



## COSAM Covalence E-News, June 2009

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### Auburn University President Visits Donald E. Davis Arboretum



Dr. Robert Boyd, Curator Dee Smith, President Jay Gogue and Dean Stewart Schneller

The COSAM-supported Donald E. Davis Arboretum enjoyed a recent visit from Auburn University President Jay Gogue on May 20, 2009.

Curator Dee Smith said the time with the president was important because it “indicated that he is interested in being informed about our facility and how we contribute to the University.”

Gogue, who obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Horticulture from Auburn University and doctorate in Horticulture from the University of Michigan, toured the facility in the company of Biological Sciences Professor Robert Boyd, Ph.D.; COSAM Dean Stewart Schneller, Ph.D.; Smith and Arboretum Specialist Patrick Thompson.

Thompson says, “We were also pleased to have an opportunity to inform the president on some of the plant conservation issues being addressed in the state and the active role of the department of Biological Sciences. We also visited the parking lot on College Street currently under renovation.” Thompson highlighted the

Arboretum’s efforts in storm-water-management research including the pervious parking spaces, rain gardens, rain barrels and landscape practices to minimize erosion and other problems.

Thompson added that having an advocate in the office of the president “means that as we continue to grow as the state’s leading facility for collection and display of Alabama’s native plants, we can be comfortable in the knowledge that we have the support of the University all the way to the top. Though we discussed and saw many things during the productive visit, at some moments it seemed like a friendly visit from a neighbor.”

With the president’s home located just across the street from the facility, Smith wondered if Gogue ever wandered through the Arboretum. She discovered that he does.

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### COSAM Professor Named The Honors College Professor of the Year



Biological Sciences Professor Debbie Folkerts, Ph.D., recently received The Honors College Professor of the Year award for the second time.

“When I discuss with prospective students and parents the type of extraordinary teaching that takes place in The Honors College, I have the image of Debbie Folkerts in mind,” says James “Jim” R. Hansen, Ph.D., director of The Honors College. “She embodies everything that is great about any sort of teacher at any level.”

Dr. Debbie Folkerts with one of her many "friends" during a classroom demonstration

The award is administered by The Honors Congress, a student-led Honors College organization.

"This award makes me very happy because the selection is made by the students. My affiliation with the college is simply that I teach Honors Organismal Biology and have for several years. It is my favorite class to teach," Folkerts says modestly.

"Dr. Folkerts is the total package," Hansen adds. "She has an innate capacity to create a non-threatening and welcoming environment; an understanding of what it takes to motivate students and the savvy to know that different students can be motivated by different things. Auburn University students are tremendously fortunate to have (Dr. Folkerts) as their teacher and mentor."

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## COSAM Honors President of East Alabama Medical Center



COSAM Dean Stewart Schneller, Honoree Terry Andrus and Dr. Clay Harper, president of the Society of Health Professionals

The Society of Health Professionals, an organization sponsored by COSAM, honored Terry W. Andrus, president of East Alabama Medical Center, at a reception on Tuesday, April 21.

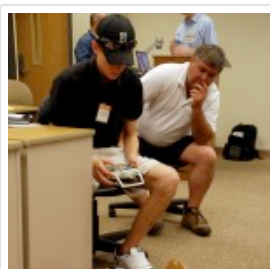
The reception, held at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, acknowledged Andrus' many contributions and tireless dedication to the health profession including: overseeing the growth of East Alabama Medical Center to more than quadruple its size since its inception in 1952; and the hospital's recognition under his leadership by *Fortune* magazine as one of the Top 10 Companies to Work for in the U.S.

The special ceremony also honored Andrus for his leadership in the community. He served as president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and the United Way of Lee County. Andrus has also sat on the Board of Directors for Auburn National Bank, Camp Maranook, Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Alabama Hospital Association.

Additionally, during his 25-year career at East Alabama Medical Center, Andrus has been a loyal friend to Auburn University by generously supporting a number of areas including COSAM, the School of Nursing and the Athletic Department.

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## COSAM Co-Hosts National BEST Conference



BEST Conference Participants

COSAM and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering co-hosted the inaugural National Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) Conference on Wednesday, June 17, through Saturday, June 20. Representatives from each of the 35 BEST competition sites gathered at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center for the first time since the University was named BEST headquarters in January 2009.

Mary Lou Ewald, director of COSAM Outreach and a member of the BEST Board of Directors, says, "It's important to note that BEST is not about building robots. It has more to do with building leadership and teamwork skills, problem-solving skills and giving kids a practical application of the science and math concepts they learn about in the classroom."

Conference guests learned how to enhance their BEST participation at the local level in addition to implementing BEST into the classroom. A networking luncheon introduced participants to representatives of the Alabama Governor's Office on Workforce Development; the State Department of Education; and industry champions like the Donaldson Corp. Speakers included Dr. Ken Berry, assistant director of the Science and Engineering Education Center at the University of Texas at Dallas, and award-winning writer Celeste Baine, a biomedical engineer, who serves as director for the Engineering Education Service Center based in Springfield, Ore.

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