Excellence in Faculty Outreach

Allen Landers - 2014 recipient of the Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach
ON THE COVER
2014 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach recipient
- Allen Landers

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Today’s economic conditions present numerous challenges that place enormous stress on this state’s businesses. Since 2006, Auburn’s Economic and Community Development Institute has been uniquely positioned to provide leadership toward its belief that prosperous local economies are built on the foundation of strong communities. That is why you will currently find Auburn assisting the Governor’s Office with two development initiatives.

The Institute’s director, Joe Sumners, is taking part in the Alabama Business Task Force with leaders in business, government, and economic development. Its mission is to develop specific recommendations to enhance assistance and support for Alabama’s small businesses.

The staff of the Institute also serves as a resource for the newly established Alabama Workforce Council. The goal is to work with the State Board of Education, as well as two- and four-year colleges and universities, to equip Alabamians with the skills to assume the jobs that are more in demand and pay higher salaries.

In related news, people wanting to earn the designation of Certified Economic Developer, or CEcD, can now come to Auburn to begin training. The International Economic Development Council accredited the university for the Basic Economic Development Course. The Council is the world’s largest professional organization for economic development practitioners, with 4,500 members across the United States, as well as Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and other nations.

Congratulations to this year’s recipient of the 2014 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach, Allen Landers, a professor in the Department of Physics since 2003. In addition to his teaching load, Professor Landers established and heads the Summer Science Institute, a program that gives university-level science and mathematics experience to outstanding high school students. He has also worked on various K-12 STEM education outreach projects throughout his career at Auburn, focusing primarily on mechanisms to engage students in the process of scientific inquiry.

This award appropriately recognizes Professor Landers for his countless hours spent encouraging the next generation of Auburn students to excel in their future fields of study.

War Eagle,

JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
It is a busy and exciting time at Auburn – the university’s enrollment is one of the largest on record and there are many activities happening on campus. There are lots of activities off campus as well through the many educational programs and services offered through University Outreach, Extension, and Auburn’s academic units.

Among these programs are a wide variety of skills training, professional, and enrichment courses available in Auburn’s continuing education programs. In all, more than 40,000 people participate in these courses around the state. Annually, university technical assistance units help Alabama businesses and organizations achieve almost $20 million in increased productivity and capacity. Extension health and wellness programs for families reach thousands statewide with instruction on healthy food and lifestyle choices, social skills, caregiving, and positive relationships.

An important component of these successful programs is faculty engagement, which is recognized annually through the Award for Excellence program. This year’s worthy recipient is Dr. Allen Landers, professor of physics in COSAM. Dr. Landers has long been involved in the college’s outreach activities, including the well-known South’s BEST Robotics and Science Olympiad competitions for school children. Dr. Landers developed the AU Summer Science Institute which provides a wide variety of science-related experiences to students. He is also principal investigator on major grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education and others in developing new STEM centered learning programs for Alabama schools. We congratulate Dr. Landers for his award and thank him for his very effective and important outreach contributions.

This year we recognize OLLI at Auburn’s 25th anniversary. What began as the Auburn University Academy of Lifelong Learners in 1990 is today one of Auburn’s largest and most successful outreach programs. Part of the nationwide network of Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, OLLI at Auburn is a membership program for learning in retirement. With more than 600 active participants, OLLI is member-led. Peer leadership is the key to its fun and success. Members make all decisions relating to the curriculum and the operation of the organization. All activities are designed, coordinated, and evaluated by members. Congratulations to OLLI at Auburn for this important milestone.

We welcome Stacey Nickson to the University Outreach team as director of K-12 Initiatives. Dr. Nickson was formerly associate director in the Biggio Center; prior to coming to Auburn, she had a wide range of experience in both K-12 and higher education appointments. Dr. Nickson leads Auburn’s partnerships with Loachapoka and Notasulga high schools and is working on some exciting new college access collaborations.

These efforts are an important part of Auburn’s overall strategic objectives for public engagement. As we progress through the second year of the university strategic plan, we expect to see these and many other programs produce great results for the people of Alabama. Even more so, we expect this year to see development of many more initiatives focused on elevating the quality of life in our state and beyond.

Yes, it is an exciting time at Auburn University, made even more exciting by the collective engagement of our faculty and staff through our mission of outreach. Together, we are making a difference!

War Eagle,

ROY RICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
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Outreach News
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- Allen Landers

Just as the plainsmen of the Old West opened the frontier for the masses, a modern day plainsman is opening the frontier of science, technology and math for a new generation of school children through innovative K-12 outreach. Allen Landers, the Howard Carr Professor of Outreach in COSAM’s Department of Physics, is the 2014 recipient of the Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.

Raised in the plains state of Kansas and since 2003 making his home in the plains of Auburn, Allen Landers truly is a plainsman and a trail-blazer. Throughout his career at Auburn, Landers has developed a variety of new K-12 STEM education outreach projects to engage students in the process of scientific inquiry.

For his leadership in K-12 science outreach, Landers was selected to receive the 2014 Award for Excellence. “Professor Landers’ outreach in the area of STEM education and school engagement is truly innovative and outstanding,” says Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. “His efforts have resulted in nationally recognized programs that promote the sciences in our schools, enhance the academic skills of students, and encourages students to pursue careers in high technology.” The Award for Excellence is Auburn’s highest recognition honoring the engagement of exemplary faculty members whose outreach is making a significant impact in the community.
Allen Landers was raised in rural Kansas and attended Kansas State University on a National Merit Presidential Scholarship. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and physics in 1993, and then went on to earn his doctoral degree in atomic physics in 1999, also from Kansas State. After post-doctoral study and two years as an assistant professor at Western Michigan University, he joined the Auburn University Department of Physics in 2003. Landers has two children, Alyssa (16) and Nathan (12), and in his spare time enjoys playing the piano.

A highly recognized scholar in the areas of atomic, molecular and optical physics, Landers’ work has received support through the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. He has co-authored numerous publications on his work and has been published in high-impact journals such as Science and Nature. In addition to a vigorous research program, Landers teaches at all levels at the university, from the introductory science for non-science majors to graduate courses in physics. He has received multiple awards for his work at Auburn including the 2006 COSAM Teaching Award, the 2013 Most Outstanding Professor Award, which was presented to him by students in the physics curriculum, the 2013 Dean’s Award for Outstanding Outreach, and the Physics Department’s Eugene Clothiaux Faculty Award for 2014.

Landers’ outreach is a natural component of his overall scholarly activity. “There are a number of things that are critical to moving science forward,” says Landers. “As a research scientist, I get to explore Nature and see beautiful phenomena, sometimes for the first time. But those experiences aren’t useful unless we go further by communicating them to society, generally through publications. At Auburn University we teach future scientists in the classroom and in our laboratories, which is one of the joys of being a member of the faculty. Through outreach, I’m able to communicate the fundamental philosophy of science and critical thinking to the public.”

For Landers, outreach provides an important balance to his work. “It’s all very rewarding, but I often feel like getting a few thousand students throughout the state to think more deeply about something simple is just as important as studying the complex quantum dynamics of a molecule in my laboratory.”

Landers became involved in outreach soon after his arrival at Auburn. “It started quite simply through volunteering as a judge for various science or robotics competitions as a new assistant professor,” recalls Landers. “When you see the ‘lights come on’ in the students faces, it is extremely rewarding. From then on I was hooked and wanted to do more.”
The professor’s outreach record includes three large scale projects initiated and developed under his leadership. The Auburn University Summer Science Institute (AUSSI) is an intensive one week event designed for outstanding high school students with an average 30 ACT score. Now in its third year, AUSSI engages more than 20 COSAM faculty scientists in providing a variety of science experiences to students including using an ion accelerator, collecting samples for DNA sequencing, dating geological samples with radioactive isotopes, and astronomical observation of the night sky.

Another major program is the RE2-FoCUS Initiative which is designed to stimulate project-based STEM education throughout Alabama by facilitating teacher professional development in engineering and robotics education. The program received a three-year, $633,000 Math and Science Partnership award from the U.S. Department of Education through the Alabama State Department of Education. The program introduces modules through teacher professional development workshops that incorporate the use of active engagement tools such as robotics in the classroom to teach science and inspire students about STEM related careers. Joining Landers in this effort was Mary Lou Ewald, director of COSAM Outreach and Chris Schnittka, associate professor in Curriculum and Teaching.

STEM-IQ is a new science education enhancement project targeting students in underserved communities and engaging them in science activities culminating in exhibitions in both local and regional science fairs. The program has recently received funding from the NSF for a five-year, $742,000 grant to enable development of the initiative. This project was in collaboration with Ewald, and with Virginia Davis, professor in Chemical Engineering and Paul Cobine, assistant professor in Biological Sciences.

Landers’ engagement in these programs, as well as a variety of Science Olympiads, robotics competitions and science demonstrations, contribute to his deep conviction that science can inspire students. Recalls Landers, “Mr. Roger Diekmann was my science teacher in both eighth grade and in high school. He strongly encouraged me to explore, explore, explore – and then to think about it!”

This aspect of the study of science is Landers’ primary objective to pass along to the students and teachers in his programs. “Science is the single pursuit that allows us to go straight to nature to answer the questions, and that is best done through exploration.” The impact of that exploration can be immediate. When we do professional development workshops with teachers, I see their excitement as they embrace new tools to use in their classroom,” notes Landers. “When we work with high school students, I see them ‘turn on’ to the possibilities of exploring Nature in a variety of ways.”

Clearly, Professor Landers sees himself as a beneficiary of his outreach work as well. “Outreach at Auburn University has provided a mechanism for me to be a proselytizer of science, and even more importantly the philosophy of science,” says Landers. “The teachers and students we work with in our outreach programs inspire me to do better research. It’s a resonant effect, where my passion for science motivates working with teachers and students, which in turn energizes me as a scientist.”

“Allen Landers is an exceptional professor,” says James Hanson, chair of the physics department in COSAM. “While he is an excellent physics teacher, and his ongoing research in experimental atomic and molecular physics is of very high quality, it is in the area of outreach that he really shines.”

Nicholas Giordano, the dean of COSAM, agrees. “Allen Landers has compiled an extremely impressive record of accomplishments in outreach,” says Giordano. “I am particularly impressed by his leadership of important outreach projects that have impacted the lives of many thousands of Alabama students and teachers.” That impact shines on Auburn as well, notes the dean. “It is this kind of leadership that has made outreach in COSAM and at Auburn University so successful!”

The support Allen Landers receives from his college administration and peers means a great deal to the scientist. “This award is recognition by my peers that the work has merit, which is wonderful,” says Landers. Perhaps the most fulfilling acclamations Landers receives is through the feedback he gets from both teachers and students. For example, a student in Landers’ Summer Science Institute wrote, “Dr. Landers, your Science Institute was literally the most amazing adventure that I have ever experienced. You have helped me direct my future with confidence and perseverance.”

“Seeing the look in a student’s eyes when they understand a new concept,” says the plainsman professor, “is award enough for me.”
U.S. Department of Education Awards $4.5 Million in Federal GEAR UP Grants to Auburn University

Auburn University's Office of the Vice President for University Outreach will receive a total of $4.45 million dollars over the next seven years as part of two U.S. Department of Education Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP, grants awarded in Alabama. The grants will be administered as part of University Outreach's K-12 and College Access department.

“Increasing college accessibility for students in underserved communities is a key priority of Auburn’s strategic plan,” said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president of University Outreach. “GEAR UP will enable us to greatly expand our K-12 initiative and engage significantly more Alabama students.”

The University Outreach award is part of two larger Department of Education GEAR UP grants presented in Alabama, which represent a total commitment to the state of more than $6.4 million annually for the next seven years. One grant focuses on ensuring that more low-income students across the state are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The second grant will provide academic support to sixth and seventh grade students in Birmingham City Schools through their first year in college. Auburn University Outreach will collaborate on both initiatives through a partnership agreement.

“The GEAR UP grants will play a significant role in K-12 outreach efforts to help close the opportunity gap and move students closer to the intended outcomes of the Alabama Department of Education Plan 20/20,” said Stacey Nickson, director of K-12 outreach at Auburn University.

A program of the K-12 initiative, The Black Belt Legacy Camp is a summer residential camp for 7th–12th grade students living in Alabama’s Black Belt region. Through a collaboration between the Black Belt Community Foundation and the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, this week long camp provides students an opportunity to engage in academic, social and cultural experiences on the campus of Auburn University. Students are led through activities that include opportunities to build leadership and team building skills and engage in career exploration. This sponsored camp invites students from both private and public schools in 12 Black Belt counties. The resulting diversity enhances student interaction with youth from varied backgrounds while exposing them to the advantages of community engagement.
Office of Professional and Continuing Education Offers Physician Leadership Academy in Montgomery

The Office of Professional and Continuing Education has partnered with Baptist Health System of Montgomery to offer an intensive leadership development program for a select group of leading physicians. The Physician Leadership Academy consists of seven sessions of in-depth leadership development and change management topics provided through targeted readings, a personal leadership library, personal assessments, and general learning sessions.

With the rapidly evolving health care environment, it is critical for physicians and other health care providers to become better leaders and collaborators. Physicians, in particular, are needed to provide key leadership roles in the health care enterprise for it to stay robust and better serve the patient, community, and nation at large. Consequently, there is a need to provide effective leadership training for physicians to support their growing roles.

Facilitators Hope Stockton of the Auburn University Office of Professional and Continuing Education, Stan Harris of the Raymond J. Harbert College of Business, and Pete Blank of the Personnel Board of Jefferson County, lead discussions and personal assessments, coupled with outside readings, to provide an in-depth look into the role of leadership in providing quality health care to patients. The program is designed to ensure that physicians responsible for establishing a culture of quality in the hospital are equipped with the leadership tools necessary to effectively implement such a culture.

To accommodate the demanding schedules of the participants, the Physician Leadership Academy meets for two hours each month over a seven-month time period. Members of the inaugural class represent specialty areas such as orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, internal medicine, and radiology. The skills these physicians learn are expected to translate into building and managing effective teams within their respective areas.

The main goal of this collaboration between Auburn University and Baptist Health System of Montgomery is to ensure the quality of care being provided to patients will be improved significantly. After the initial offering of this pilot program, the goal will be to offer these programs on an annual basis so that more physicians associated with the Baptist system will have an opportunity to enhance their leadership ability.

Long-term, the Office of Professional and Continuing Education plans to offer the program to other health care systems across the state, which is in line with the Auburn University Strategic Plan initiative to improve the quality of life for Alabamians by improving health and wellness.

For more information on the leadership initiative, contact Hope Stockton, director of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, at hstockton@auburn.edu.
The world gets smaller as we use smartphones, tablets, and laptops to communicate each day, touching every aspect of our lives. But can that technology aid in rural areas when someone needs to make a lengthy trip to see a medical specialist?

Business professors from Auburn University and the University of Alabama have collaborated on research that could ease the state’s health care access problem and give rural residents an alternative to traveling long distances to see that specialist.

Rafay Ishfaq, assistant professor of supply chain management in Auburn’s Raymond J. Harbert College of Business, and Uzma Raja, associate professor of management information systems in Alabama’s Culverhouse College of Commerce, applied supply chain and business analytics principles in research that introduces telemedicine to the public. Supply chain management involves managing all the activities that deliver products to the consumer in an effective and efficient way.

Ishfaq and Raja can identify suitable locations for rural telemedicine health centers that would maximize patient/disease coverage within limited public budgets, as well as medical service offerings and technology requirements.

“Telemedicine is a health care delivery mechanism for diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of patients where doctors and patients are separated by space, but mediated through information and communication technologies,” Ishfaq said. “The use of telemedicine is typical in regions with large and dispersed rural population, much like in Alabama, where geographical, economic and cultural barriers have resulted in misdistribution of hospital-delivered health care services.”

The research, “Bridging the Healthcare Access Divide: A Strategic Planning Model for Rural Telemedicine Network,” was accepted for publication in Decision Sciences, an elite academic research journal.

“We can apply supply chain principles, such as demand forecasting, to health care by replacing the products with health care services,” Ishfaq said. “The rural customers travel significant distances to get to retail stores for everyday purchases. These folks need access to health care facilities too, which are scarce in economically underserved rural areas.”
Business analytics techniques can be applied to identify healthcare needs in particular areas.

“The rural communities of the Black Belt region have specific health care issues,” said Raja. “The ability to accurately predict the demand of health care services is critical while designing the rural health care infrastructure. The patterns of disease prevalence usually vary across various demographics – gender, age, economic status, and race. We used census data for county-level demographics and health survey data from U.S. Center for Disease Control. Using business analytics techniques on these two sources of large datasets, we developed estimates for prevalence of chronic diseases in the Black Belt region.”

Ishfaq added, “You use these prevalence estimates and build on top of the logistical issues, such as access to facilities, service coverage and utilization of resources. That’s what supply chain management is about. We do it in a product-based setting. Why not health care services?”

Ishfaq suggested that telemedicine centers could be located within county health care facilities.

“You can use technology to potentially connect local patients with specialists as far out as a cancer hospital in Houston or a heart specialist in New York City,” he said.

He noted that rural residents’ distance from many specialists could have an impact on the state’s overall health.

“That’s why we see so many chronic health issues in rural communities,” Ishfaq said. “They come to a hospital in the city, they get treatment, they get the operation they need, and now it’s time for them to go back. Can you imagine post-operative care and the regimen that needs to be with a person with depression or a heart condition? They need regular monitoring. A specialist is not going to travel to a remote location to see his patient.

“So here’s a technology solution. You need to design that health care delivery system which incorporates logistical considerations. Where do you put your health care facilities? How far does a patient have to travel to get to that place? What would be the patient load at a facility that you don’t overwhelm its resources?”

Raja said big data collection, storage and access has opened doors to “new research opportunities.”

“In my decade-long research in business analytics, I have worked with large datasets to find solutions to problems in the corporate world,” she said. “In this research project, we have shown how the same can be done in the public policy realm.”

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House United Building Project
Dec. 14-18, 2014, Tuscaloosa, AL

Applications now being accepted!
Volunteers from the University of Alabama will team up with volunteers from Auburn University to build a house. Limited number of spaces remaining.
For additional information and application visit, www.auburn.edu/houseunited or contact Joyce Thomas-Vinson, thomaj5@auburn.edu, (334)844-5117.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
focus on seniors

OLLI at Auburn and Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art Partner to Offer Mini-Course on Monuments Men

The pursuit of relevant and innovative courses for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University (OLLI at Auburn) students is an ongoing priority for OLLI staff and leadership. Collaborating with campus programs and academic departments has been the lifeblood of OLLI and its mission to provide academic not-for-credit courses for the adult, 50 years and older.

When Linda Shook, OLLI director, was contacted by Scott Bishop, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art education curator, she knew this was an exciting opportunity and project well-worth doing. “In fall 2013, Bishop asked if OLLI might be interested in partnering with the museum to offer the yet-to-be-released film Monuments Men, which was to tell the story of the rescue of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II,” explained Shook.

Although the Jule Collins Smith Museum and OLLI at Auburn have partnered for several years to offer quality programming on Tuesday afternoons at the museum during the fall and spring terms, this invitation to co-sponsor the film represented the first true outreach collaboration between the two programs. “When the opportunity to host the George Clooney film occurred, I immediately began considering Auburn programs that might find the topics of World War II and the stolen art of interest. OLLI at Auburn seemed like a great fit for partnership,” said Bishop.

“Early on, Scott and I both felt as though this film and its direct connection to Auburn University through Robert Posey, an Auburn University graduate who was a member of the Monuments Men, would be of great interest to OLLI members as well as the campus and community,” added Shook.

Work began immediately, including finding the right instructors to teach a three-session course to accompany the film screenings. The instructors chosen were Alan Meyer, associate professor of history, Teresa Rodriguez, award-winning Auburn artist, and Paul Harris, associate professor of political science. Their topics included the history of World War II, art stolen by the Nazis, and Auburn University’s distinct connection via Posey.

The response from the instructors was positive. “It was such a wonderful experience participating in the OLLI Monuments Men mini-course. The audience members were not only engaged participants, but also many were World War II veterans who lived through the tragedy of war and who helped secure victory in Europe and in the Pacific. It was an absolute honor and a privilege to share the story of Captain Robert Posey, Auburn’s Monuments Man,” Harris said.

Meyer confirmed, “I agreed to help teach this course for the same reason that most, if not all, of the participants signed up: I consider myself a lifelong learner, and preparing this lecture gave me an excuse to learn more about the real Monuments Men. The students were great. Most folks seemed to have some personal connection to World War II – a parent, an uncle, an older brother who served in the military. We even had a handful of WWII veterans participate.”

The overwhelmingly positive response the course received has prompted the pursuit of other opportunities. A nutrition course, Fed Up: Our Eating Habits Are Killing Us was offered in the summer and a future course is planned for May 2015, allowing the continuation of honoring the museum’s commitment to providing quality programming throughout the year while enhancing OLLI at Auburn’s course offerings.
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University (OLLI at Auburn) staff and leaders recently participated in two key lifelong learning conferences, the National OLLI Conference held in San Francisco and the Southern Regional Conference for Lifelong Learning hosted by the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The national conference is a sesquiennial event and includes the staff of all 119 Osher institutes from across the United States. The regional conference is an annual gathering that was initiated by OLLI at Auburn in 2008.

For the National OLLI Conference, OLLI at Auburn was invited to present a session about the OLLI Membership Survey, “Many Ways to Skin A Cat: Measuring OLLI Successes,” which was conducted as a partnership with the graduate and doctoral students from the Auburn University Industrial Organizational Psychology Department. In the spring of 2013, OLLI members participated in a survey designed by graduate psychology students. With the assistance of OLLI board member and retired psychology department chair, Ginny O’Leary, this study yielded a 40 percent response rate from OLLI members.

During this session, the data obtained from program evaluations provided an invaluable source of information to measure success and guide development. The use of sound data can enhance the ability to achieve a good fit between OLLI participant’s interests and preferences and the needs of their programs. Specifically, an evaluation of a membership survey and the methodological issues, as well as available technology to collect such data efficiently, was addressed. Linda Shook, OLLI at Auburn director, and O’Leary presented the methods and findings of the study at the conference.

Six OLLI leaders and staff participated in the annual regional conference. This event like the national conference is designed to be a professional development event for OLLI staff. OLLI leader/volunteers were also invited to attend. OLLI at Auburn presented for two sessions: “Law and Order: Updating Your Bylaws,” by Barbara Daron, OLLI coordinator, and Gary Mullen, OLLI president, and “Lemonade Out of Lemon Ideas: Take A Bad Situation and Juicing It Up,” by Shook.
‘The Golden Age’ Traveling Exhibition Makes Alabama Debut at Auburn Art Museum

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University will present an exhibition of 69 major works by master painters from the renowned collection of The Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. On view Oct. 19 through Jan. 4, “Rembrandt, Rubens, and the Golden Age of Painting” illustrates how the economic growth that swept Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries fueled an amazing period of artistic creation.

Throughout its 10-year history, the museum has introduced artwork from diverse cultures and time periods, but for the first time guests will have the opportunity to experience Old Master paintings created between 1600 and 1800.

“Rembrandt, Rubens, and the Golden Age of Painting” features art from Italy, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and England and includes portraits, religious paintings, landscapes, scenes of everyday life, still lifes and interpretations of classical antiquity. Highlights of the exhibition include “The Princes of the Church Adoring the Eucharist” by Peter Paul Rubens and “Portrait of a Forty-Year-Old Woman” by Rembrandt van Rijn.

Often referred to as the Age of Enlightenment, the 200 years in which the art in this exhibition was produced was a time of exploration, religious reform and scientific advances. The technical aspects of how artists created their art evolved with the development of art academies and the increased popularity of the fine arts.

Museum Director Marilyn Laufer said the historical context is part of what makes the exhibition especially exciting. “It is important to remember that at the time the paintings were made, they were contemporary paintings for those people who commissioned and collected them,” she said. “You might look at a Flemish still life of tulips differently when you consider the Tulip Mania of 1637, one of the first recorded economic bubbles of the Western world.”

Peter Paul Rubens (Flemish, 1577–1640) - The Princes of the Church Adoring the Eucharist, about 1626-1627.
Laufer said the exhibition truly illustrates the wide range of discussion that art can generate.

“Providing new insights has always been at the heart of what we do at the museum, because expanding our understanding of the world offers all of us the tools to imagine the future. We hope the exhibition provides guests with an understanding of the art made during this important period in history, but more so to understand that all artists respond to and reflect the tumultuous world in which they live.”

Scheduled events for both the general public and museum members include a lecture by Dennis P. Weller, curator of Northern European Art, North Carolina Museum of Art; hands-on art history lessons for elementary and high school students; and a presentation of the documentary film, “Tim’s Vermeer.” Resources for self-guided tours are available, but classes and small groups may also schedule docent-led tours by contacting the museum.

Following the installation at Auburn, the traveling exhibition of paintings will move to Huntsville Museum of Art in February 2015, making the state of Alabama the final stop for the three-year-long tour.

“Rembrandt, Rubens, Gainsborough and the Golden Age of Painting in Europe” has been organized by the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky. The exhibition at Auburn is generously underwritten in part by Mrs. Dorothy Davidson. A recommended donation of $5 for admittance to the exhibition is suggested. For more information, visit www.jcsm.auburn.edu or call (334) 844-1484.
Veterinary Medicine Faculty Launch Outreach Scholarship Grant Project

[“Editor’s note: The “Public veterinary care to underserved communities” service learning course initiative was inadvertently left off the list of Outreach Scholarship Grants awarded in 2014 which was featured in the Summer 2014 edition of Beyond Auburn. The editorial staff regrets the omission and here presents an update on the grant.]

At the 2014 Outreach Scholarship Symposium, one of the seven competitive grants announced was delivering veterinary services to two north Alabama Native American communities in need. In the course of the initiative, initial classes help the students think of every aspect of need that must be taken care of in the communities. Then the students, clinical faculty members Julie Gard, John Schumacher, Dawn Boothe, and David Pugh, and veterinary public health specialist Stephanie Ostrowski will deliver a Health Fair to provide veterinary care for Native Americans’ animals. Of the five students participating in the project, giving back to their community when they graduate is a strong ethic.
Black Belt Legacy Camp

On June 8, a bus arrived on Auburn’s campus delivering 55 students from 12 counties in Alabama’s Black Belt. The select group of students, from both public and private schools, descended on Boyd Hall for a week-long experience that promised to be “uniquely Auburn.”

The Black Belt Legacy Camp is a summer residential camp for 7th–12th grade students living in Alabama’s Black Belt region. Through a collaboration between the Black Belt Community Foundation and the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, the camp annually provides students an opportunity to engage in academic, social and cultural experiences on the Auburn University campus. Students are led through activities with a focus on leadership, team building, community engagement, and career exploration.

Some of the academic highlights this year included student-centered activities led by faculty from the schools of Architecture and Building Sciences, the Department of Art, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Students also were treated to tours of the Tuskegee Airmen Museum and the George Washington Carver Museum.

The goals of the Black Belt Legacy Camp include inspiring students to effect change in their community, embrace generational traditions, and strive for success as leaders of their community.
Auburn University Partners with Intelligence and Security Academy to Train Public Officials in Data Security

Training offered by the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University will provide public officials in Alabama and throughout the country with the resources needed to secure data and protect the interests of community governments and businesses.

Center director Don-Terry Veal said governments and businesses have operated under a heightened awareness of intelligence and security since the events of 9/11, and the need to secure data and information and protect resources is essential for the urban and rural communities within Alabama and across the United States.

Through the center, an agency of University Outreach, Auburn University recognized this need and collaborated with the Intelligence and Security Academy to provide current or upcoming managers, policy makers, law enforcement officers, military personnel and internet technology professionals with the proper tools to deal with security and intelligence issues and new threats.

“This type of information should not be used to protect only Washington, D.C., and the larger metropolitan areas, but it also has application to the more rural communities across the country,” said Veal.

Lt. Gen. Ron Burgess, senior counsel for national security programs, cyber programs and military affairs at Auburn, will serve as a consultant to the partnership. Burgess spent much of his career in the upper levels of military intelligence and security.

“This joint effort will not only serve to equip communities and municipalities with the critical skill sets and situational awareness necessary to deal with myriad threats, but it will also provide opportunities for valuable training that will foster workforce development in our region’s growing knowledge-based economy,” he said.

“I think anything we can do in this current threat environment to equip our leaders, law enforcement personnel and local citizenry with the requisite tools, knowledge and understanding is a good thing and is part of the reason we exist as an institution.”

Auburn University and the Intelligence and Security Academy jointly bring decades of senior executive experience in intelligence, national security and policy analysis that can apply to individual organizations and processes.

The first two courses, Introduction to U.S. Intelligence and Intelligence for Policy Makers, will be offered in October at Auburn and taught by Mark Lowenthal, president of the Intelligence and Security Academy. Lowenthal has served as assistant director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production; vice chairman for evaluation, National Intelligence Council; deputy assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence; and staff director, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

For those interested in a career in intelligence and security, a professional certification also is available. Specific information about the courses, costs and registration is available online at http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/cgs/intelligence/index.php or by calling Patrick Rose at (334) 844-1914. For more information about the Center for Governmental Services, go to http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/cgs/. For more information about the Intelligence and Security Academy, go to http://www.theintelligenceacademy.net/.
Sheri Schumacher is a designer, artisan, and educator. She created the Alabama Workshop[s] initiative to respond to the gaining momentum of the creative economy in the Southeast region and the ability of craft production to create sustainable local economies. Promoting a network of Alabama artisans and organizations that offer workshops for craft production, Alabama Workshop[s] encourages a mutual exchange between people, materials, and tools.

Schumacher said she firmly believes in the power of design to foster social change and that conducting and participating in workshops has the potential to enrich and economically strengthen the lives of local residents and visitors.

“I thought linking this remarkable group of Alabama artisans who physically make things in their workshops could further this sense of cooperation and greatly benefit the state,” says Schumacher.

Alabama Workshop[s] grew out of Schumacher’s work with the Gee’s Bend quilters. Schumacher, who is program chair of the Interior Architecture program in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture in Auburn’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction, began working closely with the Gee’s Bend quilters three years ago. Through workshops she organized with them, Schumacher said she gained extraordinary insight about the creative making process.

The Alabama Workshop[s] initiative launched in May with an information booth at the 2014 Southern Makers event in Montgomery to distribute maps with workshop locations and contact information as well as brochures about Gee’s Bend quilting workshops. Robert Finkel, assistant professor of Graphic Design in CADC’s School of Industrial + Graphic Design, designed the award-winning graphic material including the logo, survey, maps, and brochures. The tremendous positive response from people interested in conducting and participating in workshops has led to a website, design of a workshop toolkit and plans to curate a traveling exhibition of artisan works with workshop offerings at the museum exhibition sites.

The 25 workshops selected to be part of Alabama Workshop[s] are located in rural and urban Alabama communities and were chosen because they promote cultural craft heritage, innovative cottage industries, exemplary handmade craftwork and community-driven economies. From Alabama Chanin in the north to the Gee’s Bend Quilters in the south, Alabama Workshop[s] exemplify exceptional work that has received regional or national attention in a range of media including textiles, quilting, found objects, mixed media, metal, fiber, glass, and pottery. For more information about Alabama Workshop[s], go to www.alabamaworkshops.com.
Auburn’s Prison Arts Project will Continue with New NEA Grant

The Alabama Prison Arts + Education project at Auburn University has provided visual arts classes in multiple correctional facilities around the state since 2003. A recent $55,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts helps ensure the programming will continue.

The program is housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn. Under a partnership with the Alabama Department of Corrections, it offers semester-long arts, sciences, and English classes in 10 correctional facilities across the state. Program Director Kyes Stevens said there are plans to reach into even more facilities in 2015.

“We believe it’s important for the adult prison population to gain a quality education, and also to build a relationship with learning that will continue to grow for the rest of their lives,” she said.

The NEA uses its Art Works program to support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and powerful art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

This is the seventh NEA Art Works grant Auburn’s program has received since its inception in 2003. Stevens said the NEA is its largest funding source and considers the grant the backbone of the programming. The grant will fund not only programming through 2015, but also the production of the next anthology of student work. An anthology is produced and sold every two years.

“Art classes provide a place for those who want to learn to come and develop critical thinking and processing skills that are not only relevant to making good art, but can also impact individuals in other aspects of their lives,” Stevens said.

For more information about the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, go to www.auburn.edu/apaep.
Serving Those Who Served

Auburn University, Auburn Montgomery Schools of Nursing and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Collaborate on Community Care of Military Veterans

Auburn University senior nursing student Maria May was at the hospital when she met a man in his late 60s waiting to undergo tests for potential cardiac issues.

With only a brief medical history in his chart, May thought it would be beneficial to ask some questions. The resulting conversation confirmed to her the importance of a recent trip to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland:

“When waiting for the test, we began to talk about his past professions. When he mentioned he had been in the U.S. Army, I asked when he was in and if he enjoyed it. He quickly said no and explained he had been drafted and sent to Vietnam. I thanked him for his service and told him that I plan to go into the U.S. Navy as a nurse after college. I also told him about my Project SERVE experience.

“When I told him about going to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial his eyes began to water. He started to describe Vietnam and tell me about the different places he had been. I could tell the experiences 46 years ago were still painfully fresh in his mind.

“Just before he had to go in for his test I stated that the whole purpose of my trip to Walter Reed was to try to understand a little bit about caring for veterans so that when we have them as patients we can give them the best possible care that they rightfully deserve. He thanked me and stated that it was wonderful we had that program.”

Project SERVE, or Student’s Education Related to the Veteran Experience, is a joint program between the Auburn University and Auburn University Montgomery Schools of Nursing and Walter Reed.

As the number of U.S. service members in Iraq and Afghanistan is being reduced, nursing faculty from both campuses saw a need to ensure future nurses are prepared to care for the thousands of veterans returning home and seeking health care in non-military facilities across the country.

This spring, 17 students and six faculty members spent a week in Bethesda, focusing on the different points of care from injury to recovery, rotating through the ICU, surgical inpatient unit, inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, inpatient and outpatient mental health, and the Warrior Transition units on the 68-acre medical base.

For students like Auburn senior Emily Dawson, it was an experience like no other.

“It enhanced my nursing education in a way that I didn’t know was possible,” she said. “It set a high standard for health care and showed me the best examples of teamwork and interdisciplinary care I have ever seen. I could only hope to become a part of such an amazing team in my own career.”

For U.S. Air Force Reservist Craig Schadewald, the trip reinforced his desire to return to active duty after he graduates from AUM. Schadewald had served as a
flight medic – four deployments in 10 years – treating wounded military during transport from deployed locations to hospitals, but said he had never seen the continuity of care they receive at Walter Reed.

“It’s really nice to see the wounded warriors are getting the care that they deserve,” he said.

U.S. Navy Capt. Michele Kane, a 1992 AUM nursing alumna, was instrumental in creating the collaboration with her former Walter Reed colleague David Crumbley. A retired Navy commander, Crumbley became an assistant clinical professor at Auburn and joined forces with Associate Professor Libba McMillan, whose husband is a retired U.S. Air Force pilot, and AUM Associate Professor Marilyn Rhodes, a retired colonel and 30-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Kane said the agreement with the Auburn Schools of Nursing is the first Department of Defense enterprise to meet the call to action of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Joining Forces Initiative, which is meant to engage society to support military members and their families. Crumbley added that Auburn and AUM were the first nursing schools to be granted this type of experience at Bethesda.

“The normally sealed door to the inside of military health care was unlocked to us and we were able to witness and participate in the care of U.S. service men and women that most people never see and no nursing student has seen before us,” said AUM senior Ashley Charlton. “It was very humbling, to say the least.”

McMillan said she viewed the experience as a chance to teach beyond the classroom.

“There’s only so much you can teach from a textbook,” she said. “Until you see a worried mother or a young man unable to speak because of a traumatic brain injury, you don’t understand pride, commitment and anguish. You can’t teach that.”

Rhodes said she was overwhelmed by the willingness of the staff to share their knowledge and explain the continuity of care they offer.

“The people at Walter Reed welcomed us and appreciated our promise to care for their patients when they come to us,” said Rhodes.

Crumbley added that the patients appreciated educating students in this manner.

“They realized the students weren’t just there to hear their story, but rather to take something back,” he said. “Many of these guys will be discharged from the military and end up seeking treatment outside of the VA system. That’s why it’s so important for Walter Reed nurses to pass on their knowledge to community nurses.”

Auburn senior Beth Baker said she understood the benefit of learning how Walter Reed provides high-quality care to its military patients because she can apply the same protocol to civilian patients with similar injuries or diagnoses, such as losing a limb as a complication of diabetes or suffering a traumatic brain injury as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

Looking back on the conversation May had with the patient who turned out to be a Vietnam veteran, she said she “learned how important it is to talk to patients, even if there is a thorough account in their chart. Listening and comforting are two of the most important skills to always practice. And all those classes I took before nursing school, like history, are actually useful in connecting with patients. The statements that my patient made regarding veterans’ health care will always stick in my mind. I hope in the future, with programs like Project SERVE, all nurses are able to confidently talk with veteran patients to give them the best possible holistic care that they honorably deserve.”

The next joint venture, Project INNOVATE, will be to create a model with Walter Reed to teach care for veterans. It will also include looking for ways to apply the model into a community setting to affect health care practice in Alabama.

“It’s a win-win for us,” said Crumbley. “We learn how to take care of the military, and we can take care of our community better.”
Auburn Garden Feeds the Community

Near the hustle and bustle of a university campus, eight rows of produce grow unnoticed for the sole purpose of feeding the residents of the community.

The Food Bank Garden, a short drive from the center of Auburn University’s campus, is a garden flourishing with vegetables, all to be donated to the Food Bank of East Alabama. This spring and summer is the first time in some years that the garden is back in operation, helping those in Lee County and surrounding counties.

“The Food Bank Garden was created to help out the community,” said Beth Guertal, professor of agronomy in the College of Agriculture, who started the garden in 2006. “I wanted to provide the local food bank with healthy and fresh vegetables to give to their customers.”

After a brief hiatus due to a lack of volunteers needed to operate the garden, Guertal and Zach Ogles, an Auburn Ph.D. student in Crop Soils and Environmental Science, revived the garden this spring.

“Dr. Guertal is a very generous person who really wants to do good for those less fortunate,” said Ogles. “I believe she saw this garden as an opportunity to do that.”

This summer, more than 1,000 pounds of produce have been donated, Ogles said.

Guertal says Ogles has been the main operator of the garden. He picks the overwhelming amount of produce every day or two, makes sure the garden is being watered on a regular schedule through the timed irrigation system and that it is being fertilized by the fertilizer injection system installed in the garden.

“The garden is able to operate from grants and donations Dr. Guertal has received for the garden,” Ogles said.

This summer, about 500 tomato plants were planted, and produce including cucumbers, bell peppers, green beans, squash, zucchini, okra, and cantaloupes grew in the garden.

At the end of the summer, Ogles replanted the garden with cool-weather produce such as broccoli, cauliflower, and collard greens.

After each harvest of the garden, the produce is taken directly to either the Food Bank of East Alabama or to the Community Market in Opelika, an extension of the food bank, with no middle-man involved.

The most important thing about the garden is that every piece of produce gets donated to the food bank, Ogles said.

This 14,375-square-foot garden is always in need of volunteers, whether it is picking the produce for the food bank or delivering produce directly to the food bank.

“Volunteers would also be a great help in making sure we get as much produce as we can to the food bank,” Ogles said.

To learn more about the garden and to get involved, email Guertal at guertea@auburn.edu.
ECDI Celebrates 30 Years of Training Economic Developers

How can economic and community developers be effective in their positions, and what do local developers actually do anyway? Thirty years ago, Alabama economic developers and community leaders had to learn how to successfully serve their communities the hard way: through trial and error. There was no official state training course or guidebook to teach how to improve local quality of life, attract and retain jobs, or spur local economic growth and development. Add to that the unique challenges these public servants faced because of where they were working. Alabama was plagued with an image problem; an inadequate tax structure and insufficient tax base; an underfunded, inequitable, and deeply-challenged education system (In 1984, Alabama was the only state in the union lacking a fulltime kindergarten program.); a high unemployment rate (about 5 full percentage points above the national average); a low per capita income (the second lowest in the U.S.); and emerging political divisiveness at the state level.

Faced with these challenges, members of the Industrial Development Association of Alabama, now the Economic Development Association of Alabama, proposed a statewide economic development education program focused on industrial recruitment. Wilson Lee, an Extension economist at Auburn University, designed Alabama’s first “Intensive Industrial Development Training Course,” which was first offered in 1985. By the course’s second year, Lee developed an annual two-week course format, a trend that continues today.

After Lee retired in 1998, Auburn’s Economic Development Institute (EDI) assumed responsibility for the course’s agenda. Through the institute’s influence, the course curriculum expanded its focus to include all phases of economic development, beyond just industrial recruitment. This new emphasis is reflected in the course’s current title, the “Intensive Economic Development Training Course.” When EDI merged with Extension’s Community Resource Development program in 2006, the newly established Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) accepted full responsibility for managing the course.

“This course is designed to provide individuals from throughout Alabama with the background and
tools needed to develop a successful strategy for building communities and sustaining long-term economic growth,” explains ECDI Director Joe A. Sumners.

The intensive course introduces participants to all phases of economic development, as well as progressive and cutting-edge practices in the field. Upon completion of the program, course participants gain a better understanding of the current trends in economic development. In addition, they learn how leaders and practitioners can plan for long-term community and economic development success. They also learn how communities can prepare for, market, and attract new jobs and industries, as well as the role of site selection consultants in this process. This is just a small part of the first week’s agenda. Other key topics covered during the first week include: workforce development and training, economic development ethics, business retention and expansion, economic development finance, real estate development and reuse, entrepreneurship and small business development, and managing economic development organizations. The second week focuses more on Alabama-specific topics and allows participants to meet Alabama’s top economic development leaders and decision-makers. It also includes an offsite tour of the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing facility in Montgomery.

Throughout the course, program facilitators and faculty members emphasize engagement, and students participate in both a real-life case-study exercise and a statewide economic development roundtable simulation.

Course faculty includes the top economic and community development practitioner-experts in, not only the state, but the nation. In fact, several presenters are respected for their work on an international scale.

The Intensive Economic Development Training Course now has more than 1,000 alumni, including most of the state’s top economic development professionals, who remain some of the Course’s strongest advocates.

“Auburn’s Intensive Economic Development Training Course is the starting place – whether you’re new to the economic development profession or coming to Alabama from another economic development community, or a newly elected local official who needs to understand the process and the contacts,” said Linda Swann, assistant secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce. “I think it’s the most valuable training in the basics and the contacts you gain are icing on the cake.”

Nisa Miranda, director of the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Alabama, agrees: “The Auburn intensive course is the essential economic development primer if you are involved in community and economic development in Alabama. I continually promote this ECDI course to the counties and communities where I work, because I want them to understand the various avenues to prosperity, and I want them to be prepared for opportunities.”

The first week of the 2014 intensive course was held July 14-18. The second week was conducted Sept. 8-12. The Intensive Course was held at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.
Living Democracy Students Make a Difference in Local Communities

Four students returned from their 2014 summer of Living Democracy enriched by living and working for 10 weeks in communities of Collinsville, Elba, Linden and Selma/Old Cahawba.

They returned for the fall semester with a sense of pride in what they had left behind and experiences sure to shape their future as engaged citizens.

Students who participated in the third year of Living Democracy, a College of Liberal Arts initiative, worked alongside community partners to create literacy programs, cultural celebrations and youth initiatives.

Shaye McCauley, a social work major who worked in Collinsville, created summer computer and youth literacy projects, expanding the capacity of her partners at the local library.

Jelani Moore, a School of Communication and Journalism student who partnered with local nonprofit Restoration 154 in Elba, coordinated a downtown community mural project, worked with Pea River Outdoors and helped with local efforts to develop a community garden and restore a local theatre.

Lowery McNeal worked with the Old Cahawba Archaeological Park and other local organizations in Selma.

The history major said, “This city is filled with hundreds of years of history, and I enjoyed learning about Selma and West Alabama and seeing how democracy functions here.”

In Linden, Cristiana Shipma, a public relations major, directed a downtown art walk and created a podcast about life in Alabama’s Black Belt.

In addition to community events and friendships they developed, students will also remember civic adventures from canoe trips to visits to shrimp farms. For example, Lowery McNeal landed a role as an extra in the movie “Selma” as it was being filmed in Selma and Montgomery.

While they were creating their own unique stories in diverse communities, the four 2014 Living Democracy students also captured stories about the people and places they came to know. Their stories about working alongside citizens making a difference in Collinsville, Elba, Selma and Linden are featured in the first issue of a Living Democracy magazine published this summer as well in local newspapers and the Living Democracy blog, www.cla.auburn.edu/livingdemocracy.

Living Democracy, started in 2010 by Mark Wilson, director of Civic Learning Initiatives, and Associate Professor Nan Fairley is designed to prepare undergraduate students for civic life through living-learning experiences.

Living Democracy 2014 is coordinated by the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life.

The program began as a research experiment with the Kettering Foundation of Dayton, Ohio, which focuses its research on what it takes to make democracy work as it should.

Seventeen students have participated since 2012—taking classes in civic engagement and community journalism, then living in an Alabama community alongside citizens who are working to improve their towns for everyone’s benefit.
Women’s Philanthropy Board Introduces its Men’s Auxiliary – The Phils

The Women’s Philanthropy Board in the College of Human Sciences has launched a men’s auxiliary giving men an opportunity to show their support for the women in their lives.

Known as The Phils, these men believe in the importance of PHILanthropy and financial sustainability; and support the work of the Women’s Philanthropy Board: striving to educate and enable individuals to become financially sustainable and philanthropically engaged.

The Phils are husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, and friends who are dedicated to investing in the women in their lives to become educated and enabled in financial and philanthropic matters. The men represent a variety of backgrounds and experiences in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Mike Reynolds, Auburn’s director of Student Financial Services and a founding member of The Phils, said joining the auxiliary was a logical step for him.

“It’s important for me to support the WPB because both of my daughters have had the opportunity to be mentees and attend WPB educational programs,” he said. “I have seen the impact the WPB has made on Auburn students and the community through its outreach efforts. I am thrilled that my daughters have had the opportunity to hear from influential financial and philanthropic speakers. I know that they are better prepared to transition from their lives as students to young professionals and philanthropists because of the WPB.”

In 2002, June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences, and a core group of women started the Women’s Philanthropy Board to address the important issue of educating women about personal financial sustainability and legacy building through philanthropic engagement. The board’s mission is to inspire, educate and enable women to develop their full leadership potential; achieve independence as financial decision makers and donors; serve as mentors for future generations of philanthropists; and assist in broadening the base of financial support for the college.

The WPB currently boasts more than 150 individual members and 12 corporate partners, who provide funding to support educational events, mentoring programs and philanthropic initiatives.

Henton said the establishment of The Phils is an ideal way to involve men who are leading the way in the next evolution of committed philanthropists.

“These men are stepping up in a way that is unique in the advancement of women’s financial and philanthropic issues,” she said.

Philps pledge a gift of $1,000 per year for a five year period. Men under the age of 30 pledge a gift of $500 per year for a five year period and are considered a “Phil Jr.” Gifts to the WPB are made through the Auburn University Foundation and are tax deductible.

For more information about The Phils and Women’s Philanthropy Board, including how to get involved, contact the WPB office at (334) 844-9156 or wpbchs1@auburn.edu.
Longtime Auburn Faculty Member and Outreach Administrator to Retire June 2015

William “Bill” Sauser, professor of management, chair emeritus of the University Senate, and longtime outreach official will retire from Auburn University after four decades.

Sauser joined the Auburn faculty in 1977, and served in a succession of faculty and administrative roles both on the Auburn campus and at Auburn University at Montgomery during his career. In 1988 Sauser was appointed associate vice president in the newly constituted Outreach division of the university.

During his tenure in that position, he oversaw the development of the then-new university conference center, the establishment of a satellite communications system between Outreach and Cooperative Extension, and a sweeping reorganization of units in what would come to be called University Outreach in 1993. He also contributed significantly to the recognition of outreach as a scholarly pursuit, laying the foundation for the later establishment of formal tenure and promotion guidelines for outreach in the Faculty Handbook.

Sauser next became associate dean for outreach in the Raymond J. Harbert College of Business and oversaw the college’s joint distance and professional outreach programs with the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. He led several university-wide planning initiatives as part of the Provost’s office, and was elected chair of the University Senate in 2012, completing his three-year term of service this year.

During his many years of administrative service, Sauser continued teaching courses for both the colleges of Business and Education at the graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as numerous non-credit professional programs statewide.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, he also served as pastor of a small congregation in Union Springs. Professionally, he served in a number of business and disciplinary organizations, including a term as president of the international Society for Advancement of Management, from which Sauser received two of the society’s highest awards for service. He received Auburn’s faculty external consulting award in 2013. A mentor to many students, faculty and administrators at Auburn – and friend to all – Bill Sauser leaves a tremendous body of engagement both on campus and across the state.

Sauser and his wife Lane, herself a longtime university official recently retired, will continue to reside in Auburn. Sauser holds three degrees, including a Ph.D. in industrial-organizational psychology from Georgia Tech, a degree in Ethics from Wales University in Great Britain, and numerous professional certifications.

SAVE THE DATES

2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium Call for Presentations
Presentation proposals for 2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium are due on Monday, December 8th by 11:59 p.m. You can submit a proposal using the proposal e-form links on the OSS website: www.auburn.edu/outreach/facultyengagement/symposium.htm

2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium
February 23, 24 & 25, 2015
Symposium begins the afternoon of February 23rd 2015 at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center and continues February 24th and 25th, 2015 at the Auburn University Student Center.
Outreach Employees Celebrate Milestones

University Outreach joins the following employees in celebrating major milestones this year. Thanks to each employee for years of dedicated service to Auburn University.

Sarah Reese Burney, administrative support associate in the Office of Public Service – 30 years

Ralph Foster, director of Office of Public Service – 25 years

Gail Gauntt, executive support specialist in the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach – 25 years

Laura Hill, responsible for communications for the Encyclopedia of Alabama – 10 years

Pat Kaetz, managing editor of the Encyclopedia of Alabama – 20 years

Joe Sumners, director of Economic & Community Development Institute – 20 years

Marsha Peters, office supervisor in the Office of Professional and Continuing Education – 25 years

Sheree Wilson, survey research specialist in the Center for Governmental Services – 25 years

Alabama Humanities Foundation’s Veterans Book Group Program Pilots on Campus

An innovative humanities program for veterans is being piloted on campus this fall as part of a collaboration with the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the Auburn University Veterans Resource Center and University Outreach. “Literature and the Veteran Experience,” a small group reading and discussion forum, was developed by the Maine Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Alabama Humanities Foundation is a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As part of a national expansion, AHF is piloting the program at three universities in the state, including Auburn. With AHF’s support, the Veterans Resource Center and University Outreach worked together to identify instructors, recruit participants, and launch the program for fall semester. The book group will be hosted by the Veterans Resource Center and will meet in its Foy Hall offices.

The book group program builds on a multi-year success track record of reading programs within the Veterans Administration system in several states. Through selected humanities readings, the program provides veterans a forum to build relationships; reflect upon issues of particular interest or concern; and engage with materials that draw upon veterans’ experiences across time and culture. The program is designed for 10-12 participants meeting five times over the semester. Facilitators are also veterans. Texts include novels, short fiction, poetry, letters, and personal accounts. The program is entirely free of charge, texts and meals included.

For more information, contact the Auburn University Veterans Resource Center at 844-8167.

Public Service Staff Receive Community Partner Award

Katey Nelson and Christopher Patterson received the 2014 “Making a Difference” awards from Lee County Autism Resource Advocacy for their community involvement and contributions to the organization. LCARA is a nonprofit organization “bridging the gap” with resources, workshops and support for families affected by autism spectrum disorders in Lee County, Alabama. Nelson is an IT specialist in the Office of Public Service, and Patterson recently served as an AmeriCorps VISTA program member. Visit www.leeautism.com for more information about LCARA.
ECDI Assisting Two State Development Initiatives

Joe A. Sumners, Economic and Community Development Institute director, is serving on Governor Robert Bentley’s Alabama Small Business Task Force. The task force, which includes government, business, and economic development leaders from throughout the state, is charged with providing the governor with specific recommendations for improving assistance and support for Alabama’s small businesses. Sumners and ECDI staff are also working with Governor Bentley’s newly created Alabama Workforce Council, which is charged with advising and supporting the State Board of Education, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to “prepare Alabama workers for high-wage, high-demand jobs.” Zeke Smith, vice president for external affairs at Alabama Power Company and chair of the statewide council, solicited ECDI’s help to create an “Alabama Workforce Resource Guide.” The publication includes all workforce-related entities in Alabama and outlines their roles and relationships. Matthew J. Ulmer is leading the project for ECDI. Sumners previously served as technical advisor for Governor Don Siegelman’s Task Force on Economically Distressed Counties and Governor Bob Riley’s Black Belt Action Commission and Alabama Rural Action Commission.

Auburn University Intensive Economic Development Training Course Internationally Accredited

The International Economic Development Council has accredited the first week of the Intensive Economic Development Training Course as an IEDC “Basic Economic Development Course.” The course now fulfills one of the prerequisites for those who wish to take the examination for the Certified Economic Developer, or CEcD, designation. The intensive course, directed by Auburn’s Economic & Community Development Institute, has been the primary training program for Alabama economic developers since 1985. ECDI director Joe Sumners moderates the two-week course, and ECDI education and research specialist Amelia Stehouwer serves as the course director. The intensive course has a diverse format that includes presentations, expert panels, class roundtable discussions, a simulation/case study, and site visits to an auto manufacturing plant and a municipal industrial park. Course faculty includes the top economic development experts and practitioners from Alabama and the U.S.

Nickson Appointed Director of K-12 Outreach

Stacey Nickson was named director of K-12 Outreach in the division of University Outreach. Her appointment began in August. Nickson was formerly assistant director in Auburn University’s Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

“Dr. Nickson will provide excellent leadership for our K-12 Outreach initiatives and school partnerships,” said Assistant Vice President for University Outreach Royrickers Cook. “She has a broad range of experience in K-12 as a teacher and principal, as well as at the university level as a nationally-recognized expert in educational leadership.”

In her position, Nickson is responsible for the division’s outreach programs serving area teachers and students, which include comprehensive partnerships with area schools including Loachapoka and Notasulga high schools. She also leads the development and implementation of new K-12 projects, with emphasis on increasing outreach to underserved students and schools.

Nickson, who has worked at Auburn University since 2008, earned her bachelor’s degree in public administration from Indiana University, a master’s degree in educational administration from National University in San Diego, and her doctorate in educational administration from the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on cross-cultural approaches to educational attainment. Nickson is also the newly elected president of the Alabama Fulbright Association following a statewide vote of alumni.
K-12 Outreach Joins SENCER Team

University K-12 Outreach has joined the Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities, or SENCER, team in an effort to develop projects and programs that will work collaboratively with Auburn academic units implementing the SENCER approach in school districts across various subjects. SENCER is funded by the National Science Foundation and encourages students to apply what they learn in the classroom by focusing on real-world problems and using a hands-on approach to solve issues in their communities. Auburn University’s SENCER team is an inter-disciplinary group of academic leaders committed to advancing the approach throughout the university teaching and learning culture. SENCER especially believes that students can be guided to apply what they learn in any science class or course to their individual learning objectives, regardless of the academic field.

Outreach Partners with Fulbright Association Junior Fellows Program

Through a partnership with University Outreach, the Alabama Fulbright Association has developed a Junior Fellows program for Alabama high school students, a first of its kind in the nation.

The Alabama Fulbright Association Junior Fellows program is designed to include local, underserved high school students in the activities of the Alabama Fulbright Association to increase international education awareness and cultural exchange. Throughout the school year, Junior Fellows will meet and engage with international Fulbright Scholars during structured activities and outings sponsored by the Alabama Fulbright Association in partnership with Auburn University. Activities will include field trips and local events intended to broaden the international exposure and awareness of all participants.

The cultural and academic enrichment program will afford students the opportunity to actively engage in forums, presentations and workshops designed to promote global awareness.

Auburn Becomes a Blueprints Partnership School

This fall, Auburn University will join 10 Alabama colleges and universities by becoming a Blueprints Partnership School. Blueprints is an initiative of Alabama Possible that impacts high school student retention and college success. Through a collaboration between Auburn University K-12 Outreach and the Honors College the Blueprints program will offer “near peer” mentoring between Auburn college students and local high school students in the 9th-12th grades. Auburn University’s partner high schools will include Loachapoka, Notasulga, Auburn and Opelika.

The structured program uses trained college mentors to provide 9th grade early awareness mentoring and 10-12th grade college coaching through the college and career readiness classes at our partner high schools. With guidance from their mentors, Blueprints students engage in college and career exploration, acquisition of academic and soft skills, and financial education activities to complete scholarship and financial aid applications. Alabama’s Blueprints students in the Class of 2014 gained acceptance to more than 70 colleges nationwide!

Outreach Participates in LaFayette Back to School Event

More than 700 Chambers County students attended the Back to School event held at LaFayette High School. K-12 Outreach represented Auburn University with a display while distributing college access information to students and parents. Students were entertained by local singing and dancing groups, carnival games, a dunk tank, and lunch provided by community volunteers. The event culminated with the distribution of backpacks and school supplies. K-12 Outreach’s new partnership with LaFayette High School includes students in both the U.N.I.T.E. mentoring program, in conjunction with Powell Chapel United Methodist Church, and the Alabama Fulbright Association Junior Fellows Program.

Outreach Senior IT Administrator Receives National Award

ACEware, a national educational software company which focuses on continuing education systems, recently recognized University Outreach’s Karen Rankin as one of four ACEware Champion Educators.” The award recognizes IT professionals who stand out for their innovative and extensive use of management software to support their programs. Rankin, who was among the first recipients of the ACE award, was recognized at the company’s annual users’ conference. “Karen’s efforts serve as an inspiration to our network of users,” said Sharon Brookshire, vice president for operations at ACEware Systems. A longtime outreach staff member, Rankin is senior IT administrator for the division, and oversees IT support for the outreach units as well as the central continuing education database housed in the Office of Public Service.

MEMORIAL - James P. “Pat” Kaetz

University Outreach is very sad to report that our colleague and long-time editor of the Encyclopedia of Alabama Pat Kaetz passed away Saturday, November 8, 2014, after a lengthy illness. A memorial service was held for Pat at the Auburn University Chapel on Wednesday, November 12th. Born in Birmingham, Pat attended Hueytown High School and received his bachelor’s degree in English at Auburn University. After finishing his PhD in English at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Pat returned to Auburn to teach. He later spent four years as lead editor and document production manager at the Montgomery office of CH2M Hill, a major international engineering firm. The opportunity presented itself for him to return to Auburn as editor of the Phi Kappa Phi Forum, the quarterly magazine of the interdisciplinary honor society, Phi Kappa Phi. After 15 years as Forum editor, Pat joined the staff of the Encyclopedia of Alabama in the summer of 2008. Pat considered the Encyclopedia the most worthwhile project with which he had ever been involved. Please keep Pat’s wife Julie, his family, and EOA colleagues in your hearts during this sad time.
Snow Receives 2014 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award

Shown below is Dr. Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach presenting Liberal Arts student Mary Beth Snow with the 2014 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award. Mary Beth was recognized for her work through the CLA Living Democracy program developing a bilingual reading program for Hispanic immigrants in Collinsville, AL. The Newman Civic Fellows Award honors inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

ATAC Assists Medical Center

Auburn Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) is assisting the Riverview Regional Medical Assistance Center in Gadsden, Ala. in the facility’s institution of Lean Continuous Improvement for Healthcare. This image was on the front page of the hospital’s newsletter. For more about ATAC’s Lean Healthcare training, visit www.auburnworks.org.

Auburn University School of Nursing Offers an Alternative Community/Public Health Clinical Experience in Malawi

This amazing program presents Auburn University students with the opportunity to visit and share experiences with children in an orphanage as well as Blessings Hospital while earning academic credit that is directly incorporated into the Professional Nursing Program.

Auburn University students team up with Kamuzu College of Nursing students as well as the 100x Foundation throughout the program in order to bring their Nursing skills learned in class to the people of Malawi.
Career Development Training Offered through Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts

The Office of Professional and Continuing Education is enhancing Auburn University’s core mission value of serving the citizens of Alabama and beyond by offering a variety of online career development programs to military spouses. The non-credit workforce and professional development programs provide participants with the skills needed to successfully find jobs in fast-paced, high-demand job areas.

Through the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program, military spouses complete online programs in a career path of their choosing. Upon completion, participants either receive a certificate of completion from Auburn University or perhaps an industry recognized certification in their respective field. The programs are offered online and the chosen career path must be portable in nature. To enroll in a program, the interested participant must be a spouse of an active duty or reserve service member.

Many of the programs lead to careers in high-demand job areas, such as court reporting, dental assisting, medical billing and coding, and phlebotomy. As demonstrated in the graph below, these areas are projected to experience above average growth over the next several years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Area</th>
<th>10 Year Projected Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2012 – 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Reporting</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlebotomy Tech</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Billing &amp; Coding</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assisting</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OPCE has experienced rapid growth in the MyCAA program areas since beginning to offer them in 2013. For the period between October 2013 and September 2014, there have been more than 1,200 enrollments in 11 broad program areas including academic and science, accounting and economics, business, coaching and counseling, information technology, education, sustainability, health and fitness, hospitality and travel, law and criminal justice, and health care. Because the programs are offered online and available to service member spouses stationed anywhere, participants have come from all corners of the globe.

OPCE is proud to provide this important educational opportunity to military spouses. The programs offered through MyCAA not only enhance the ability of participants to provide for their families, but also provide important workforce development skills needed to sustain a vibrant and growing national economy.

For more information on the programs, visit http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/opce/mycaa/ or contact Hope Stockton, director of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education at hope.stockton@auburn.edu.
Education’s Sydney Field Leadership Experience Program Returns to Australia

Building on the success of previous years, the College of Education’s Leadership Field Experience returned to Sydney, Australia in May. The 2014 cohort was the largest in the history of the program. This year the experience included graduate students from three different graduate programs in the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology -- Educational Leadership, Higher Education, and Adult Education.

In 2008, the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology (EFLT) in the College of Education began development of an international component to one of its largest graduate programs – educational leadership. That year Sheri Downer, EFLT department head sent Dr. James S. Kaminsky to Sydney to investigate the possibility of an international experience in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Education and one of the city’s major universities.

Drawing upon the early decades of his academic experience in Australia at the University of New England, Kaminsky quickly established a promising relationship with the faculty of the educational leadership program at Macquarie University. Education Abroad Network was also enlisted to provide logistical support for the experience. After years of development, the Sydney educational leadership field experience became a reality in 2011.

In late May and the first two weeks of June 2011, Auburn education graduate students were introduced to the Regional Administrators of the Sydney Region of the New South Wales Department of Education.

The Stewart House - allows students who are marginalized in some way to come to Bondi Beach for two weeks of fun and study. The entire program is funded by donations from teachers and administrators of New South Wales. (Pictured on the rock at the top from L to R) Rebecca Johnston, Wiebke Kuhn, Heather Bennett, Keith Barkedale, and Shannon McCurdy. (On the bottom L to R) Jim Kaminsky, Sheri Downer, Brittney Herring, Bonnie Sullivan, Emily Grace, Ellen Reames, and Heidi Tucker.
students were then embedded in the New South Wales schools for two weeks, an experience participants described as life altering.

In 2012, an Auburn delegation, including EFLT head Sheri Downer, Professor Kaminsky, University Outreach assistant vice president Royrickers Cook and others met with Macquarie University executive dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Professor Janet Greecley to formalize the Sydney field experience. A memorandum of understanding was established between Auburn and Macquarie University soon thereafter.

In 2013 the Sydney Field Experience was expanded to include Dr. Larry DiCharia, then Phenix City School System superintendent of schools. DiCharia observed New South Wales’ Technical and Further Education Division (TAFE), one of the world’s most extensive career and technical education systems. The success of his visit lead the field-experience team to open the experience to other senior school administrators. This year Dr. Philip Cleveland, director of Career and Technical Education for the State of Alabama, joined the experience to study the sophisticated TAFE system. Cleveland met with Stephen Conway, chair of TAFE Directors, Australia, Peter Holden, director of International Engagement & Business Development, and Jessica Davis, manager International, and spent a week on various TAFE campuses discussing best practices with Australian technical and further educators.

The success of the field experience, the visitation area has been expanded. In 2014 at the invitation of Judy Travers, Director of the Tasmanian Department of Education, the Sydney Field Experience extended the scope of the field experience to include schools in and around Hobart, Tasmania. With this addition the Sydney Field Experience is now the Australian Field Experience.

In addition to working with their Australian professional counterparts in the schools, colleges, and universities, students in the field experiences had the opportunity to enjoy the beaches, museums, restaurants, and art galleries of one of the southern hemispheres most vibrant and exciting cities. They also experienced the “bush” walking the Three Sisters, a mountain national forest escarpment behind Sydney, tour the wine country of the Hunter Valley, learn to Surf on Bondi Beach one of the world’s most famous beaches, and last -- but not least -- touch the awesome power of the Antarctic’s Southern Ocean on the waters off Tasmania.
Learn more about Auburn University Outreach and read additional issues of Beyond Auburn Magazine.