David Bransby, a native of South Africa, has been a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils since 1987. He received his bachelor’s degree in grassland science from the University of Natal in 1972, his master’s degree in agronomy from the University of Missouri in 1975, another master’s degree in market research from the University of South Africa in 1978, and his Ph.D. in grassland science from the University of Natal in 1983.

His responsibilities at Auburn are research and teaching in energy crops and bioenergy, as well as forage and livestock management.

Recognition of Bransby’s work includes the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Senior Research Award (1992), appointment as an Alumni Professor (1995), and receipt of the Auburn University Award for Faculty Excellence in Outreach (2006).

Bransby is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Biomass Research and Development Initiative that is mandated by the U.S. Congress to advise the secretaries of Energy and Agriculture on research priorities in the field of bioenergy and was invited twice by the White House to brief President George W. Bush on the emerging cellulosic biofuels industry.