

AUBURN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION, INC

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THE KINGDOM AND THE CAMPUS

As a campus minister, my life revolves around the college schedule. So while the whole world celebrates the beginning of a new year on January 1, it does not feel like a new year to me. I am simply catching my breath halfway through the year! It's not the time for new goals or resolutions. The teaching series are underway; our groups are formed and connected; we have been planning our Spring Break Mission Trips for months.

So while the beginning of January is not my time for a reset or new resolutions, it is my time to evaluate the fall semester and look forward to the spring semester in anticipation. Our fall semester was an exciting time. As always, it was a joy watching the new students connect to the ministry. Much of the fall is focused on getting the new students connected and helping them adjust to being a Christian at a state college. By the end of the semester, we had dozens of freshmen and transfer students taking part in every aspect of our ACSC family. Our international ministry had several great events where they made more contacts than they've made in a long time. And our community groups and discipling groups began to see each other as family.

And so I look forward to the spring semester with excitement. As I wrote earlier, many students spend the fall just building their connections to our ministry. But the spring semester is different: most of our students are already invested in the ministry and each other's lives. Much of the energy and effort we spend in the fall connecting people to our ministry gets used in the spring to help them grow spiritually. This is helped along by events like Gulf Coast Getaway. (I am writing this very article in Panama City

Beach, FL on the night before the conference begins.) Additionally, our Guys and Girls Retreats and our Spring Break Mission Trips really push our students to grow in their faith. It's not too off-base to say that in the fall we watch students connect to our ministry, while in the spring we watch them grow in their faith. And I'm in campus ministry because I want to see students connect more deeply with their Creator. That's why I always love the springs in campus ministry.

I have recently been reading about the change in our culture's religious beliefs. The percentage of Bible-believing, practicing Christians is not decreasing much, if any. But the culture's background assumptions are changing rapidly: fewer and fewer people have Christian beliefs forming the background of their worldviews. College students are on the frontlines of this; they feel it most acutely. Campus ministries like ours are on the front of this struggle. So keep us in your prayers. As always, we are grateful for your support.



Micah Cobb,

Campus Minister, Auburn Church of Christ

Through his experience at the Auburn Christian Student Center and the influence of Jim Brinkerhoff, he felt called to devote his life to campus ministry. After graduating from Auburn University with a B.A. in philosophy, Micah earned his M.A. in philosophy from the University of Mississippi. While he was at Ole Miss, he was the campus ministry apprentice for the Rebels for Christ.

He was then hired by the Hilltoppers for Christ campus ministry in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He served as its campus minister from January 2011 until June 2014, when he moved to Auburn.

ACF NEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER, 2016

FINISHING STRONG!

We closed out 2016 with our Trunk or Treat Devo, sharing Thanksgiving dinner with many of our international friends, honoring our fall semester graduates with our Grad Devo and Dinner, enjoying our annual ACSC Family Christmas Party, and then caroling for our friends at Monarch Estates. To say the ACSC was well-used during the final exam period would be an understatement - students were everywhere studying! Thanks once again to Al and Diane English for providing lots of candy for our students to snack on during finals week. We appreciate all of the adopted families from the Auburn Church of Christ that had their students over to eat or provided them goody bags to enjoy while studying for exams. A huge round of applause goes to Charlie Buckner and his team from Grady's Tire and Auto who set up in the ACSC parking lot and graciously donated their time to check the tires, oil, and fluids of any student's vehicle to make sure it was road worthy before traveling home for Christmas. Katie Cobb, Sterling Harrington, Carol Gudauskas, Marybeth Brinkerhoff, Shannon Wigginton, Amie Hardin, and I provided soup for the 75+ studying at the ACSC that same night. I would say that our second annual "Soup and Safety" was a huge success!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have welcomed back our ACSC family for the spring semester. A large group of us will be headed to the Gulf Coast Getaway Conference in Panama City Beach the first weekend of the semester for a time of prayer, study, worship, and fellowship. This is a great way for us to reorient our internal compasses, both individually as well as a ministry, right here at the beginning of a new year. There are many other opportunities for spiritual growth, service, and outreach planned for the spring semester including community groups, our Ridgecrest ministry, Guys' and Girls' Retreats, intramural teams, our international friends ministry, and training and preparation for our three spring break mission teams. Micah will be starting the semester with a new series at Tuesday night devotionals on "Dating and Relationships," which will no doubt be well attended!

Parents, siblings, and grandparents of current students are cordially invited to join us April 8 - 9 for our annual ACSC Family Weekend which will be held in conjunction with Auburn's A-Day football game. We will have our traditional picnic in the Arboretum at lunchtime Saturday in addition to a Devotional that night and services on Sunday. Go ahead and mark your calendars and make your hotel reservations now since that will be an extra busy weekend here in Auburn! In light of Family Weekend, please send me the names of any prospective students who might be coming to Auburn the Fall of 2017 or 2018 to mary@au4jesus.org. We would like to invite them and their families to join us for Family Weekend also so that they can get a taste of what it is like to be a Christian on a state campus.

We are in the process of dealing with a roof leak that happened during the Christmas break. We will keep working hard to be good stewards of this old, but ideally located, facility that we are blessed to call home. There is always something that needs to be updated, fixed, or replaced. We would love for you to stay abreast of ministry news on our website, www.au4jesus.org, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/au4jesus, and follow us on Twitter @au4jesus and Instagram at au4jesus_.

We are thankful for you, our friends and supporters, for letting God use you to encourage us as we strived to live cross-centered lives on the Auburn University campus this past fall. Please continue to remember the Auburn Christian Foundation as you plan your charitable giving for 2017. Our mission remains the same: "Working with you to develop the souls of young men and women as they develop their minds."

Godspeed,
Mary Brinkerhoff
ACSC Activities Coordinator



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION CHECKS OUT TO AUBURN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

PLEASE DETACH THIS SECTION & RETURN TO:

AUBURN CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 1841
AUBURN, AL 36831

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go to "ALUMNI &
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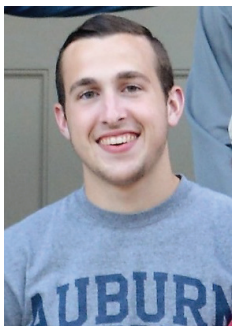
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Please note that you can also make donations online with PayPal. Go to the home page of the Auburn Christian Student Center, www.au4jesus.org, go to "Alumni & Supporters" and click "Donations." Thank you for remembering us as you plan your charitable giving for 2017.



Brett Todd
Mechanical Engineering
Senior
Huntsville, AL

EXPECTATIONS

When I think about coming to the ACSC and its impact on my life, my greatest memories and experiences have been things I never could have expected. I grew up hearing my parents tell stories about their many adventures in college at Tennessee Tech. More than anything else, their stories focused on the impact the University Christian Student Center had on their life and walk with God. They both highly encouraged me to become involved with the ACSC when I came to Auburn, but I was slightly unsure of the impact it could have on my life.

Before heading to college, everyone warned me of the danger of losing my faith due to the distance from home and lack of accountability. I went to Auburn with some of those same fears and expectations only to find quite the opposite. The friends I have made at the ACSC help challenge me to grow in my faith, and they do a wonderful job of encouraging me and holding me accountable to how I should be living. Without such a strong community of believers in my everyday life helping me in my walk with Christ, God only knows where I would be and what I would be doing with my life.

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I never expected that one of my best friends I would make at Auburn would be a Chinese graduate student from Guizhou Province. During my freshman year, I had the opportunity to be a part of the ACSC's international ministry whose primary outreach method was offering to help internationals improve their English by studying the Bible with them. For a variety of reasons, primarily my fears and feelings of inadequacy, I chose not to sign up that year. The next year when signups for the international ministry came, I prayed about that commitment a lot and could not shake the feeling that this was something that God was calling me to be a part of. That year, myself, my roommate Blake, and one other student at the ACSC had weekly Bible studies with three Chinese guys. As we went through the gospel of Luke, my faith grew more than ever before. You will find very quickly that you cannot share a faith that you do not fully have yourself, and that being given an opportunity to call others to follow Christ's example is one of the best ways to examine your own life and see if you are meeting that same standard.

Auburn has a very large international student body who come from a variety of different countries. This provides wonderful opportunities to reach out and show kindness and share God's love with people who may have never had the same opportunity in their home country. Many of these students come to Auburn dearly hoping for an opportunity to be invited into an American home to see what the culture is like here,

hoping to make an American friend as they cope with loneliness due to being so far from home. Sadly, many of these students end up leaving the United States without accomplishing either of these goals. It is so easy to overcomplicate what reaching out to people from other nations should look like, due to fear of miscommunication because of language barriers or a variety of other reasons. However, acts of kindness and love are universally understood and much easier than we often think. I am so blessed to be part of a ministry that seeks out opportunities to demonstrate these qualities to a student body desperately in need of them. God has truly blessed our efforts this past semester as we have had higher attendance of internationals at our weekly devotionals and community groups than before and have grown the number of American students seeking to evangelize to internationals. We pray that the lives that we live and examples we set will cause others to question why we are willing to go the extra mile for them, giving us opportunities to share with them the source of our love and joy, Christ.

I have been involved with this ministry since my freshman year, and I have loved being a part of it. The reason I always look forward to going back to Auburn and miss it during the breaks is not because of the classes or the football games; it is because of the ACSC. What makes the ACSC so special is not how much fun we have. What makes the ACSC so special is the fact that it is made up of a group of people who share a common goal—telling others about Christ and living for Him.

4th Quarter ACF Contributors

Anniston, AL

James & Nan Jenkins

Auburn, AL

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Samuel Childs
Micah & Katie Cobb
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Gayle Davis
Clyde & Martha Evans
Bob & Julie Forrester
Bob & Dot Gudauskas
Tom & Carol Gudauskas
John & Amie Hardin
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John & Julie Rock
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Duane & Marty Skelton

Velford Strain

By:
Phyllis Strain

Velford Strain Jr.

By:
Phyllis Strain

ACSC ALUMNI MEN'S RETREAT

April 21-23, 2017

Hargis Retreat in Chelsea, AL
Calling all generations!

Contact Cliff Mann at 256-603-8814
or Cliff@CliffMann.com for details.

Trunk or Treat 2016



ACF FINANCIAL REPORT

Auburn Christian Foundation, Inc. Income Statement
for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2016

INCOME	
Contributions	64,470.04
Rental Income	357.40
Investment Income	4,014.95
TOTAL INCOME	68,842.39
EXPENSE	
Activity Coordinator	15,758.91
Building & Grounds	4,165.67
Copier Expense	963.70
Miscellaneous	870.00
Office	305.87
PayPal Fees	270.28
Printing	999.39
Professional Fees	960.00
Special Projects	2,470.96
Supplies	403.63
Utilities	4,168.60
TOTAL EXPENSE	31,337.01
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	37,505.38