



COSAM Covalence E-News, March 2010

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COSAM Alumna Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Kathryn C. Thornton, second from left, with fellow award recipients.

The [Auburn Alumni Association](#) awarded Kathryn C. Thornton, Physics '74, a Lifetime Achievement Award on March 6, 2010.

Dr. Thornton began her career as a physicist at the U.S. Army Foreign Science and Technology Center in Charlottesville, Va., and became an astronaut for NASA in 1984, in a year that saw five successful shuttle flights. She flew four missions, including on *Discovery* and twice on *Endeavour* as well as on *Columbia*. Dr. Thornton now serves as associate dean for graduate programs and engineering at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes recipients for outstanding achievements in their professional lives, personal integrity and stature, and service to the University. It was

established in 2001 to honor extraordinary accomplishments by members of the Auburn family.

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Foundation Recognizes COSAM Assistant Professor



Dr. Annie Gorden

[Dr. Annie Gorden](#), assistant professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is the recipient of the 2010 Delta Gamma Foundation Faculty Award. This honor is awarded to only one person each convention year. The award was established to recognize excellence in faculty members who teach undergraduate students.

The award criteria state that the nominee must be devoted to the personal and professional development of undergraduate students, be a full-time faculty member engaged in undergraduate teaching, and have completed a minimum of three years of full-time employment at the college or university.

Dr. Gorden will be recognized at the Delta Gamma Convention this summer in Denver, Colo., at the Foundation Banquet on Friday, June 18. Dr. Gorden will address some 800 Delta Gamma collegians and alumnae during her acceptance speech.

Donald E. Davis Arboretum Receives Grant

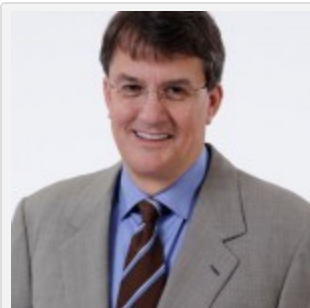


Davis Arboretum Curator, Dee Smith, and Arboretum Specialist, Patrick Thompson, accept a grant award from Tim Rhyne, Chairman, AUPA Grant Committee.

The Auburn University Parents' Association awarded grants totaling \$12,000 to four recipients on Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Among the recipients was COSAM's Donald E. Davis Arboretum receiving a \$3,000 grant for The Savage Garden: Carnivorous Plant Conservation in Alabama.

Arboretum staff will use the grant money to improve the bog area and increase the number of carnivorous plants represented. During the spring 2010 semester, students in a biosystems engineering class are planning the logistics of water flow and containment for the bog garden. This type of student involvement demonstrates the Arboretum's dedication to the Auburn University Parents' Association strategy to elevate academics and enrich the undergraduate experience. "We're excited about being able to award this grant and give back to the Auburn students and the entire University," says Auburn University Parents' Association Board Member, Cathy Benton.

Community Organizations Recognize COSAM Alumni



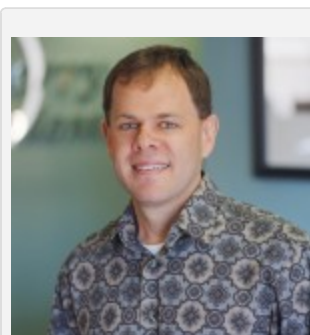
Dr. David Sarver, Pre-Dentistry '73

Leadership Vestavia Hills recognized Dr. David Sarver, Pre-Dentistry '73, as a Citizen of the Year. The program recognizes individuals and groups who make significant contributions to Vestavia Hills, Ala., through volunteerism, generosity, fundraising and lifetime service.

"I remember vividly how terrified I was starting dental school, because the curriculum was daunting, to say the least," says Dr. Sarver. "After the first year, I came to realize that Auburn and COSAM had prepared me beautifully for the entire experience."

The acclaimed orthodontist is a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics, a member of the Angle Society of Orthodontists and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina. He is a co-author of the text "Contemporary Orthodontics," the most widely used orthodontic text in the world. Dr. Sarver's work has been featured on the "Today Show," and his research highlighted on "The View." He and his wife Valerie, '74, have three children Dave, Leigh and Suzanne.

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Dr. Scott Sprayberry, Zoology/Entomology '93

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce recognized Dr. Scott Sprayberry, Zoology/Entomology '93, as the Young Business Person of the Year for 2009.

"I could not have had a better college experience than my four years at Auburn in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. COSAM gave me a strong academic foundation, and while some institutions deteriorate with time, it seems COSAM grows stronger each year. I'm proud to be a COSAM alum," says Dr. Sprayberry.

Dr. Sprayberry graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Dentistry as only one of two honor graduates. While at UAB, he also completed additional classes and orthodontic research to earn a Master of Science degree. Dr. Sprayberry has served as President of the Alabama Dental Association's Ninth District Dental Society, and as President of the UAB Orthodontic Alumni Foundation, among other associations. Dr. Sprayberry resides in Auburn, Ala., with his wife, Beth, and four children: Mary Grace, Tucker, Ellie and Hutch.

Interdisciplinary Group Burns Arboretum Black Belt



On March 4, 2010, the [Donald E. Davis Arboretum](#) staff, members of the Arboretum committee, and an interdisciplinary group of Arboretum student workers from several colleges across campus, including horticulture, biology, fisheries, forestry, and landscape architecture, gathered together to burn the Black Belt. The "Black Belt" refers to a section in the Arboretum that represents the ecosystem of Alabama's Black Belt prairies. Found in this plot of land is a huge sample of the fertile black clay soil that gave the Black Belt region of Alabama its name. Along with actual soil from the Black Belt are grasses and native wildflowers representative of the Black Belt prairies.



[Dr. Les Goertzen](#), assistant professor of Biological Sciences, utilizes the Black Belt section of the Arboretum to teach his students in Systematic Botany about the native wildflowers found in Alabama. By burning the Black Belt, Goertzen anticipates that the diversity and abundance of wildflowers on display this spring and summer will increase.

"Fire is an extremely frequent and natural occurrence. We go to great lengths to suppress fire, and for good reason," says Goertzen. "However, so many native plants have evolved and adapted to a natural fire regime that fire is necessary for enhanced germination and growth of native wildflowers. The fire gets rid of overgrowth and build-up of non-native species and dead grasses, which opens up the area so the

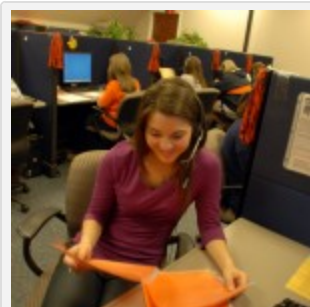
native wildflowers can get more sunshine. We will see a big difference in a month or so in the diversity of native species popping up in this area."

Goertzen says that anemones, wild onion, verbascum, mints, buttercups, blue bells and spiderwort are examples of the native wildflowers that will enjoy enhanced growth in the Arboretum due to the fire.

To see the wildflower display, visit the Arboretum in April and May. For more [information](#) call 334-844-5770.

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Auburn Fund Kicks Off COSAM Phonathon



COSAM student during 2009 Phonathon

Conducted each spring, the [Auburn Fund Phonathon](#) is a critical component of the COSAM annual giving program. Student callers provide first-hand perspective on the University and help reconnect alumni to their alma mater. Last year, the Phonathon raised \$60,187 for COSAM through 701 donations. Please consider making a gift to the College when you are contacted through the Phonathon this year. A gift every year makes a difference every day. Thank you in advance!

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COSAM Digital Updates

[A Day in the Life](#)





[COSAM Blog](#)



[COSAM Scrubbing for Germs](#)

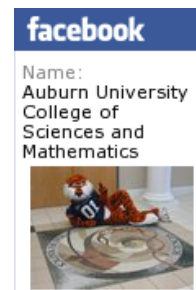
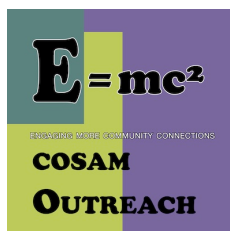


[Episode 30: Kat Milly West Leads COSAM's Clinical Sciences Program](#)

[COSAM Limitless Learning](#)

[Episode 31: COSAM Visits with Chemistry Nobel Laureate Professor Roald Hoffmann](#)

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