

2022 - 2023

CENTER FOR ETHICAL ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURES

HARBERT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
AUBURN UNIVERSITY



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

O.C. FERRELL, PH.D. | JAMES T. PURSELL SR. EMINENT SCHOLAR IN ETHICS



The Center for Organizational Ethical Cultures focuses on the development of ethical leadership, providing resources and activities for students, faculty, and other stakeholders. The National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Center for the Public Trust student chapter is sponsored by the Center. This student organization sponsors two speakers each semester for all Harbert students, attracting hundreds of student attendees. Faculty teaching resources on ethical leadership include cases, behavioral simulations, and debate issues. The Center supports and encourages academic publishing and trade articles on issues related to ethical leadership. Now, all Harbert students have access to the NASBA Center for the Public Trust Ethical Leadership Certification. This newsletter highlights some of our recent activities.

STUDENT CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC TRUST

AUDREY POORMAN | M.B.A. | AUBURN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER PRESIDENT



I am pleased to serve as the Auburn Student Center for the Public Trust (SCPT) president this fall, along with our faculty advisors O.C. and Linda Ferrell. Membership in our organization affords you opportunities to engage with faculty, local leaders, and executives to learn and develop skills in ethical leadership. You also gain access to trainings and certifications that will set you apart from other potential job candidates when you begin internship and career searches. We are eager to continue growing SCPT and provide more engaging speakers and networking events.

HOW TO JOIN



BEING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Each year, NASBA SCPT chapters across the country honor one student and faculty member on their respective campuses with the Being a Difference Award. The award recognizes those who have had a positive impact on the school by displaying ethical behavior, integrity, and leadership. Auburn's SCPT is pleased to celebrate our 2021-2022 Being a Difference Award recipients, Ricardo Garcia and Dr. Michael Kincaid. Both recipients exhibited strong community leadership and were commended by fellow students and faculty for their dedication to ethical behavior. The 2022-2023 Being a Difference Award will be open for nominations in the spring.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH | 5:00 | LOWDER 113-A

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER

ALFONZO ALEXANDER | THE TRULY SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP



Join us in welcoming the Chief Ethics & Diversity Officer of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and President of NASBA's Center for the Public Trust (CPT). Alfonzo oversees strategic diversity initiatives, ethics, compliance, and facilitates special projects with the CEO. Under his leadership, the CPT has cultivated new partnerships and nearly 100 campus programs. Distinctive to the Harbert College of Business experience, his leadership established the Ethical Leadership Certification & Training Programs, while advancing the Being a Difference Award.

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

NICOLE SHERWIN | GREGORY JACKSON | SCOTT PENTON | JEFF STILLWELL



APRIL 2022 | ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE & STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVOCACY

As the Assistant Director of Compliance at Auburn University, Nicole Sherwin addressed the hot topics of Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) and the Transfer Portal. Highly knowledgeable in each bylaw and the relationship to ethical conduct through each layer, she addressed her obligation to student-athletes, coaches, the department, Auburn University, and our community.



MARCH 2022 | SUPPLY CHAIN RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

As the founder and CEO of Groundz Recycling and Urban Farmer, the world's first organic waste recycling company for supplying urban farm composting, Greg Jackson addressed his innovative model, which recycles organic waste such as coffee grounds and eggshells, converts the matter to compost, and distributes the compost to urban farms. He is also launching a bird-friendly cocoa certification program.



NOVEMBER 2021 | HUMAN RIGHTS: DILEMMAS & OPPORTUNITIES

As an analyst in Deloitte's Sustainability and Climate Change team, Scott Penton discussed human rights as deriving from the mere existence of an individual, despite the halting of corporate human rights and sustainability initiatives amidst the pandemic. Moreover, Scott illuminated modern slavery and its existence as the exploitation of people for personal or economic benefit.



OCTOBER 2021 | *REELING-IN* SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

As President of Salt Life, Jeff Stilwell discussed optimizing the challenge of balancing shareholder value creation while still prioritizing environmental welfare. With a broad range of end-user consumers, Salt Life has effectively branded to unite diverse interests under the common goal of preserving our oceans, leveraging financial success to further its sustainability initiatives for utmost impact.

FEATURED ARTICLE

GREGORY JACKSON | GROUNDZ RECYCLING & URBAN FARMER CEO

GROUNDZ RECYCLING ORGANICS WITH AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Urban Farmer's Ben Franklyn moving 5-gallon buckets of coffee grounds into topsoil mix

Groundz Recycling began working with Rubicon, Starbucks' official sustainable technology waste recycling partner, who has given us resources to first identify corporate Starbucks locations across the State of Alabama. Groundz would work with Starbucks to connect nearby locations of Auburn University's cotton fields and farms, and with Auburn University's Extension program to cover the rest of the State of Alabama through possible existing partnerships like with the Alabama Cooperative Extensive System.

Students and faculty would work with Groundz to pick up and deliver coffee grounds and coffee waste from Starbucks to farms, community gardens, and ACES partner sites for making compost, mixing with onsite agricultural byproduct waste.

To get started Groundz repurposed 5-gallon food-grade buckets, mostly from restaurants that throw away a seemingly endless supply of buckets and lids that once contained food like pickles or Dunkin Donuts donuts. Auburn University would go to restaurant owners—who will gladly supply free 5-gallon buckets and lids—or the University's kitchen.

Do not be surprised if the campus community and the public ask, "Where can I buy some of your compost?" We often receive these requests and fill compost with extra 5-gallon buckets. Some customers have us deliver 5-gallon bucket orders or fill their containers upon delivery. The buckets are reused for future order fulfillment. At the end of the day, all this waste is not destined for trash bags and landfills but is instead replenishing University and partner sites or even your own backyard garden.



FEATURED ARTICLE

LINDA FERRELL, PH. D. | ROTH FAMILY PROFESSOR OF
MARKETING & BUSINESS ETHICS

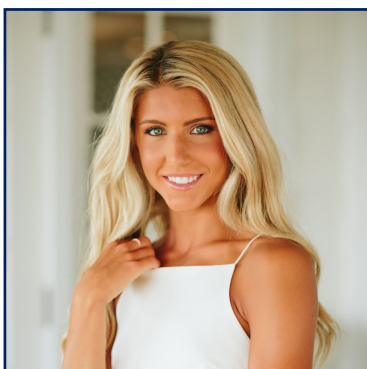
HARBERT COLLEGE REQUIRES ETHICAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION FOR GRADUATES

Auburn University's Harbert College of Business now requires all students to complete a new course in business ethics and pass an independently administered ethical leadership certification prior to graduation. The certification will be conducted by the NASBA Center for the Public Trust. The new requirements are designed to better prepare young professionals to handle the ethical dilemmas they will face in their careers.

According to Alfonzo Alexander, ethics and diversity officer of NASBA and president of the Center for the Public Trust, Auburn is the first university in the country to require its business school graduates to complete ethical leadership training and attain independent certification. The new course and curriculum were developed by a panel of leading business ethics professors from across the country, including Drs. O.C. and Linda Ferrell from Auburn's Harbert College of Business, as well as NASBA's Alexander.

According to O.C. Ferrell, James T. Pursell, Sr. Eminent Scholar in Ethics and Director of the Center for Ethical Organizational Cultures at Auburn University, instilling ethical conduct is critical to shaping organizational culture in today's highly competitive business environment.

Students are required to complete the online certification program's six modules and pass an exam at the conclusion of each section. Read the full article to learn more.



THANK YOU

AUDREY POORMAN | NEWSLETTER EDITOR