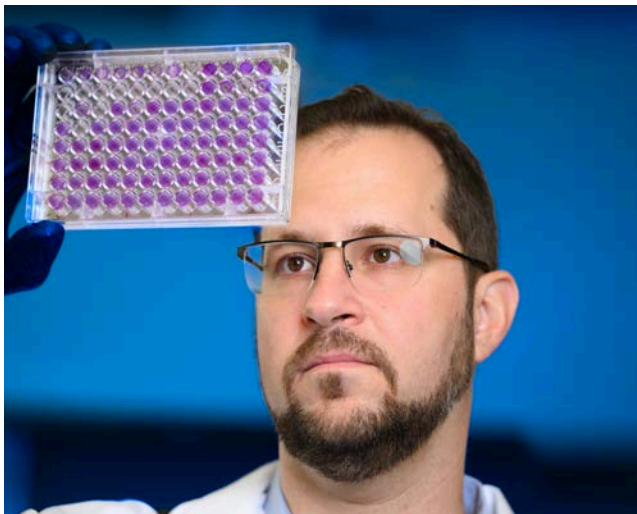


The Aubieclave Report



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Constantinos Kyriakis

Dr. Constantinos S. Kyriakis, originally from Athens, Greece, and raised in Thessaloniki, has been part of Auburn University for nearly eight years. He says what he enjoys most about working in the Pathology Department is the combination of intellectual diversity and genuine collegiality. This environment—where

ideas evolve naturally through both formal seminars and informal discussions—creates a dynamic space for innovation, made even richer by the thoughtful and interesting people who make up the team.

Dr. Kyriakis hopes more people appreciate the unique value of the swine model his group uses in their research. While pigs are agriculturally important, they are also exceptional translational models for human disease, particularly in virology and immunology. While their core focus is viral pathogenesis, immune responses, and vaccines, the infrastructure they have built allows them to support a wide range of biomedical questions.

Outside the lab, Dr. Kyriakis is an avid bookworm with a deep love of history. Since discovering audiobooks, he goes through about one per week, and finds that studying history offers fresh perspectives on scientific thinking—reminding him that both fields revolve around patterns, context, and transformative change.

THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Lori Carden

Lorene “Lori” Carden has been a dedicated member of Auburn University for an impressive 33 years and currently serves as the Central Receiving Manager in the Department of Pathobiology. A lifelong Auburn resident, Lori says the best part of her job is the people she works with, along with the fact that her role keeps her moving and engaged throughout the day.



The Central Receiving Team handles a wide-range of responsibilities for the college. They manage all incoming and outgoing packages from multiple carriers, deliver items to labs, accession and deliver external specimens, receive and distribute equipment, oversee accounts receivable and deposits through VetView, and even operate a courier service serving six local clinics!

Outside of work, Lori enjoys spending time with her family above all else and loves hiking and paddleboarding.



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Moriah Derryberry

Moriah Derryberry, a native of Geraldine, Alabama, has been part of Auburn University since 2020— now in her sixth year with the Pathology Department. As a Graduate Research Assistant working under Dr. Kyriakis, she says what she enjoys most about working here is the strong sense of community. To her,

the department truly feels like a family where everyone is willing to step in and help one another, creating a supportive environment for both research and personal growth.

Moriah hopes more people understand the broader impact of the work she and her team do. The discoveries made in pathobiology contribute to improved disease understanding, better prevention strategies, and advancements that benefit society as a whole.

Outside of research, Moriah has a passion for books— having owned over 500 novels in her vast collection.



Dr. Valery Petrenko's Retirement Celebration

The Department of Pathobiology gathered on Friday, February 6, 2026, in the VEC Commons to celebrate the distinguished career and retirement of Dr. Valery Petrenko. Colleagues, staff, students, and friends came together for an afternoon filled with warm reflections, shared stories, and appreciation for Dr. Petrenko's more than 25 years of service.

The event provided a meaningful space for colleagues to honor his accomplishments, express gratitude for his mentorship, and celebrate the legacy he leaves behind. Laughter, memories, and heartfelt sentiments filled the room as the department marked this significant milestone in Dr. Petrenko's professional journey.

The Department of Pathobiology extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and contributed to making the celebration special.





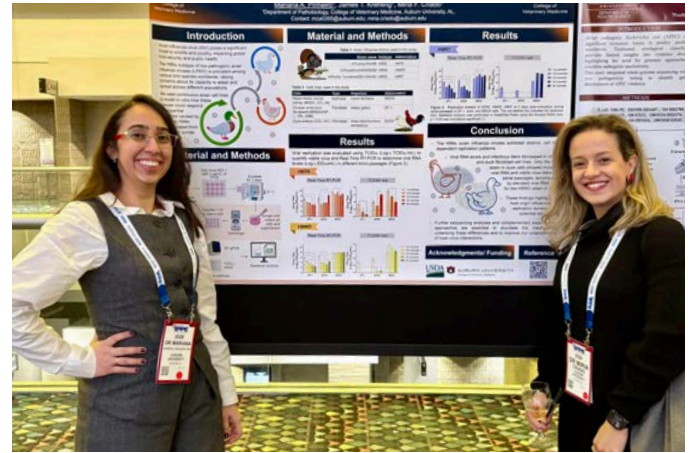
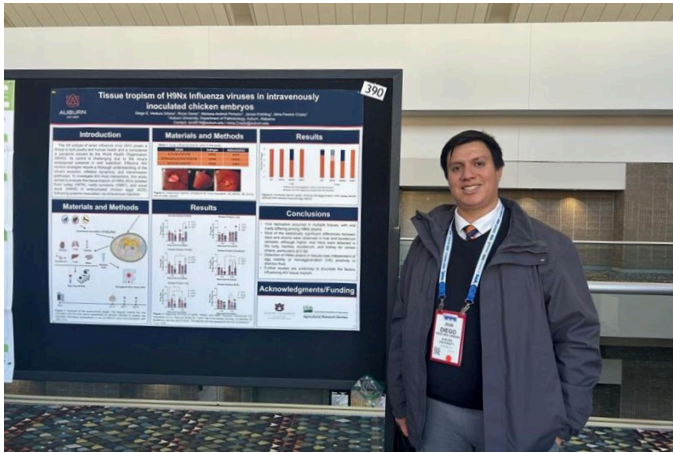
Pathobiology's Valentine's Day Gathering

The Department of Pathobiology came together on February 13 for a cheerful and colorful Valentine's Day Party in Greene Hall, creating an hour of fellowship, fun, and festive spirit.

Guests contributed an assortment of pink, white, and red treats, filling the space with everything from strawberries and cupcakes to cookies, candies, and other creative holiday-themed sweets. Attendees also enjoyed lighthearted Valentine's activities, with many joining in the fun by exchanging cards or wearing holiday-themed outfits. The event offered a welcome respite from the day and provided an opportunity for colleagues to connect, laugh, and celebrate the vibrant holiday spirit.

Thanks to everyone who attended—and to those who helped with preparations—the gathering was a delightful success. The department looks forward to continuing traditions that bring the Pathobiology community together!



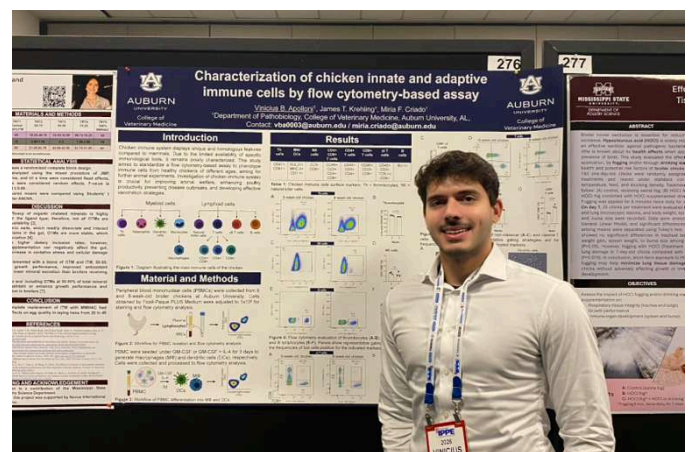


AU Patho Represented at 2026 IPSF & IPPE

Recently, a group of students and professors from Auburn Pathobiology attended the International Poultry Scientific Forum (IPSF) and International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE) in Atlanta, GA.

At IPPE, attendees explored a wide array of educational programs, technical workshops, and industry demonstrations. In addition to the expo, IPSF featured an extensive lineup of scientific presentations. Students also had the opportunity to engage in poster presentations, attend keynote lectures, and connect with professionals and researchers from across the poultry science community.

Adding a fun and memorable highlight to the trip, one Auburn student even took part in the IPPE Hot Wing Eating Competition! Experiences like these— combining professional growth, scientific exploration, and team camaraderie— continue to make IPPE and IPSF valuable opportunities for Auburn’s Pathobiology community.





Be The Creed Awarded to Dr. Steven Kitchens

Dr. Steven Kitchens was honored with the Be the Creed Award for exemplifying the highest ideals of the Auburn Creed.

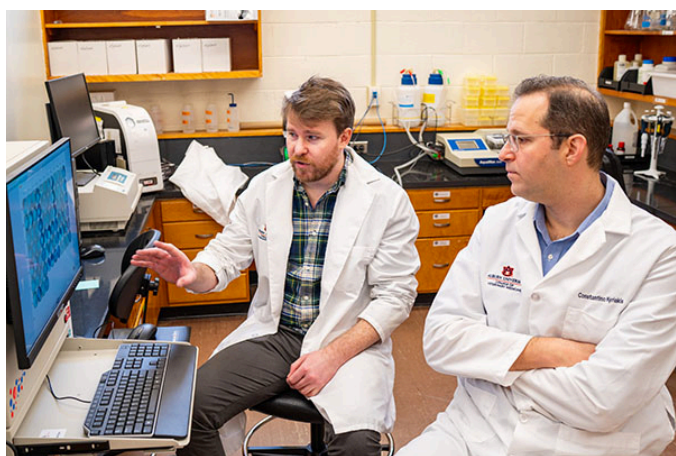
Steven consistently demonstrates exceptional hard work, a genuine commitment to growth through education, and a deep dedication to honesty and integrity. He models a balanced and thoughtful approach to life—cultivating sound mind, body, and spirit—while showing sincere respect, compassion, and helpfulness toward others. His exemplary sportsmanship, respect for the law, and steadfast love for Auburn reflect the very qualities this award seeks to celebrate. Steven's character and actions make him a positive example within the Auburn community and beyond!



New Patho Baby!

The department is delighted to share the joyful news that Dr. Laura Lee and her husband have welcomed their baby boy, Jack! We are thrilled to report that both mom and baby are doing well.

Please join us in extending heartfelt congratulations to the Lee family as they celebrate this wonderful new addition.



Unlocking More Effective Flu Vaccines

Cough, cough (sneeze). If you're among the 24 million Americans who have suffered through the flu since last September, you'll appreciate the work taking place inside Dr. Constantinos Kyriakis' lab.

Kyriakis and postdoctoral research fellow Fletcher North are examining swine immune responses to influenza viruses since pigs are natural hosts, exhibit familiar disease symptoms like fever and coughing, and have similar immune responses and anatomy to humans. The end goal? Utilizing research findings to eliminate guesswork in protecting humans.

Read more about their research here:

<https://aub.ie/pigflu>

Help us make dreams a reality!

Your impact begins here – choose the Auburn causes that are important to you. Whether you give to empower students through scholarships, drive groundbreaking research and life-changing outreach, or enrich the Auburn Experience, you are shaping our future.



<https://aub.ie/PathoGift>



PUBLICATIONS

Davies KA, Welch SR, Coleman-McCray JD, Sorvillo TE, **Aida-Ficken V**, Spiropoulou CF, Spengler JR. Natural History of Nipah Virus in Hamsters: Strain, Route, and Sex-Associated Variability Characterized Using Large Datasets to Inform Pre-Clinical Study Design. *J Infect Dis.* 2026 Feb 18;233(2):e441-e453. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaf549. PMID: 41159859. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41159859/>

Martins R, de Paula FE, Mitchell TBG, **Criado MF**, Cardoso RS, Jesus BLS, Castro IA, Cassiano MHA, Rodrigues DMR, Oliveira N, Carezzi L, Valera FC, Tamashiro E, Anselmo-Lima WT, Arruda E. Rhinovirus Infects B and CD4 T Lymphocytes in Hypertrophic Tonsils in Children. *J Med Virol.* 2026 Feb;98(2):e70809. doi: 10.1002/jmv.70809. Erratum in: *J Med Virol.* 2026 Feb;98(2):e70832. doi: 10.1002/jmv.70832. PMID: 41578919; PMCID: PMC12831225. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41578919/>

Publication information is downloaded from PubMed. We recognize that not all publications may be found on that site. Please let Liz Nowling know if your publication did not make the list, and it will be included in the next issue.



JOB POSTINGS

Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor Clinical Pathologist

Auburn University's Department of Pathobiology seeks an assistant or associate clinical professor of veterinary clinical pathology for a 12-month clinical-track position. The role includes providing high-quality diagnostic service in the Clinical Pathology Laboratory, training veterinary students, residents, and graduate students, and engaging in didactic teaching and collaborative research. Located in the Wilford & Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, the laboratory supports extensive interaction with clinicians and evaluates samples from university hospitals, outside veterinarians, the Raptor Center, and research groups, while working closely with related diagnostic services.

<https://www.auemployment.com/postings/56902>

Assistant/Associate Professor, Immunology

Auburn University's Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine seeks a twelve-month, tenure-track, Assistant or Associate Professor in Immunology, with priority given to applications received by February 1, 2026. The successful candidate will develop an extramurally funded research program aligned with departmental strengths, teach Advanced Immunology and foundational immunology, and mentor graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and trainees. The department offers a strong research environment with extensive collaboration opportunities, advanced diagnostic services, core facilities including flow cytometry and imaging, access to HudsonAlpha's genomics resources, and participation in the NCATS-funded Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

<https://www.auemployment.com/postings/56900>



April 11, 2026
9 am – 1pm

Calling all Volunteers for Vet Fest 2026!

The AUCVM will be hosting its 3rd Annual Vet Fest on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 9 a.m. to - 1 p.m. CT. Vet Fest is quite possibly the largest event that the AUCVM hosts, in that the entire community is invited to our campus and numerous activities are set up for the public to enjoy. Our student organizations are invited to develop and participate in an activity. However, participation isn't limited to students; we will graciously accept all the help we can get! There are many ways you can contribute to Vet Fest (set up/break down, parking, greeter, sign placement, and more)!

There will be a Vet Fest Informational Meeting on Thursday, January 15th, from 12 - 1 p.m. in VEC 101. This meeting is designed for students; however, anyone is welcome to join!

If you would like to sign up to volunteer to help with an existing activity, please follow this link:

<https://aub.ie/vetmedvol>

SPRING PET FOOD DRIVE

NOW - MAR 13

The Staff Advisory Committee is kicking off a collection event for one of our local animal rescues (New Hope Rescue).

There will be boxes in the lobby of Greene Hall, the VEC, Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, and the JT Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital. The RedFord natural dog food can be purchased at Pet Supply Plus in Auburn.

Spring Wishlist

NEW HOPE RESCUE

- Bonebones - All sizes
- Healthy Dog Treats (DINKY)
- Odoban
- Bleach Tablets
- Laundry Detergent
- Adult wet - Purina Pro Plan
- Adult Dry - Purina Pro Plan
- Adult Dry - Redford Naturals (Pet Supplies Plus)
- Greenies Pill Pockets
- Purina Pro Plan Dry Kitten Food
- Purina Pro Plan Dry Adult Food
- Purina Pro Plan Wet Kitten Food Variety Pack
- Purina Pro Plan Wet Adult Food Variety Pack

Collection Drive for New Hope Rescue

The Staff Advisory Committee is kicking off a collection event for one of our local animal rescues (New Hope Rescue). Many of you already know about this rescue because they do so much for the animals in our community. They truly are a lifeline for the abandoned/neglected/abused animals, and this type of work takes a lot of resources.

There will be boxes in the lobby of Greene Hall, the VEC, Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, and the JT Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital. **The drive will run until March 13.** The RedFord natural dog food can be purchased at Pet Supply Plus in Auburn.

The rescues webpage is www.nhrescue.com if you would like more information or other ways to help.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



Auburn Concessions Board Award

Have an idea that could improve life at Auburn, but need funding? The Auburn Concessions Board awards \$100-\$10,000 each semester to support projects that benefit faculty, staff, students, and the community.

Applications for the spring semester are now open. **Closing date is March 20, 2026.** Non-students should review funding guidelines and consult the appropriate administrator. Student groups should have their proposals reviewed by the Office of Academic Affairs before submitting.

More details listed here:

<https://ocm.auburn.edu/concessions-board/>



Financial Advisers Offer Retirement Plan Assistance to AU Employees

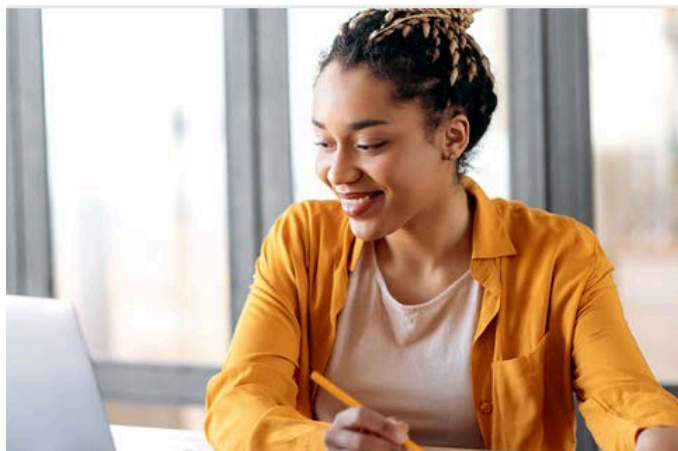
Financial advisers from Corebridge, Fidelity, Lincoln, and TIAA are available to help you review the university's voluntary retirement plans and develop your own unique plan for retirement.

In-person and virtual appointment slots are currently open from now until April 2026. You can book an appointment with one or more of the listed advisers to enroll or discuss your retirement plans. Your conversation with your adviser is confidential.

For general questions on your benefits, please email **benefit@auburn.edu**. For questions regarding your individual financial planning, please contact your adviser at Corebridge, Fidelity, Lincoln, or TIAA directly.

<https://aub.ie/x1uRbD>

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



Self Development - Aspire Auburn: Leading Self

The *Leading Self* curriculum is designed for any Auburn team member who wants to strengthen their leadership skills. In partnership with LinkedIn Learning, Auburn provides these foundational development courses to support employees who want to grow personally and professionally.

This is a self-paced program, so it won't require time away from your regular responsibilities. Even so, we encourage you to make your own development a priority—it's a worthwhile investment!

Find the course here: aub.ie/leadingself

Black Alumni **WEEKEND**

Dr. Donita McElroy to Speak at Black Alumni Weekend

On Friday, April 10, at noon, Dr. Donita McElroy (DVM '85), our college's first black DVM graduate, will speak about her journey in celebration of **Black Alumni Weekend**.

Dr. McElroy is a solo practitioner in a practice that she established in suburban Atlanta in 1989 and is our college's recipient of the 2026 Black Alumni Award. Her presentation is sure to be both informative and enjoyable.

Details and an RSVP coming soon!

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



CVM AU Staff Council Representatives Needed!

The College of Veterinary Medicine is looking for staff interested in serving on the Auburn University Staff Council. **With 244 staff members, the CVM is eligible for up to 5 representatives, and currently, none are serving.**

This is a valuable opportunity for staff to help ensure that the CVM's perspectives and needs are heard at the university level. The Staff Council meets monthly, and these meetings may be attended either in person or through Zoom, offering flexibility for those with busy schedules.

To learn more about the council and its role, staff can visit the AU Staff Council webpage at <https://aub.ie/staffcouncilcvm>.

Anyone interested in nominating themselves for this important role is encouraged to contact Amy Bylsma at bylsmaj@auburn.edu.



Veterinary Educator Regional Network

Did you know that Auburn partners with other schools in the Southeast to support educator growth (both faculty and staff), educational research, and networking among veterinary educators?

Auburn is part of the **Southeastern Veterinary Educator Consortium (SEVEC)**, and they want to know what you, as an educator, want! In the past, this has included funding educational research, a research mentorship cohort, virtual programming, and a regional conference. Schools may also share their internal programming with other member schools.

As they plan the upcoming years, tell SEVEC what you want programmatically! Take the survey at <https://aub.ie/SEVEC>.

Both faculty and staff are welcome to participate!

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



Shop for the Food & Essentials Cabinets

We need your help throughout the year to turn alumni donations into essential items for those in need – and to help fight food insecurity.

If you're a CVM faculty or staff member and are willing to use donated gift cards during a trip to Walmart or Kroger to shop for the CVM Food & Non-Food Cabinets (located near 116 Greene Hall), your support would be greatly appreciated!

Sign up at the link below:

https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bsK1RODcUws5lf8



Tiger Rescue- Motorist Assistance Services

Parking Services provides free on-campus motorist assistance services. These services include jump starts for vehicles with dead batteries, as well as assistance in opening a vehicle when the keys are locked inside, except for vehicles equipped with side airbags, on University property. Parking Services is not able to offer flat tire assistance.

These on-campus services are available Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Motorist assistance services are not available on football game days, during other special events, or when the University is closed. Faculty, staff, students, and visitors needing assistance should call (334)-844-4143 between 7:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and (334)-740-2077 outside of the main office hours.

More information here:

<https://auburn.edu/administration/parking/tiger-rescue/>

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) Training Course

This training opportunity will be offered for faculty, technicians, AVERT leadership, and students on Tuesday, **April 14**. The workshop will equip agricultural and traditional responders with foundational knowledge and practical skills to address the unique challenges motor vehicle incidents with bovines can present for emergency personnel. The knowledge and skills gained will assist in the effective preparation and response to this type of emergency and the unique situations that are presented.

There is no charge for AU Vet Med employees for the April 14 workshop; however, pre-registration is required. The course is limited to 50 participants.

Sign Up: <https://aub.ie/LERP>

Please be sure you select AVERT Leadership (April 14) for the registration type. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Dr. Chance Armstrong (armstcl@auburn.edu).

Help us make dreams a reality!

Your impact begins here – choose the Auburn causes that are important to you. Whether you give to empower students through scholarships, drive groundbreaking research and life-changing outreach, or enrich the Auburn Experience, you are shaping our future.



[https://aub.ie/
PathoGift](https://aub.ie/PathoGift)

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



Next Faculty Meeting:

Mar. 25 in GH 168 from 1-3 PM

Next Staff Meeting:

Mar. 19 in VEC 246 & 248 from 1-2 PM

A list of official holidays for Auburn employees, including schedules for 2026, is available on the [University Human Resources website](#).

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Holiday	Weekday(s) Observed	Date(s) Observed
New Year's Day	Thursday	Jan. 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (2026)	Monday	Jan. 19, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25, 2026
Juneteenth Day	Friday	June 19, 2026
Independence Day	Friday	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday	Sept. 7, 2026
Thanksgiving	Wednesday-Friday	Nov. 25-27, 2026
Christmas*	Friday	Dec. 25, 2026

* In addition to the above dates for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will close campus on Friday, Dec. 18, 2026, at 4:45 p.m. and re-open on Monday, Jan. 4, 2027, at 7:45 a.m.

- Friday, Dec. 18, 2026: All offices will remain open and operating until 4:45 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 4, 2027: All offices will re-open and resume operations at 7:45 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Chenoweth, Kelly J.
Derryberry, Moriah H.
Hariri, Maryam
Joiner, Kellye S.
Koehler, Jey
Neto, Rachel T.
Nowling, Liz
Nusbaum, Kenneth E.
Odili, Chidinma Lucy
Raiford, Donna R.
Sandey, Maninder
Towns, Taylor J.

8-Mar
13-Mar
21-Mar
19-Mar
16-Mar
12-Mar
7-Mar
12-Mar
24-Mar
12-Mar
21-Mar
25-Mar

