what happened was . . .

Our eldest daughter went to visit family in upstate New York with her grandparents, so my husband and I decided to take our youngest daughter Lexis on a mini-vacation to Gatlinburg. We would take her to the town, Dollywood and the waterpark. (Aren't plans awesome? It is amazing how some cosmic looker-downer laughs at your plans and decides to royally screw them up.) We get up early, make the eight-hour drive, and arrive at our hotel, which turns out to be a dive like you have never experienced before. It is so cheesy that there are two beds less than six inches from each other with bedspreads made of chenille like my grandma used for curtains in the kitchen, and the bathroom is so tiny that you can use the potty and wash your hands at the same time. We get a free breakfast at the little pancake place next door. It seats around forty people max, and you get three silverdollar-sized pancakes with orange juice. If you want coffee, you paid \$3, and bacon or sausage cost you \$5. (We got a real deal, right?) We put a happy face on for our daughter, though, because all she really knows is that she is on her own vacation with Mom and Dad sans big sister. So, here we are in Gatlinburg. . .

We park the car and ride the tram to the Ripley's Believe It Or Not Aquarium, and we all have a wonderful time—except for Lexis almost falls into the shark tank, causing her mother to have a mini-heart attack. Little Miss also nearly causes a riot by dropping her sucker into the same shark tank which, in turn, causes the employees to wig-out. Apparently, suckers are not part of the traditional shark nutrition plan. Who knew? They get over it, but we endure nasty looks for the rest of the tour.

We then peruse the local shops where you would think the most this child could really get into was touching no-no glass items, right? Wrong, Lexis has to be the only child to have ever completely destroyed a candy shop, but, in her defense, she did not really believe that if she stood on a wooden barrel that it would collapse and roll into the next one . . . which rolls into the next . . . and so on until twenty barrels of taffy lay spread across the shop like little dead goldfish. Again, we endure disgusted looks from the employees, and we purchase \$50 worth of taffy (which I still have some of-did I mention we went there

last August—over a year ago?). I have now decided that my tiny 62-pound child is a wrecking ball waiting for a building that is still standing with people living happily inside.

We decide to go the ski lift, and this first one is a car that holds around twenty (very sweaty) people (as my daughter so charmingly pointed out to their collective faces). I don't know if this is technically a ski lift. Maybe it's a monorail-type thing, but what's in a name? We get to the top and find an amusement park where everything is sort of dingy with greenness smeared on the rides, and duct tape is evidence EVERYWHERE. I am scared to let my kid on any of this stuff, but she is so youngly oblivious. As my husband and I desperately scan the area for something to safely put our kid on, he notices a slide—the kind where you sit in a narrow, canoe-like contraption and fling your body down the mountainside. (Be still my thrilled heart . . . uh. . . Not so much.)

We trek up a half-a-mile to get to the beginning of this wonderful ride. I cram my winded, slightly chubby body into this contraption of death and follow my child and husband down. Now, picture this: there are three "lanes" for you to ride down, and we are each in a different one with the intentions of meeting at the bottom-except the ever-enthusiastic employees are not paying attention and there is a little girl hung-up in my husband's lane. He sees her and tries to eject himself bodily from his canoe to keep from flattening this baby. She's maybe four; which begs the question, "What in the name of Hades was her mother thinking?" I am watching this like some slow-motion old-time camera reel, mind you. My husband makes a gallant effort but is simply unable to stop. They hit with a crash and a wail (still not sure if it was the baby or my husband) and go flying like a bass being yanked out of the lake. Luckily we are near the bottom, and employees and the girl's parents can rush in to help. Both my husband and the baby are just fine - except he is rather pissed, and she is crying so hard I am positive that her family's days of enjoying amusement parks are totally over for life.

Because of this tour de farce, the employees give my husband and daughter free tickets to ride the limbbreaking-death-slide again, and I opt to go up the ski lift and get some pretty pictures of the mountains instead. I'm having a great time, and get some impressive pictures (my favorite is the bright blue outhouse just sitting in the middle of a cleared area). As I approach the very top of this mountain, an employee yells at me to get ready to get off. Get off? I just want to ride back down, but I am loudly informed that I have to get off and get in line to go back down. Whoopee. Not. As I prepare to launch myself (please keep in mind that chubby aspect of my body and co-join that with the fact that I am barely five feet tall), I am beginning to suspect that this was probably NOT the most intelligent thing I have done today. I jump, catch my foot on a board that is so warped it makes

Dennis Rodman look normal, and fall forward with an accompanying crunch that makes my stomach immediately lurch somewhere towards the far-off ocean. As I lay doubled-over, the seat I was just in bonks me in the back of the head. (Will this comedy of errors ever stop?)

The little teenage girl running this fruit factory turns the lift off and runs towards me. She is going to assist me in standing . . . and all I can do is look at her and giggle hysterically. She weighs about what my daughter does, and she is going to lift my hefty tush up? I cannot help but burble at this ridiculous notion. Finally, a big, strong man of a hundred years or so comes to help and puts me back on the chair to return to the relative safety of my family. The entire trip I watch my foot in sick fascination as it swells up like somebody's repulsive birthday balloon. Maybe Hannibal Lecter's?

My husband and daughter are waiting for me, and the man at the bottom yells, "Ya ready to jump off?" I lose all self-control and suggest I put my size-6 foot up his idiotic ass. My husband now becomes fully aware that all is not right in the wife's world, and that I am seriously hurt. He threatens to pummel the oaf; the oaf backs down and stops the lift. He finally says I have to hop out of the way, and once again, my inner jerk explodes. I call the poor guy (who, in retrospect, was only trying to do his job) a list of names that question not only his own integrity, but his paternity as well. I think the nicest thing I call him is a "piss-ant," and from his confused expression, he has no idea what that is. I am assuming my tone at least lets him know that I am becoming volatile. He finally calls a manager. (Now, why didn't that cutesy little teen at the top think of that?)

The manager arrives with a wheelchair and a paramedic. They (and I do mean "they," and not the paramedic) decide I have only sprained my ankle. This judgment makes me feel like I am unstable because my foot feels less "sprained" than shark-bitten by the Great White hanging out in the sucker-fouled tank at Ripley's. They take me via wheelchair back to the monolith, put me in a seat, and walk away. Now, the walk back outside to the sidewalk is an excruciatingly long way. I hadn't noticed that on the way in, of course, because at the time, I had two perfectly good feet. As we sit and wait for the trolley, my husband concludes there is some impossibility present-I cannot get up the steps of the trolley. We have to call a cab, and they are all busy (who knew? After all, it isn't like we are in a tourist town on a Friday night, right?), and we wait for over an hour for someone to pick us up.

When we return to the hotel, we remember something else that was very significant: we are on the second floor and there is no elevator. My life has truly begun to suck by now, and I feel like an uncultured swine that peed on the neighbor's silk dining chair during Sunday supper. I totally feel like I have ruined everyone's good time—especially my

daughter's. They reassure me that I have not, but I know better. They are just being polite. I refuse to go to the emergency room (who goes to the ER for a sprain?). Everyone settles down and tries to sleep . . . not me, of course. As I lie there, I contemplate the crazy (funny—cause sometimes you just have to laugh) circumstances that seem to consistently invade my life. Well, as Scarlet O'Hara said, "Tomorrow is another day. . ."





AUM Alumni: Where Are They Now?

By Tiffany Pattillo

To an unaware passer-by, it's just an off-white building with a satellite tower out back, but to Aaron Motley, WMCF-TV 45 is the place he's driven to work for nearly two decades. Years after receiving his bachelor's degree in applied communications at AUM in 1985, Motley is a prominent Christian leader in Montgomery. Motley decided to pursue a college degree upon graduating Autaugaville High School in 1980 and chose AUM because it was close to home. He considered education as a potential major before his interest in radio and television steered him toward communication. He developed a quick understanding of how his coursework would apply to everyday life in his future career. "I enjoyed studying. I enjoyed people. I enjoyed just spending time just learning new things. So life started making more sense to me when I was at AUM," Motley said.

Motley is presently the station manager at WMCF-TV 45, now an affiliate of Trinity Broadcasting Network. He's held that position since 1997. Motley is also the author of two books—"Christian Leaders Betrayed" and "Faith: A Godly Risk"—

in which he helps people prepare for leadership roles. Motley says these books are meant to explain that meeting disappointments in life is part of a person's destiny and is God's way of making stronger, more effective leaders.

During his time at AUM, Motley interned at WMCF-TV. There, he gained practical skills in the broadcasting field, including directing and producing programs. The handson experience he acquired at WMCF-TV later led to a job opportunity as a production manager with the station. Since graduating from AUM, Motley earned a Master of Divinity and a doctorate in Christian Communication from Global Evangelical Christian College.

Motley also serves as the pastor at Miracle Deliverance Temple of Christ, Inc., a nondenominational church he and his wife founded in 1992. Motley saw a need for this type of church in the Montgomery community while leading a Bible study group at AUM. "That was the thing that I believe I was really at AUM for—to get involved in growing in Christ and leading other people to the Lord. That's been the most fulfilling thing in my life," Motley said. Weekly services and a radio broadcast are hosted by the church.

As the station manager at WMCF-TV, Motley is able to offer other students internship opportunities that prepare them for future career paths. Motley says that he knows exactly the benefits he received from

his internship, and he's happy to see how a student's time spent at his station is beneficial. Interns will learn about integrity and character while working with other people, in addition to building and strengthening their broadcasting skills, Motley says.

Motley quickly attributes all of his success to his willful obedience to the word of God. "It's not our story. It's his." Reflecting on what he enjoys most about his job, Motley explained that his part in positively transforming lives and drawing people to Christ makes his career worthwhile. "Wow, there's nothing better to do," Motley said. Hopefully, we may one day say the same when our time at AUM is through.



Aaron Motley received his undergraduate degree in communication from AUM in 1985; he is now the station manager at the Trinity Broadcasting Network affiliate WMCF-TV in Montgomery Photo courtesy of Aaron Motley.

Five Tips for a Successful Freshman Year

By Samantha Banks

Freshman year was a struggle, and I came very close to just saying "forget it" after my first year. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 65 percent of full-time students return to AUM after their first year. This shows how hard college can be for first-year students. Being a fifth-year senior, I wish I had someone to stress the importance of freshman year. I was one of those students who took advantage of the leniency and partied too much. These decisions lead to a rough beginning of my college career. Based on my experience, I have composed five tips that would have dramatically changed my freshman year.

1. Attend class. Many first-year students take advantage of their new freedom. I lieu of campus-wide requirements, AUM allows instructors and departments to establish their own attendance policies for classes. Pay attention to the syllabus, because it will usually lay out how many days you are allowed to miss over the semester. Skipping just one class day means missing 50 percent of the instruction for the entire week. If you don't have any class material, go to class anyway and listen. You will still

retain information, and your presence will be valued.

2. Check your AUM email regularly. Professors will send email updates about class cancellation or something they want you to do before coming to class. Also, AUM sends out various emails about campus events and possible opportunities that you may be interested in. I always check my email in case I luck out and my class is canceled.

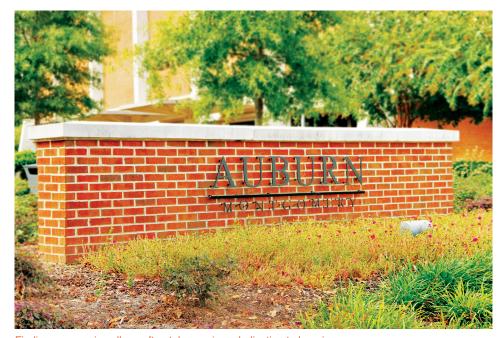
3. Utilize Degree Works. Degree Works is an AUM program that tracks your academic progress. It allows you to see your future classes, and it has a GPA calculator and feature to look into your options if you changed your major. I learned about this tool my junior year. I used the GPA calculator to see what I needed in order to achieve my desired GPA before graduation. This is the best option to use in-between your advising appointments.

4. Take advantage of the Warhawk Transit. This bus system travels around the Montgomery area. If you are hanging out downtown, use the Warhawk Transit to get home safely. It runs until 2:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday night. I would take the Warhawk Transit after a night out with the girls. This way we didn't have to rock-paper-scissors over who was going to be the designated driver.

5. Set up your advising appointment early. It is important to reach out to your adviser as early as October. When registration is about to open, reach out to your adviser to make your appointment. On Webster use the

"look up" classes "to add" feature to get the CRN number of the courses you want. When the day comes to register you can type the CRN numbers in the work sheet field. I made the mistake my freshman year of emailing my adviser a few weeks before classes started, and she was not able to see me until a week before the first day. I was stuck with the worst professors and 8 a.m. classes.

It is important to take your freshman year just as seriously as your last year. AUM offers great tools to ensure student success, and it is our responsibility to use those tools to create an education. Enjoy your first year of college, have fun and try not to let it get away from you.



Finding success in college often takes serious dedication to learning. Photo by Erin Mills.

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Warhawk Squawk:

In addition to gaining a valuable education, going to college also means facing greater challenges, experiencing new things and making lifelong connections. One of the best ways to meet like-minded people is by joining clubs and organizations. Students were asked: Are you a part of a student organization? If so, what is it and why did you choose it? If not, what organization are you thinking about joining and why?

By Takeisha Jefferson



Michelle Sheffield

Visual Arts Junior

"I joined ISA and I'd like to join Study Abroad. I thought ISA would look very nice on my resume and I like to meet new people and their cultures. I would like to travel to South Korea and Japan."



Cason McDermott

Visual Arts Junior

"I want to be a member of the Student Arts Association so I can get closer to the students within the Art Department and further my artistic abilities. I think with artists we tend to isolate ourselves, a lot of us are introverted. So I think being a part of an artistic community will help expand your ability within artworks."



Sonni Gunnels

English with a concentration in Pre-Law Senior

"Most largely I am a part of the University's Honors Program. We do work with the food pantry and the masquerade ball every year. They also have study abroad opportunities. I have been to France and China."



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Erin Mills emills1@aum.edu Editor-In-Chief

Nikki Headley sheadle1@aum.edu Webmaster

Brittany Roberson brobers1@aum.edu Graphic Designer

Takeisha Jefferson tjeffer7@aum.edu Photographer

Nathan Howell nhowell@aum.edu

Samantha Dunaway sdunaway@aum.edu Samantha Banks srose3@aum.edu

Nick Manoliu nmanoliu@aum.edu

Seneithia Parker sparke24@aum.edu Deanna Chavez dchavezg@aum.edu

Katelyn Turner kturne20@aum.edu

Tiffany Pattillo tpattill@aum.edu

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