

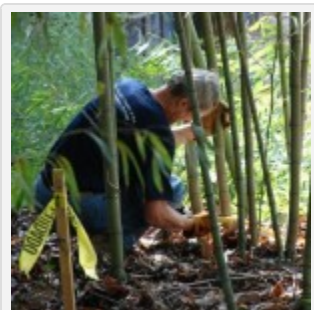


COSAM Covalence E-News, March 2009

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Arboretum Supports AU Office of Sustainability



Dr. Robert Boyd sawing bamboo in Donald E. Davis Arboretum

In 2004, Auburn University recognized the need to elevate its environmental concerns and challenged Lindy Biggs, Ph.D., to create an initiative called Sustainability. Last year, the professor of history and her small team were recognized by Auburn University President Jay Gouge as an official office on campus.

“Our office works within the mission of the University - instruction, research and outreach – and adds to that using the campus as a laboratory for teaching about sustainability. However, education is the most important aspect of what we do, both formally and informally,” Biggs says from her office in historic Langdon Annex.

Biggs says the College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM) has huge potential to support the sustainability efforts, both inside and outside the classroom. “Physics is teaching about alternative energy. In Biology, students are learning about relationships between humans and the environment. Geography and Geology educate students on global warming. Students are very interested in

these things.”

The Donald E. Davis Arboretum, supported by COSAM, takes the sustainability efforts into the field. In February, the Arboretum sponsored a Starboretum Wars State Arbor Day Program. This themed event garnered community support to remove alien bamboo inside the arboretum. In the spirit of “reduce, reuse and recycle,” Patrick Thompson, arboretum specialist, says the facility plans to reuse the bamboo for erosion control and staking of new plants.

“Water management is a major issue for the arboretum, and the bamboo is just one more tool we can use to slow down water and prevent loss of soil and mulch,” Thompson says, adding that The Environmental Awareness Organization is also planning to use some of the bamboo as bicycle flag poles during Earthfest on April 4.

Sustainability is as far-reaching as the disappearing coral reefs and as close as a light switch. Biggs encourages students, faculty and the general public to do simple things like turning a computer off and buying recycled paper, ensuring there is a market demand for the product.

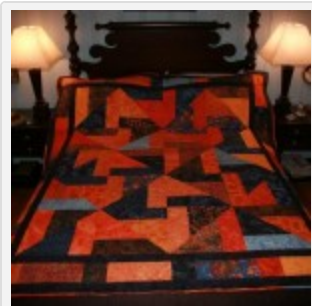
“A little thing like increasing the size of the margins on your paper can make a huge difference in paper consumption. Paper accounts for one-half the trash on campus,” Biggs says.

For more ideas on how to support sustainability on campus or in the office, visit

www.auburn.edu/projects/sustainability.

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Tigers for Tigers Teams with Athletics to Raise Awareness



Quilt made by Dr. Catherine McVay to benefit T4T.

On March 1, 2009, the organization Tigers4Tigers (AU-T4T) raised \$500 through an auction of a handmade quilt at halftime of the Auburn University women's basketball game to raise money for the wild tiger conservation project.

The College of Sciences and Mathematics Professor Cathy McVay, Ph.D., crafted the quilt from the fabrics of the late Cindy Wall, a long-time supporter of AU athletics and a member of the Cotton Boll Quilt Guild.

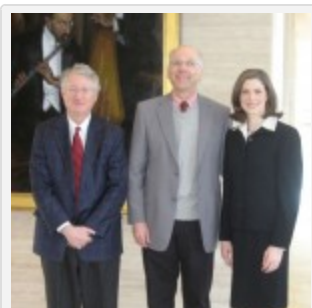
Louise Barker, long-time member of the quilting group, began a project to create quilts from Wall's unused fabrics and donate to charity in her memory. With the full support of Wall's mother, McVay, also a member of the group, chose AU-T4T as the charity she wished to support.

"I worked with Evi Paemelaere, a graduate student in biological sciences, who is involved in T4T. When I was working on the 'Cindy' quilt, it occurred to me that because of Cindy's devotion to the AU Tigers, naming T4T as a recipient of the quilt I was making would be appropriate," McVay says.

AU-T4T is an initiative based on the University mascot, Aubie the tiger, to draw attention to conservation needs.

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Prestigious COSAM Scholars Seek to Inspire

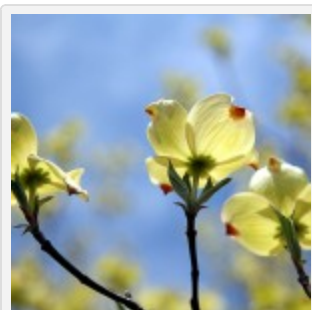


Edgar Gentle, Dean Stewart Schneller, Dr. Cyndee Carver-DeKlotz

On Jan. 20, 2009, the Office on National Prestigious Scholarships within the University Honors College hosted six decades of Auburn alumni who received national prestigious scholarships to study in the United Kingdom. The event titled "Where Dreams May Go: A Symposium on National Prestigious Scholarships at Auburn University and Beyond" included two COSAM alumni: Edgar Gentle, a 1975 summa cum laude graduate and Auburn's second Rhodes Scholar to study at Oxford University, and Dr. Cyndee Carver-DeKlotz, a 2002 summa cum laude graduate in applied mathematics who was selected as Auburn's first Gates Cambridge Scholar. The symposium was held in the Jules Smith Collins Museum auditorium.

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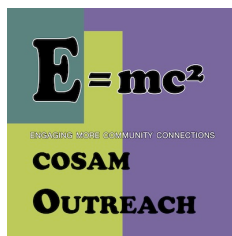
Arboretum Sponsors Amateur Photography Contest



First Place Winner 2008
Arboretum Photo

The Donald E. Davis Arboretum is sponsoring a contest for amateur photography. Enter a photo taken in Alabama of any natural subject including plants, animals, minerals or landscapes. There will be a special-award category for photographs taken in the arboretum. Deadline is April 15, 2009. For contest-entry rules, visit www.auburn.edu/arboretum.

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