



COSAM Covalence E-News, May 2009

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COSAM Alumnus Elected to College Football Hall of Fame



Dr. Ed Dyas, Pre-Medicine '61, has been selected for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, as announced by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

The former Auburn football All-American finished fourth in the 1960 Heisman Trophy voting and was selected captain of the 1960 Scholastic All-American team. His accomplishments on the field included a 1960 NCAA record for the most field goals in a season with 13. The retired orthopedic surgeon won four SEC games with field goals that same year. Dyas was also a leading fullback and linebacker, concluding his college career as Auburn's sixth all-time leading rusher with 1,298 yards and was selected as the SEC's most outstanding back. As a senior, Dyas received the Cliff

Hare Award, which is presented to the outstanding Auburn senior student-athlete, and the Bill Steit Award, which goes to the football player with the highest grade point average over four years.

Dyas received the Walter Gilbert Award in 1994, which is awarded annually to a former Auburn student-athlete who distinguishes him/herself through achievements post-graduation, and was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. Retired from his Mobile practice, Dyas is the 12th Auburn coach or player inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

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COSAM Hosts Fifth-Annual AU Explore



On Thursday April 30, the COSAM Outreach Department hosted 31 schools on campus for the fifth-annual AU Explore. More than 1500 students in grades fifth through eighth descended upon the COSAM quad to learn more about sciences and mathematics through such workshops as The Stinky Science Show, The Pyro-Mania Show and The Wet-and-Wild Science Show.

"AU Explore provides a fun, festive atmosphere for our faculty and students to showcase their research topics and their areas of expertise," says Mary Lou Ewald, director of COSAM Outreach. "For many of the students who attend, AU Explore is the first opportunity they have ever had to be on a college campus."

Ewald adds that the take-home messages are that college is possible, science and math are exciting career fields and the University provides a great educational experience in science and math.

"By focusing on middle-school students, we hope to plant the seeds for the next generation of scientists and mathematicians," Ewald says.

COSAM Researcher Uses Grant to Fight Infectious Diseases



Evert Duin, assistant professor of Biochemistry in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, has received a \$424,000 National Science Foundation grant for research in the fight against infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and anthrax, as well as staph infections.

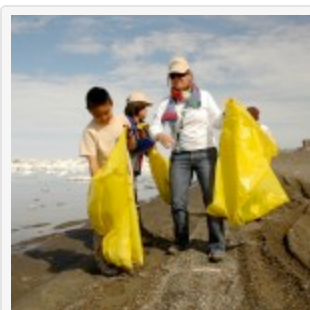
Duin is focusing his research on the different steps that biological cells use in making a group of lipids, called isoprenoids. These are fatty substances that are essential for the survival of all organisms including humans.

“The human race is losing its battle against infective bacterial diseases, and we are facing new threats from bioterrorism,” Duin said. “With some pathogenic bacteria already resistant against four of the five common types of antibiotics, it is important to

find new anti-infective drugs that use a completely new and novel way of killing the pathogen.”

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Middle School Teacher Honored with Several Awards



While in Alaska, Eubanks taught local middle school students about climate concerns. Above, Eubanks and her class pick up litter while on a field trip to a local beach. "I have a motto," Eubanks says about what she hopes to convey to her students. "We are connected. We are all affected."

Elizabeth Eubanks, Zoology '97, is a middle school science teacher at St. Mark Catholic School (St. Mark's) in Boynton Beach, Fla. In 2008, she was a participant in the PolarTrec program, which is run by the National Science Foundation. The program selects 12, K-12 teachers from around the U.S. to participate in polar research, working closely with scientists from Florida International University as a pathway to improving science education in the classroom.

Eubanks spent about one month studying carbon levels in Barrow, Alaska, which is in the Arctic Circle. During this time, she also participated in “webinars,” which allowed her to teach her students in Florida, via Internet, about global climate concerns. Once back in Florida, Eubanks was able to share her Arctic experience with her students through photography, journals, and by continuing to participate in webinars that were broadcast live from the Arctic throughout the year. Eubanks also inspired St. Mark's to name the 2008-2009 school year a “Polar Year.” During the Polar Year, each teacher at the school taught something to his/her class that deals with the Arctic and Antarctica.

Due to her enthusiasm for teaching and her willingness to bring new technology and hands-on learning experiences to the classroom, Eubanks has been honored with several teaching awards. In 2008, she won Palm Beach County's Dwyer Award, which is for excellence in teaching for the middle school category. “I was the first private school teacher to ever win,” Eubanks said via email.

She was also given the National Catholic Education Association Teacher of the Year. Most recently, Palm Beach Atlantic University, where she received her master's degree, gave her the Young Alum Award.

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