Programs Offered by COSAM Outreach

**AU Explore**

AU Explore is COSAM’s annual Open House Day for 5th - 8th graders. On Friday, April 29, approximately 1350 students, teachers and parents from 35 schools in Alabama and Georgia attended this free event on Auburn’s campus. Students had the opportunity to experience live animals up close, as well as interact with University faculty and students at the Science and Math EXPOs. Make-n-Take Science Fun Shops and Demo Shows presented by Auburn’s finest also occurred throughout the day.

Funding Source: COSAM, Food & T-shirt sales during the event

**Science Investigations**

Science Investigations provides a meaningful science laboratory experience for home-schooled students in grades 6-8. The program includes monthly sessions for 8 months and is designed to be a learning continuum throughout the year. The main objective of the program is to provide students with an overview of various types of laboratory techniques, policies, procedures, and equipment, as well as examine the scientific method. Participants are required to design their own “science investigation” in conjunction with the Intel Science and Engineering Fair and present their results at the Greater East Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair (GEARSEF) in the spring. During Fall 2011, four sessions were held with 37 students returning for each session. Science Investigations helps to prepare home schooled students for collegiate science labs.

Funding Source: Self-supported through participant fees
**Getting Under The Surface (GUTS)**

GUTS is a monthly program for kids in grades 1-6 and their parents or grandparents. Each evening session includes dessert followed by a 90-minute science activity featuring a “Getting Under The Surface” theme that focuses on a scientific topic or technique. In 2011, two sessions were held in the spring, and three sessions in the fall. Throughout the year, a total of 246 students and parents attended a GUTS session.

Funding source: Self-supported through participant fees

**Science Matters Summer Academy**

Science Matters is a summer enrichment program for elementary students offering youngsters a supercharged science experience. The program allows participants to explore the world of science through real experiments, fantastic field trips, constructive play, technology and art projects, and hands-on, make-n-take activities. Seven different science-themed weeks were offered during the summer of 2011. Eighteen different courses were designed by master educators in the region. Over the entire seven weeks, 168 students in grades 1-6 filled a total of 330 open seats.

Funding: Self-supported through participant fees

**Science Olympiad**

Science Olympiad is a one-day academic track meet, consisting of up to 23 different competitive events. **Division B (middle)** was held on February 19, 2011, with 20 teams of 15 students each (300 students total) in grades 6-9 converged on Auburn’s campus to compete. Winners from the middle school division qualify to compete at the state Science Olympiad.

**Division A (elementary)** was held on April 2, 2011, with 29 teams of students (580 students) in grades 3-6 in attendance.

Funding Source: COSAM, T-shirt sponsorship from AU Bookstore

**T.E.A.M.S. (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and**
COSAM Outreach and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering co-sponsored the T.E.A.M.S. competition for students in grades 9-12 held on February 25, 2011. Seventy-six students from 6 schools used the principles of engineering, math, and science to solve real world challenges. T.E.A.M.S. is a program of the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS).

Funding Source: School-based fees

The Y.E.S. Program (Youth Experiences in Science)

Spring Y.E.S. was held on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Spring Y.E.S. is a free program offered every spring for students in grades 3-6. Hands-on courses for the 2011 Spring Y.E.S. included Slimy Toys at Hogwarts, Art in Science, Tigers for Tigers, Don't Catch that Germ, and LEGO-Mania. A total of 129 students attended the 2011 event.

Summer Y.E.S. 2011 was a four day camp for rising 6-9 graders. It was held on Monday, June 27 - Thursday, June 30, 2011. A total of 46 students attended and took part in hands-on courses. The courses offered for this camp included River Creatures; Soakin’ Skyrockets; Electronics; NanoScience; Genes, Diseases, and Biotechnology; and, Off the Wall Science.

Funding Source: Participant fees
Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) Robotics

What do you get when you cross robots, a playing field, referees, cheerleaders, and pep bands? The BEST competition ever! BEST, nationally headquarted at Auburn University, is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to inspire middle and high school students to pursue careers in engineering, science, technology, and mathematics through a sports-like, science- and engineering-based competition. Started in 1993 with 14 schools and 221 students, today BEST has 47 hubs with over 900 middle and high schools and over 16,000 students participating each year. BEST Robotics at Auburn University is a partnership between COSAM, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and the College of Architecture, Design, and Construction.

War Eagle BEST

War Eagle BEST had 17 schools from south central Alabama and west Georgia compete in 2011. Kickoff was held on August 27 in the Student Center Ballroom, where teams were given the game theme – BUGS! – and the task for this year’s challenge. Four weeks later, on September 25, a practice “Mall Day” was held at Auburn / Opelika Colonial University Mall. On Saturday, October 8th approximately 1,000 students, parents, teachers, and judges came together to compete in “BUGS!” at Wetumpka High School. Four teams advanced to the regional championship, South’s BEST.

Tennessee Valley BEST

Tennessee Valley BEST, hosted at Calhoun Community College, had 22 schools compete in 2011. Kickoff was held on Saturday, September 3, when teams were given the game theme – BUGS! - and the task for this year’s challenge. Four weeks later, on October 1st a practice “Mall Day” was held in Decatur, AL. On Saturday, October 15th approximately 800 students, parents, teachers, and judges came together for the BUGS competition. TV BEST is a partnership between Auburn University and Calhoun Community College in Decatur, AL.

The South’s BEST
In December, a crowd of over 3500 students, teachers, parents, and industry mentors assembled at Auburn University for the 2011 South's BEST Regional Robotics Championship. South's BEST hosted 50 teams from 13 hubs and 7 states over the weekend of December 2-3. The 5th annual Women in Science and Engineering Luncheon, sponsored by the WISE Institute, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, and TV BEST, was held on Friday, December 2 and had over 186 attendees. A Science and Engineering Exhibit Fair was hosted on Saturday during the event. Over $5000 in door prizes were given out to students and teachers throughout the event.

2011 BEST Sponsors

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Office of Vice President for University Outreach
Briggs & Stratton Engine Power Products Group
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