



COSAM Covalence E-News, August 2009

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Biological Sciences Research Team Awarded Grant



A research team in the Department of Biological Sciences has been awarded a three-year, \$650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study symbioses between bacteria and marine tubeworms. Drs. Ken Halanych, Kevin Fielman, Scott Santos and Daniel Thornhill (currently a post-doctoral scholar at Bowdoin College, Maine) will study these tubeworms that dominate deep-sea habitats, including hydrothermal vents and hydrocarbon seeps, and are one of the most successful animal groups with obligate symbioses. These worms lack a mouth and gut, and rely exclusively on bacterial symbionts for their nourishment. The project will employ cutting-edge DNA sequencing and gene-expression technologies to study mechanisms allowing establishment and maintenance of these symbiotic relationships.

This work will be integral to elucidating how microbial associations have shaped animal biology and evolution in the oceans.

To learn more, visit <http://gump.auburn.edu/halanych/lab/>, www.auburn.edu/antarctica or www.divediscover.whoi.edu.

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COSAM and Alabama Dept. of Education Awarded NASA Grant



Participants in the first GCCE Meeting

COSAM, in collaboration with the Alabama State Department of Education, was recently awarded \$600,000 from NASA to produce modules in the varying science-focus areas of global-climate change. The program, Bringing Global Climate Change Education to Alabama Classrooms, will partner with the Alabama Science-in-Motion (ASIM) program to effectively train teachers and educate students in grades nine through 12 about the changing planet. An interdisciplinary group of faculty members that includes: Dr. Kevin Fielman, Biological Sciences; Dr. Ming-Kuo Lee, Geology and Geography; Dr. Yu Lin, Physics; Dr. Luke Marzen, Geology and Geography; and Dr. Marllin Simon, Physics, will serve as Co-PIs to develop interactive education modules designed to engage high school

students on the changes in the earth's climate and its effect on weather, carbon cycle and ecosystems, climate variability change, and atmospheric composition using NASA resources.

“Our ability to partner with ASIM is unique. Within three years, our hands-on, inquiry-based experiments will be incorporated in the high school curriculum across the state of Alabama with the goal of creating a climate-literate society,” explains Dr. Marie Wooten, associate dean for research and principal investigator of the project.

For more information, please visit

http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/Global_Climate_Change_Education_Project.html

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COSAM Hosts Fourth Annual SWSM Leadership Symposium



Students from Loachapoka High School
with teacher, Lisa Lishak

COSAM hosted some 50 high school girls and sponsors for the fourth-annual Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics (SWSM) Leadership Symposium on Friday, Aug. 21, at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center.

Students from Loachapoka High School, Stanhope-Elmore High School, Wetumpka High School and Lee-Scott Academy attended the symposium entitled “A Non-Traditional Journey into Mathematics.” A Q&A kicked-off the day with the following panel that included four former COSAM students with diverse careers:

Erin Edmondson is a seventh-grade life science teacher at Drake Middle School in Auburn.

Andrea Hardwick is an optometrist and owner of the Hardwick Vision Center in Auburn. Brittany Barnes has been accepted into the Harrison School of Pharmacy where she plans to pursue a doctorate of pharmacy and a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. Janayah Hudson is an RN and program coordinator for the Surgical Technology Program at Aiken Technical College. She is also pursuing a master’s of Public Health degree from Walden University.



Panelist with Director of Outreach Mary
Lou Ewald

The symposium concluded with a luncheon featuring keynote speaker Dr. Kathy Pearson, who received her bachelor of science degree in theoretical mathematics at Auburn University. Dr. Pearson is a senior consultant and director of executive education for Decision Strategies International, a management consulting firm focused on strategic planning and decision making.



Dean Stewart Schneller and
Keynote Speaker Dr. Kathy
Pearson

“It’s important to surround yourself with diverse people and just...get the job done,” Dr. Pearson advised the roomful of high school students, COSAM students and SWSM members. “A degree in the sciences and mathematics can take you anywhere you want to go.”

The half-day symposium concluded with scholarship awards to undergraduates Sallie Martin and Jessica Williams in honor of their contributions to promoting women in sciences and mathematics.

Brittany Grant, a senior at Loachapoka High School, has come to every SWSM symposium and continues to be inspired. “It opens my eyes to the possibilities that are out there for women in science. And to meet real women in real professions shows me there’s a way to balance having a life and a career.”

Please visit the following site to listen to the dean’s podcast with Dr. Kathy Pearson: www.auburn.edu/cosam/PodcastingwiththeDean.htm.



Sallie Martin, a senior in
Biological Sciences, Dean
Schneller and Jessica
Williams, a senior in
Biomedical Sciences

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Auburn University Debuts Collegiate License Plate Design

For more information visit www.auburn.edu/cartags



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COSAM Digital Updates



[Camp War Eagle 2009: The Song](#)

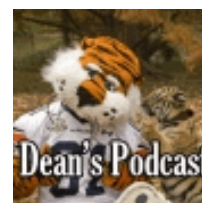
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[YES Camp - Tiger Edition](#)

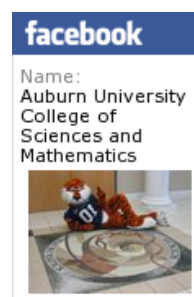
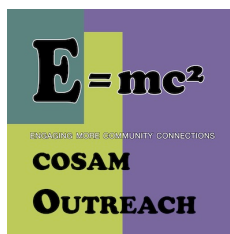
[YES Camp - Eagle Edition](#)



[Episode 6 The Multitasking of May 2009 COSAM Graduate](#)

[Episode 7 COSAM Research: Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Marie Wooten](#)

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