

• AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP MAGAZINE •

# beyond AUBURN

SUMMER 2012



# Reaching Out Globally



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY OUTREACH



## ON THE COVER

As part of the joint Africa Initiative, Dr. Overtoun Jenda (back left) and Dr. Royrickers Cook visited a school in Uganda.

-----  
**Beyond Auburn** is published by Auburn University twice per year as a joint project of the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

### **Royrickers Cook, PhD**

Assistant Vice President for University Outreach

-----  
**Publication team:**

Janie Echols-Brown, graphic design  
Ralph S. Foster, Director of Office of Public Service  
Christopher Green, editor  
Kevin Loden, editor  
Joyce Thomas-Vinson, writer, editor

### **Contributors and sources:**

Mary Burkhart, OLLI at Auburn  
Jamie Creamer, College of Agriculture  
John Freeze, Office of Professional & Continuing Education  
Laura Hill, Encyclopedia of Alabama  
Tara Lanier, Veterinary Medicine  
Kate Matthews, The Loveliest Village  
Arturo Menefee, Economic & Community Development Institute  
Carol Nelson, Office of Communications and Marketing  
Christiana Russell, College Prep  
Elizabeth Savoy, Jay Lamar, College of Liberal Arts  
Morgan Staschick, College of Engineering  
Hope Stockton, Office of Professional & Continuing Education  
Suhyun Suh, Department of Special Ed, Rehab & Counseling  
Joe Sumners, Economic & Community Development Institute  
Don-Terry Veal, Maria Tamblin, Center for Governmental Services  
Amy Weaver, Office of Communications & Marketing  
Carol Whatley, Margaret Lawrence, ACES  
Mark Wilson, College of Liberal Arts

### **Additional photography:**

AU Photographic Services  
Aisha Burton  
Royrickers Cook  
Kevin Fichtner  
Taylor Gunter  
Elizabeth Haeussler  
Melissa Humble  
Karen Rankin  
Mark Wilson  
istockphoto.com

-----  
**Submit news items and story ideas to Joyce Thomas Vinson, Office of Public Service, (334) 844-5117, thomaj5@auburn.edu. For more information regarding Outreach, contact Ralph S. Foster, Office of Public Service, (334) 844-4730, fosters@auburn.edu or visit [www.auburn.edu/outreach](http://www.auburn.edu/outreach) .**

**Auburn University  
Office of the Vice President for University Outreach  
213 Samford Hall  
Auburn, Alabama 36849  
(334) 844-5700**

All rights reserved by Auburn University © 2012. Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.



*Carnegie Foundation Classification for*  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships

# President's message

For any institution to be at the top of its field, it's not only important to know where it is, but also where it is going.

At Auburn, we focus our efforts and resources on where the needs, hopes, and desires of our students and state are going in the future. By doing so, Auburn University continues its efforts to maintain unwavering commitments to deliver high-quality education and drive economic opportunity. To that end, we see three distinct priorities toward fulfilling that pledge.

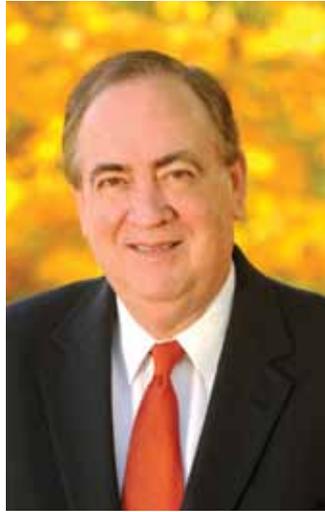
First, in dealing with a dynamic, constantly changing job market, faculty and administrators at Auburn are working to ensure that our curriculum equips students with the skills to succeed upon graduation.

Some 3 million U.S. jobs remain unfilled, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, despite an unemployment rate that remains at more than 8 percent. The answer for what appears as a disconnect might be found in a recent Fortune article, which claims the skills many job hunters have don't match the ones employers need most.

Integrating the latest technologies in instruction, exposing students to forward-looking research, constantly evolving degree programs, providing digital courses, and offering executive programs are just a part our plan to prepare our graduates to stay on top of emerging workforce trends.

Second, continuing on a path of practicing sound fiscal management is crucial. State support decreased sharply starting in 2008, and while funding has somewhat stabilized, Auburn's annual support is still about \$100 million less compared to four years ago.

I commend our faculty and staff, who make every effort to keep the reduction in revenue from affecting the quality of education in the classroom. We work closely with Speaker Mike Hubbard, State Senator Tom Whatley, Governor Robert Bentley, and other state officials on funding and opportunities where together we can attract investment and jobs to the area. The GE Aviation plant coming to our community is an excellent example of this partnership.



And, finally, Auburn must constantly match its intellectual capacity with the needs of Alabama business, industry, and communities. We look to grow the impact of extension and outreach in local economies. Likewise, the Auburn Research Park, established in partnership with the state and City of Auburn, must continue attracting investment and economic activity.

In studying the nexus between academic research and commercial product development, analysts at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York found, not surprisingly, that these connections create jobs for skilled workers and a

demand for our graduates.

Keeping our eyes ever on the horizon, Auburn is guided by its commitment to quality education and the state's economic security.

War Eagle!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Gogue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and the last name "Gogue" clearly distinguishable.

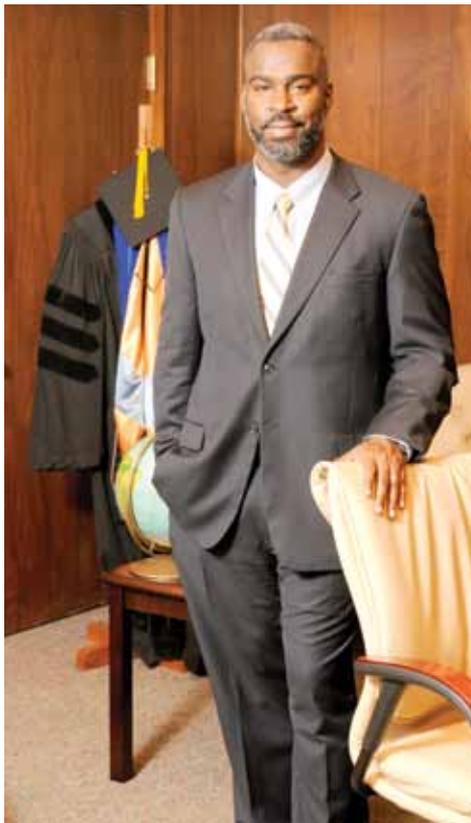
JAY GOGUE  
PRESIDENT  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

## Expanding Outreach Scholarship

Over the last several years, University Outreach has made great strides in expanding engagement opportunities across campus. The successful K-12 Partnership has grown to include several academic departments collaborating to offer college prep services in two county school systems. Our Office of Professional and Continuing Education has assisted several colleges with developing major new conferences. The Center for Governmental Services spearheaded a major multi-million dollar federal grant, engaging a number of Auburn departments and outside partners in extending broadband communications to schools and libraries across the state.

Of course, at the heart of these great projects is a dedicated university faculty. By extending their expertise through outreach, faculty help improve the quality of life across our state and well beyond. At the same time, faculty have a wonderful opportunity to document the impact of their work, and share their observations with the greater academic community. Informative and insightful scholarship benefits our institution and the academy as much as the initial outreach directly benefits the community.

To further advance our mission of engagement, University Outreach is leading three efforts focused on assessment of outreach, development of new outreach, and how to produce outreach scholarship. First, we've established a committee which is studying how outreach is performed and assessed across campus. This group's efforts will initially contribute to the outreach responses in the university's SACS reaffirmation study. Long term, the committee will examine best practices for thoroughly assessing outreach institutionally. Secondly, we've reinstated our competitive faculty outreach grants



program. These grants support development of new engagement initiatives, thus helping to expand the base of outreach work at Auburn. Finally, we renewed the annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium and added a pre-symposium Grant Success Workshop. The symposium affords Auburn University faculty, staff, graduate students, and community partners the opportunity to gain outreach-related awareness and to learn and network with each other as well as some of America's finest engaged scholars.

This year marks the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Act, the 1862 legislation which established the system of land-grant universities "to promote the liberal and practical education" across the country. That mission of extending access to practical education is what gave the land-grants their distinctive outreach character. We

were designed for engagement. It is a role that suits our institution very well – the Auburn family has a strong heart to serve as evidenced by the broad range of outreach programming offered by the university.

But together, we can do more – and we can do it better. I invite you to participate in these great new faculty programs, and join us in making a difference.

War Eagle,

**ROYRICKERS COOK**  
**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT**  
**FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH**  
**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**



# beyond AUBURN

SUMMER 2012

## FEATURES

### **Reaching Out Globally ..... 06**

Auburn's Outreach Mission Generates International Opportunities



### **Focus on K-12**

NHS Students Participate in Program to Prepare for Work ..... **11**

Wilcox County Students Attend Two-Day Educational Program ..... **32**

### **Focus on Seniors**

OLLI at Auburn Reaches Out to the Community .... **12**

### **Partnerships**

House United Partnership Brings Rival Schools Together to Benefit Alabama Communities ..... **18**

### **Student Engagement**

Campus Kitchens Project Gives Back to Local Community ..... **20**

### **Extension**

\$881,829 Grant to Fund Organic Farming Research, Outreach ..... **22**

### **Distance Learning**

Doing Distance a Better Way - Taking the Different Out of Distance ..... **28**

## CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY

### **ENGAGED LEARNING**

College of Veterinary Medicine Offers Minor in Public Health ..... **14**

### **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH**

CGS Director Recognized for International Scholarship, Elected President of Regional Consortium ..... **15**

### **TRAINING**

Auburn Tax Professional Training Program Continues to Set Records..... **16**

### **ADDRESSING ISSUES**

Program Developed by Pharmacy Students Receives Grant from Target ..... **17**

CHS Receives \$7.5 Million Grant to Continue Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Initiative ..... **24**

Extension Publication Aimed at Putting Down Roots - Tree Roots ..... **38**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

New Community Writing Center Launching First Program ..... **26**

### **FACULTY ENGAGEMENT**

Outreach Hosts Symposium, Awards Grants ..... **27**

### **INNOVATIVE OUTREACH**

Nutrition at Your Fingertips: Engineers Develop iPad Applications to Teach Elementary Students Healthy Eating Habits ..... **30**

### **HEALTH OUTREACH**

Nursing Students Learn to Provide Medical Care to the Masses at Jordan-Hare ..... **31**

## IN EVERY ISSUE

### **AUBURN UNIVERSITY OUTREACH**

Message from the Office of the Vice President ..... **04**

### **FOCUS ON SENIORS**

OLLI at Auburn Reaches Out to the Community ..... **13**

### **OUT AND ABOUT**

Outreach News ..... **34**

### **BEYOND AUBURN**

Encyclopedia of Alabama Awarded National Humanities Grant ..... **25**



# *Reaching Out Globally*

Outreach directors brief university delegation from Ghana on Auburn's engagement organization.

# Reaching Out Globally

## *Auburn's Outreach Mission Generates International Opportunities*

Today, people are linked globally as never before – technologically, socially, politically, and economically. These linkages are creating a world of strategic opportunities for Auburn's outreach mission.

Auburn University has long enjoyed a global reputation in agriculture, engineering, and many other instructional and research fields. Since the current university strategic plan was adopted, international

programming has increased significantly across the campus. University Outreach is no exception. "Linking people and communities with the resources of the university is what outreach does best," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. "In today's global society, that means there are significant opportunities internationally for the outreach mission as well as here at home."



University Outreach Assistant Vice President Royrickers Cook explores a productive agricultural operation (pineapple) in Uganda.

Traditionally, outreach work has been focused on communities beyond campus. But today, “community” is defined much more broadly than ever before. “Alabama will always be our primary service focus,” said Cook, “however, Alabama is no longer isolated by its own borders. Our state increasingly is affected by global influences such as immigration and world commerce – the international automotive presence in this state is a great example.”

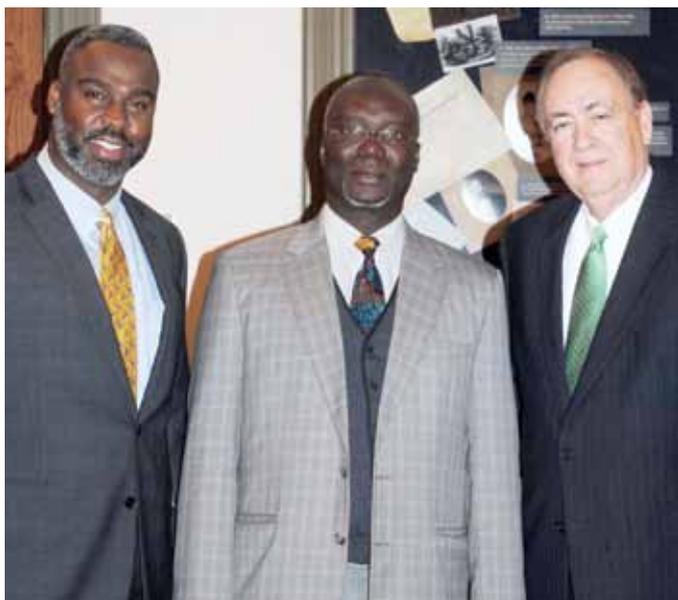
For Cook, the goal is international engagement. “We’re not just doing missionary work; Outreach and its partners are building true relationships abroad,” said Cook. Indeed Outreach’s international strategy follows the same approach as its successful local initiatives – the university and community coming together for common purpose. “Regardless of locale, you have to forge that bond before you can establish an effective base of programming.”

Over the years, University Outreach has supported a number of international initiatives among Auburn’s schools and colleges, including faculty and student

studies, professional training programs, and educational exchanges in Africa, Asia, South America, and Australia. Increasingly Outreach and its units are partnering with university colleagues directly in the program development process. Working with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and faculty in a variety of academic departments, University Outreach has opened dialog with universities in Egypt, Uganda, Malawi, and Ghana. “Our Africa initiative offers great potential for partnership, but it is not the sole focus of our efforts,” added Cook. Outreach’s Center for Governmental Services has long-standing program ties with institutions in several countries. University Outreach is also a sponsor in Global Studies in Education and Counseling South Korea Student Exchange Program, which is led by the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling in the College of Education and educational leadership in Sydney, Australia led by faculty from Educational Foundations Leadership and Technology (EFLT).



Volunteers and families at a Ugandan village prepare to distribute nutritious “Vita Meals” as part of a cooperative agreement with the local Chief and a partnership with University Outreach, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs and the 100X Development Corporation.



University of Development Studies in Ghana delegation led by Vice Chancellor Haruna Yakuba (center) visits Dr. Cook and President Jay Gogue.



Royrickers Cook, center back, with youth from Malawi.

The key is to manage those opportunities so the university and the community will benefit equally from the engagement. For example, while providing training to underserved peoples or pushing innovative research applications into developing regions, the university can benefit from increased opportunities for faculty scholarship, student engagement, grants, international corporate contracts, and more. “Across the developing world, there is so much need for Auburn’s expertise in health services, vet medicine, aquaculture and agriculture, teaching, and other areas; but we have to effectively prioritize where to focus our efforts,” said Cook.

That’s where collaboration with global partners will come into play. For example, the University of

Development Studies in Ghana has many parallel interests with Auburn University. The 20-year-old institution in the rural north of this western African nation is outreach oriented, focusing on community planning, economic development, and agricultural industry. In February, a delegation of UDS officials visited Auburn to meet with their counterparts in Outreach. “Our region of Ghana is very similar to rural Alabama, and our educational mission is very alike Auburn’s,” said Professor Gordana Kranjac-Berisavlejcic, director of UDS’s International Programs. “We, too, extend our faculty and students to work directly with communities and agencies to develop our region and improve the quality of life for the people.” For Kranjac-

Berisavlejcic, it was easy to envision a reciprocal relationship with Auburn. “We can learn from Auburn how to better work with local governmental authorities and agencies; we have established outreach programs in our region to which Auburn can send its students.”

The greatest benefit of international outreach may actually be a better understanding of ourselves here at home. Cynthia Ellis is an educator and community advocate in Belize with extensive experience developing institutional partnerships across the northern hemisphere. At a January lecture sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts’ Community



Center, Dr. Esserrhini Farissi, president of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, hosted University Outreach’s Royrickers Cook and Don-Terry Veal for an economic impact conference.

5. By graining  
 6. By sun drying

Examples of food preserved by drying and grinding include

- maize
- cassava
- millet
- soya
- G. nuts

What is grinding?  
 Is the changing of seeds to a powder form

Examples of food preserved by refrigerator include

- fruits - Carrots
- meat
- milk etc

Examples of food preserved by  
cooked food



A classroom at a Uganda school.

and Civic Engagement Initiative and the AU Special Lectures, Ellis noted it is most important that faculty and students understand the impact that America has on other countries. "American life, politics, the economy, foreign policy – even what you consider domestic affairs – all have a pervasive influence on government, business, and culture in my country and across the globe," said Ellis. "If you can understand that impact, perhaps you will be more active in public affairs at home and in shaping policies that will benefit Americans as well as their partners in other countries."

Cook says that the progress in Auburn's varied international efforts is encouraging. "We're moving steadily in developing initiatives with our international partners," reflected Cook. "The work we do today is contributing to what I think will become in the future a great global outreach center of programming at Auburn University."



A family who lives near the source of the great Nile River.

# NHS Students Participate in Program to Prepare for Work

Fifteen 11th-grade students at Notasulga High School participated in Smart Work Ethics, a certificate program for workplace readiness. The experimental curriculum was designed to help students understand workplace ethics, the soft skills necessary for successful employment. The course, taught over 14 sessions, was based on topics developed from business and industry feedback, including time management, responsibility, positive attitude, and working in groups.

The course, taught by Dr. Christiana Russell of Auburn University's Outreach Division, was funded in part through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission as part of the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts and Macon County Youth: Entrepreneurs and Problem Solvers program.

The hands-on curriculum allowed students to earn play money throughout the process that was redeemed for gift certificates distributed at the end of the program. Role-playing was used to help important concepts such as etiquette, sexual harassment, and responsibility to come alive to students.

"We learned the importance of getting to work on time and how our attitude affects our work," said student Willie Huffman. "I used to be shy, but this program helped me talk with others without being afraid. I



learned that I should always have a positive attitude and not let people with bad attitudes get to me.”

“This program helps students develop good habits now that will carry them through the workforce,” said Ms. Abney, who teaches family and consumer science at Notasulga High.

Program organizers celebrated the completion of the program in December.



Dr. Christiana Russell was recognized at the Spring honor roll luncheon at Loachapoka Schools.



# College of Veterinary Medicine Offers Minor in Public Health

“To the best of our knowledge, this is the only undergraduate public health program in the U.S. spearheaded by a college of veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Frank Bartol, associate dean for research. In fall 2010, 14 students enrolled in Introduction to Public Health when Auburn University and the College of Veterinary Medicine launched the undergraduate minor. The first cycle of required courses was completed at the end of the 2011 summer term.

The minor is envisioned as an interdisciplinary program that benefits the career prospects for students in pre-health, as well as for students in nutrition, kinesiology, sociology, health administration, engineering, and conceivably, almost any discipline. The lectures are presented by faculty from 12 departments on campus. The Intro to Public Health course is given by 15 lecturers from eight colleges, a public health lawyer, and a county emergency management trainer.

Emily Brennan, a senior majoring in animal sciences from Jacksonville, Fla., is pursuing the public health minor which she says has dramatically changed her perspective and broadened her view of science and medicine. “I’ve realized that health is so much more than just seeing your doctor when you feel sick. Public health is concerned with preventing health risks and curing disease at the population level, and this encompasses a wide variety of factors, from nutrition to environmental health policies by the federal government. The curriculum is quite broad and though it’s probably most helpful for those going into health professions, I believe students in any discipline would enjoy the discussion. I learned a lot from an understanding of the issues presented in these classes,” said Brennan.

A service learning practicum is also part of the undergraduate minor. Students participate in a semester-long experience in development or administration of a public health program on campus, in the community, or beyond.

For her service learning project, Brennan worked at the Lee County Humane Society where she was able to volunteer while taking classes. Brennan and her

roommate fostered a kitten named Minnie, helping the feline gain weight so it could be spayed and then adopted through the humane society.

“I was already leaning toward graduate school, but the public health minor was a factor in my decision to definitely pursue it.” Brennan is editor of the Auburn University Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship. Since 2009, she has conducted undergraduate research in the lab of Dr. Geoffrey Hill, a professor and curator of birds, and worked with Dr. Bartol through the Auburn Undergraduates Committed to Veterinary Medical Bioscience Research and Training program.

To learn more about the public health minor, visit the College of Veterinary Medicine website at [vetmed.auburn.edu](http://vetmed.auburn.edu).



# CGS Director Recognized for International Scholarship, Elected President of Regional Consortium

Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services, recently was recognized by two organizations for his international scholarship, and was elected president of a third. He has been named a Global Fellow of the IC<sup>2</sup> Institute, an interdisciplinary research unit at the University of Texas at Austin, and a Foreign Honorary Fellow with the Korea Research Institute for Local Administration, and was elected president of the Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations.

Veal's selection as an IC<sup>2</sup> Institute Global Fellow was based collectively on his scholarly works in international forums in Asia and Africa. Veal delivered the keynote address on "Transparency in Government and Community Development" in the city of Gangwon-do, South Korea, for the International Local Government Symposium. He also presided over an international conference held in Cape Town South Africa focusing on empowerment through entrepreneurship, served as editor in chief for the Entrepreneurship Policy Journal, and edited a book titled Entrepreneurship in South Africa and the United States. Dr. Veal is one of about 160 active fellows from 18 nations including emerging scholars and experts in areas such as econometrics, marketing, business strategy, regional economic development, technology transfer, chaos theory, innovative management, alliance building, and entrepreneurship.

KRILA is one of Korea's leading academic think tanks specializing in policy-oriented research on local autonomy, local finance, and visioning for management of local governments. The Honorary Fellows program



supports the organization's international exchange and academic collaboration connecting South Korea with global leaders in the field of local government. The appointment recognizes Veal's work with governmental organizations and leaders in South Korea, as well as his scholarly presentations in the Asian nation.

During the spring meeting of the Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Veal was elected president. Organized in 1979, SCUPSO supports university-based public service institutes in their efforts to assist state and local governments on a range of contemporary issues of importance. SCUPSO facilitates networking, information exchange, and collaboration among its 40 member institutions. The organization has partnered with the Southern Growth Policies Board in order to improve the quality of policy-making and government management in the region.



# Auburn Tax Professional Training Program Continues to Set Records

In fall 2011, Auburn University’s Office of Professional and Continuing Education offered its annual series of two-day seminars for tax professionals in 14 cities across Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida. These programs, which have been a part of Auburn’s non-credit programming for more than thirty years, provide participants with training on legislative updates, topics of special interest, and ethics. The office utilizes an instructional team of nationally recognized speakers, expert tax professionals, and state and federal tax specialists to provide the training at each site.

The program attracted 2,148 participants, breaking the previous record of 1,904 set in 2010—a 12% increase. The participants include certified public accountants, public accountants, enrolled agents, and attorneys.

These programs are targeted to meet the continuing education needs of certified public accountants, public accountants, enrolled agents, and attorneys. Over the last several years, as tax laws have changed dramatically, both at the state and federal level, these programs have become an important way for tax preparers to not only meet their yearly continuing education requirements, but also to receive important updates on new tax legislation.

In response to continual changes in tax legislation and national continuing education reporting requirements (mandated by the IRS) set to take effect in 2012, OPCE is planning to continue expanding its offerings in Arkansas and Florida, by adding new cities in each of these states. There will also be continued efforts to grow attendance at existing programs in Alabama—all of which have room for growth. “It’s a very exciting time to be involved in the delivery of tax education,” said OPCE Associate Director John Freeze. “With the very talented staff and instructional team we have in place, Auburn University is positioned to establish itself as a regional leader in continuing professional education for tax preparers.”

The growth in popularity of the two-day seminars has led to the development of related programs for tax professionals, as well. These include Introduction to Income Tax Preparation, Accounting and Auditing, Quickbooks, Clergy Tax and Church Accounting, and a Stay-Exempt program for non-profit organizations.



For more information on the Office of Professional and Continuing Education’s non-credit tax education programs, please visit, [www.auburn.edu/taxinstitute](http://www.auburn.edu/taxinstitute) or e-mail Claire Twardy, program coordinator, at [claire.twardy@auburn.edu](mailto:claire.twardy@auburn.edu).

# Program Developed by Pharmacy Students Receives Grant from Target

Target has awarded a grant to the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy to support a program developed by Mobile pharmacy students to help the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy meet the needs of the uninsured residents of Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia counties.

Allison Chung, associate clinical professor at the Harrison School of Pharmacy's Mobile campus, said student pharmacists discovered a need for medication therapy management, or MTM, services after running a health screening fair at the non-profit pharmacy in December 2010.

Chung said student pharmacists screened 53 patients in four hours and identified two cases of hyperglycemia and two cases of hypertensive urgencies as a result of inappropriate management of medication therapies. A severe case of pancreatitis was also identified as a result of a duplicated therapy, she added.

"At that point, the ideas for this student-engaged community service project began to surface, and plans were under way to create our MTM service," said Chung.

Mobile student pharmacists earned a \$6,000 grant from Target for developing a medication therapy management program called "Stepping Up and Reaching Out: MTM Services."

Chung said the project is designed to show the impact student pharmacists are having stepping up in pharmaceutical care to educate patients about medication safety and reaching out to uninsured communities to provide optimal care for underserved patients.

"What the students developed on their own and are trying to sustain on their own is a service that didn't



exist at Ozanam, but is needed for the patient population," she said. "As one of a handful of non-profit pharmacy organizations across the nation servicing uninsured patients at no charge, the resources and workload capabilities at Ozanam are limited."

In the past few years, Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy has partnered with Ozanam to perform community outreach programs designed to provide health-related resources, including MTM services that would not otherwise be available.

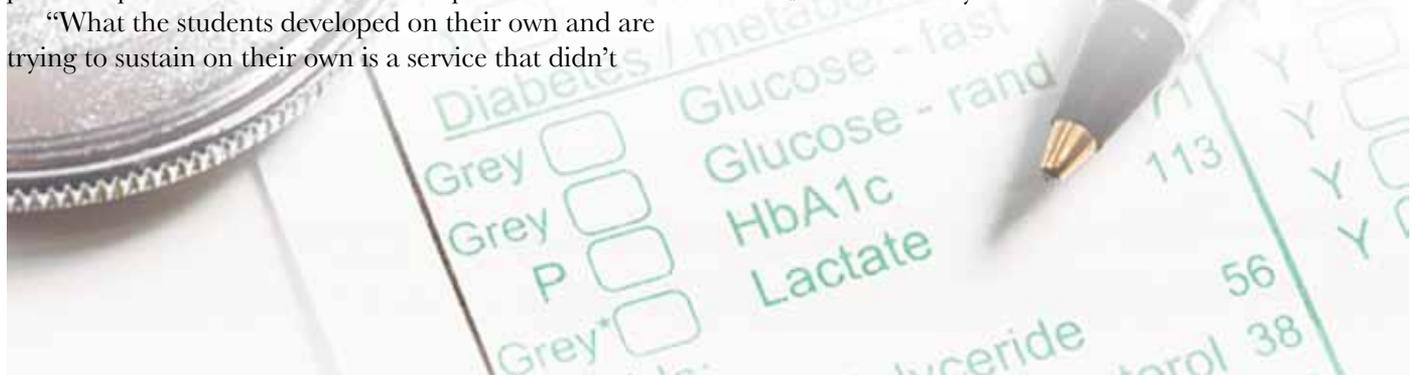
Chung said the Target grant will be used to purchase diabetic testing supplies and monitoring equipment, as well as an MTM database system. Funds could also be used to offer cholesterol monitoring.

Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy operates solely on grant funding, getting medications donated by physicians or purchased from suppliers to serve an uninsured population that are often homeless and/or unemployed, she added.

The Mobile pharmacy is a rotation site for fourth-year student pharmacists during the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience. However, Chung said "Stepping Up and Reaching Out" is not part of the rotation.

"The students developed it and are trying to run it on their own, as volunteers," she said.

The Target grant is part of the company's ongoing efforts to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since 1946, Target has given 5 percent of its income to communities. That giving now equals more than \$3 million every week.



# House United Partnership Brings Rival Schools Together to Benefit Alabama Communities

Auburn University and University of Alabama students spent their spring break working together as part of the second House United project, assisting with the building of two Habitat for Humanity homes.

Students were in Baldwin County, Ala., March 11 - 17 to take part in the project. Together, the schools started the program with Habitat for Humanity in 2011 to assist citizens of the state. Going beyond the football rivalry, students from the two institutions are collaborating to build homes for Alabama residents.

Ralph Foster, director of public service in Auburn University Outreach, met with Ron Anders from the state Habitat for Humanity office, which is headquartered in Auburn, a couple of years ago to discuss how the university and Habitat could work together in new ways; Auburn students already participate in Habitat projects all over the country, but the two wanted to build on that relationship. Foster's office reached out to colleagues at the University of Alabama Community Service Center to see how they could work together, which is how House United was formed.

"You know how there are those famous posters that you see at game time about 'House Divided,' where one spouse is a Tide fan and the other spouse is an Auburn fan? We came up with the idea of 'House United,' where everybody can work together," Foster explained.

"I feel that both universities have a responsibility to help improve the quality of life for Alabama citizens,"

said Joyce Thomas-Vinson, one of the project coordinators and program administrator of student engagement and service learning in the Auburn

University Office of Public Service. "Additionally, we have a responsibility to educate our students even beyond the classroom. This project allows us to move toward both of those goals. The fact that it is a joint build between these two traditional rivals is also important in that it allows us to work together on a very meaningful project."



The first House United build was scheduled to take place in Baldwin County last year. After the devastating tornadoes in Tuscaloosa in April, the decision was made by both schools to move the build to Tuscaloosa. In July,



students from both institutions came together to work on houses for two families in the Holt community in Tuscaloosa County. The project was a great success, with more than 40 Auburn men and women, including faculty, staff, students, family members, and alumni, volunteering their time to help the cause.

This year, a group of 39 made the trip to Baldwin County for the House United build. Students from Auburn's Alternative Spring Break group also collaborated with the Office of Public Service for the project.

"It's a great experience for students to have a chance to work together as we're two institutions who are rivals most of the year, but it's great to have a chance to come together to learn about each other," Foster said. "More importantly, it's about learning about our community, what the needs of our community are, and what people need in terms of safe, dependable housing. Habitat stands for meeting those needs, and it's a great way for Auburn to work with a great community partner."

Students from both schools said they chose to join the project because they think it is important to work together to help others.

"We're not really 'Auburn fans' or 'Alabama fans' right now," said Auburn University sophomore Molly McGowan. "Although we have a rivalry, I think it's important for us to be able to show that we can always come together as one to work together as a team to help give back. We get to do something for people that not everyone else gets to do – not everyone can say that they have been able to build houses for two families. That's just so rewarding."

"Sometimes it's all about competition and football, but it's important for us to come together to work to make people's lives better," said University of Alabama junior Olivia Johnson. "It's not just the two schools, but the whole state of Alabama is like that. After the tornadoes, everybody came together, and it didn't matter where you were from, what city, what school you go for. Auburn came through for Tuscaloosa, so I think it's important for us to get together and try to do something for other people who've been through similar things."



Foster said that the experience is meaningful to him both as an Alabamian and career outreach worker.

"Personally, as a lifelong resident of Alabama, I'm concerned about the needs of our community. That's what university outreach is all about," Foster said. "It's the university extending its resources to the community to better the quality of life for all citizens in our state."

# Campus Kitchens Project Gives Back to Local Community

Every year Americans waste 29 million tons of food. A group of Auburn students is working to eliminate this waste by putting the food in the hands of people who need it. The Campus Kitchens Project gets food that has been prepared in campus dining facilities but is not served; the group resources and repackages, and delivers it to underserved people in the community.

Campus Kitchens is a national project of D.C. Central Kitchens. The mission of the program is to use service as a tool to: strengthen bodies by using existing resources to meet hunger and nutritional needs in our community; empower minds by providing leadership and service learning opportunities to students, and educational benefits to adults, seniors, children, and families in need; and build communities by fostering a new generation of community-minded adults through resourceful and

mutually beneficial partnerships among students, social service agencies, businesses, and schools.

Campus Kitchens got its start at Auburn in a Hunger Capstone Course, taught by visiting professor Douglas Coutts as part of the hunger studies minor. Students in the course selected the project to study during class and to consider the feasibility of establishing a Campus Kitchen at Auburn. After completing the course, the students applied for and received a charter and grant from the national office in Washington D.C. to establish Auburn's Campus Kitchen.

Campus Kitchens is sponsored by the Office of Public Service and receives additional guidance and support from the College of Human Sciences. Campus Kitchens volunteers work with Sodexo, the food supplier for Auburn dining facilities, who allows the organization to





use kitchen facilities to store and prepare food and plays a major role in helping the students prepare food for distribution.

On Thursday, night volunteers cook and prepare food to serve the following day. On Friday, they transport and serve the food to 70 people at the Auburn United Methodist Church food pantry and 80 people at the East Alabama Services for the Elderly (EASE) House.

During the fall, Campus Kitchens got into the Thanksgiving spirit with Turkey Palooza, where they served a Thanksgiving meal to nearly 200 people at the AUMC Food Pantry. Patrons at the pantry enjoyed turkey, traditional side dishes, and dessert. The dinner was well received by the recipients, and it was a great opportunity for Campus Kitchens to connect with the people from the community.



Emily Scammell, vice-president of Campus Kitchens, says, "The highlight of getting to serve is just that - getting to serve. You wouldn't imagine the level of hunger we have in our very own Auburn community, and we are grateful that we are able to help. Interacting with those that we serve humbles us in every way possible. If we can feed people while teaching our volunteers about the importance of food security, then our job is done."

In the future, Campus Kitchens hopes to increase the number of food suppliers and add additional distribution sites. Campus Kitchens is always looking for volunteers to help serve. To learn more about Campus Kitchens and volunteer opportunities contact, Clark Alves ([jma0007@auburn.edu](mailto:jma0007@auburn.edu)).



## \$881,829 Grant to Fund Organic Farming Research, Outreach

Auburn University entomologist Henry Fadamiro and a multidisciplinary team of scientists at Auburn and other universities have been awarded a four-year, \$881,829 grant by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to develop and demonstrate successful integrated pest management, or IPM, strategies for the organic production of cabbage, collard, broccoli, and other high-value cruciferous vegetable crops in Alabama and surrounding states.

The ultimate goal of the research and outreach project, "Development and Participatory Implementation of Integrated Organic Pest Management Strategies for Crucifer Vegetable Production in the South," is to increase the production and profitability of organically grown crucifers in this region of the country.

"Crucifers are perhaps the most difficult vegetables to produce organically in the South due to high susceptibility to pests," said Fadamiro, who, in addition to research and academic responsibilities, serves as state coordinator of integrated pest management for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

"Organic producers and small farmers in Alabama and surrounding states cite insects and diseases as their major challenges in growing these crops.

"In our work, we will identify and develop effective, affordable, and sustainable pest management tactics for reducing these risks and then encourage farmers to adopt them," he said. "In addition to boosting organic vegetable production and farm income in the region, this grant will result in reduced human-health risks due to pesticide residues in foods."

Integrated pest management is a pest control approach in which growers use a variety of economically and environmentally acceptable practices, such as tillage systems, traps, and beneficial insects, turning to chemical pesticides only as a last resort.

In the first phases of the organic crucifer production project, Fadamiro and his research collaborators from Auburn—including plant pathology professor Joe Kloepper, organic vegetable production research fellow Jan Garrett, Extension entomologist Ayanava Majumdar and agricultural economics associate professor Deacue





On-farm research trials will be part of the project, Fadamiro says, noting that at least ten organic vegetable growers across the state have signed on to participate in the study. Other major components of the project will include analyses of the costs of integrating IPM tools into production systems, identifying possible barriers to on-farm adoption and, finally, transferring the technology to producers through training and education.

Fadamiro's proposal was one of only 23 projects nationwide selected to receive a portion of a total \$19 million in funding awarded through NIFA's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative and its Organic Transitions Program, both of which aim to help organic producers and processors grow and market high-quality organic agricultural products.

Fields—and from Alabama A&M University and the University of Florida will investigate the effectiveness of a number of IPM tactics that are approved under federal organic production standards, including trap crops that lure pests away from the cash crops, attractants, biocontrol techniques, biopesticides, and induced disease resistance.

**GETTING THE BUGS OUT**—Insect pests are a major challenge for organic vegetable producers who grow broccoli and other cruciferous crops. Researchers at Auburn are working to develop effective integrated pest management strategies that will help control the insects and increase growers' profitability.



# CHS Receives \$7.5 Million Grant to Continue Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Initiative

Auburn University's Center for Children, Youth, and Families has been awarded a three-year, \$7.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Family Assistance to continue the Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Initiative.

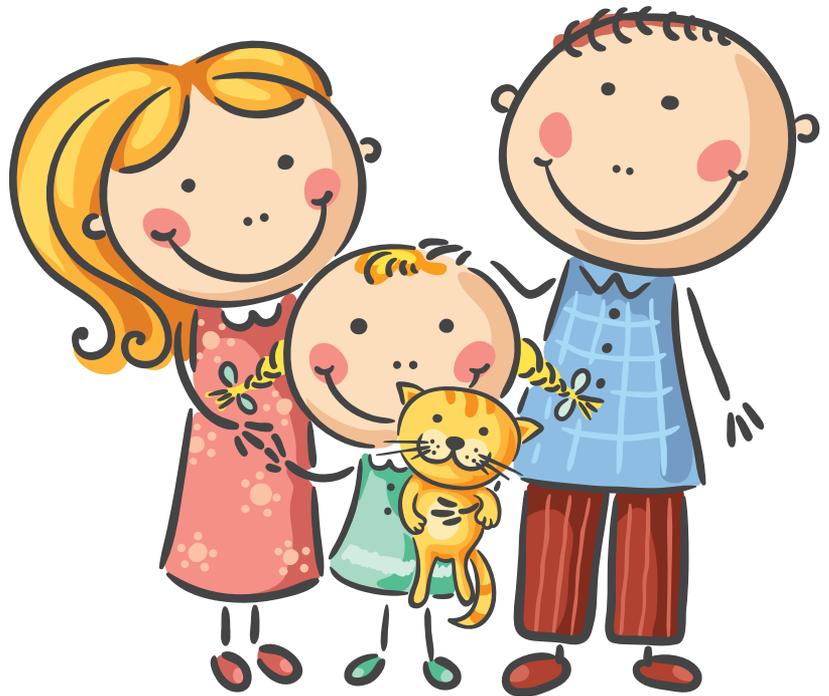
The initiative is an applied research project to build and sustain healthy relationships and stable marriages throughout Alabama. It is implemented through a partnership between Auburn University, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs, and family resource centers around the state.

"Our goal remains strengthening relationships within families and supporting marital and family stability by promoting access to educational resources on healthy relationships for youth and adults in Alabama," said Francesca Adler-Baeder, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in Auburn's College of Human Sciences, an Extension specialist and the principal investigator for the initiative.

Adler-Baeder says Alabama's persistent history of marital and family instability was the impetus for creating the initiative in 2002. Since then, it has grown from state-funded pilot projects to the current large-scale coordinated effort, one of the largest in the country.

The outreach efforts of the initiative were aided in 2006 when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Family Assistance awarded Auburn University a five-year grant totaling \$9.2 million. Another nearly \$1 million grant was awarded the previous year to support a research study focused on the examination of program effects for adolescents in the state who participate in relationship education in high school health classes and family and consumer science classes.

Since its inception, the initiative has had much success in reaching historically underserved populations in the state, particularly minority families, low-income families, and adults without a high school diploma.



"Over the past five years, the Alabama Healthy Marriage and Relationship Initiative has proven to be one of the nation's most innovative and successful projects for promoting and strengthening stable relationships and positive family functioning," said June Henton, dean of Auburn's College of Human Sciences. "It is a tribute to Dr. Francesca Adler-Baeder and her team at Auburn, as well as a group of dynamic partners at the state and local levels, that the Department of Health and Human Services strongly supports this initiative as a best practices model that has and will continue to benefit citizens and communities in Alabama and across the country."

The current project will implement relationship and marriage education programs and feature access to complementary programs and services, with an emphasis on economic self-sufficiency. Programs will be available in Lee County as well as in a large number of counties around the state. More details are available at [www.alabamamarriage.org](http://www.alabamamarriage.org).

# Encyclopedia of Alabama Awarded National Humanities Grant



The Encyclopedia of Alabama was awarded a \$425,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. The free, online resource on Alabama's history, culture, and natural environment was one of 215 humanities projects named in the federal agency's December 1 announcement of \$21 million in grants nationwide. EOA was the only Alabama project selected in NEH's most recent award cycle.

"The Encyclopedia of Alabama is a remarkable humanities project, and its online format makes it an especially beneficial resource for Alabama's students and educators," said Dr. Royrickers Cook, vice president for University Outreach at Auburn University, where EOA's editorial offices are located. "This NEH grant is an opportunity to create an endowment that will enable EOA to adapt to and take advantage of technological advancements in the years to come."

NEH Challenge Grants are designed to strengthen the humanities by encouraging non-federal sources of support and helping institutions secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. EOA is required to match the grant on a three-to-one basis over the next five years.

"The NEH Challenge Grant application process is very competitive; EOA's application was one of only 21 that were awarded this cycle," said Cook. "It is significant that the premier multimedia resource for information about Alabama was one of the few selected."

The Encyclopedia of Alabama, which launched in September 2008, currently offers 1,280 entries related to Alabama's history, politics, agriculture, arts, folk life, sports, and more. New articles are added each month. EOA is similar to a traditional print encyclopedia, with its emphasis on authoritative content based on sound scholarship. The online format makes it a modern reference tool offering video, audio, graphics, and hyperlinks. More than two million visitors from all 50 states and more than 200 countries and territories have accessed the site.

To visit the site, go to [www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org](http://www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org)

## New Community Writing Center Launching First Program

Collaboration and community building are two of the primary missions of one of Auburn University's newest outreach programs, The Community Writing Center. Founded in May 2011 and funded generously by the Office of the Assistant Vice President for University Outreach in August 2011, The Community Writing Center recruits faculty and students to partner with Lee County community members as they work to write, revise, publish, and learn together.

This spring, the center launched one of its first programs: a sister workshop series for local non-profits and community members working on their writing. The first workshop series, "Writing to Reach," invited local non-profits to share their expertise as they work together to find better methods for reaching donors, beneficiaries, and the people they serve as they inform and report upon the outcomes of their services. One of these workshops was devoted to grant writing.

The second workshop series, "Writing to Work," invited community youth and adults to better their employment opportunities as they improve their writing for the workforce. Workshop sessions will cover writing résumés, cover letters, filling out job applications, and more.

The Community Writing Center is sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and administered by Dr. Patricia Serviss from Auburn University's English Department and Beth Savoy of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities. For more information, please call 334-844-1364 or visit the Community Writing Center on the web at <http://communitywritingauburn.wordpress.com>.



# University Outreach Hosts Scholarship Symposium, Awards Outreach Scholarship Grants

The fourth annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium, focusing on faculty engagement, scholarship, and outreach project development and showcase was held in April. Dr. Mary Sias, president of Kentucky State University, was the keynote speaker.



“After not having the symposium for a few years, we are thrilled to host a program that promotes community and campus bridge-building and information-sharing,” said Chippewa Thomas, director of faculty engagement in the office of University Outreach at Auburn. “We are particularly honored to have such a committed land-grant leader address attendees this year.”

Dr. Sias is the 13th president of Kentucky State University and serves on national boards dedicated to resolving issues surrounding and advocating for higher education. She is the immediate past chair of the board of directors of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, where she continues to sit on the Commission on Access, Diversity, and Excellence executive committee. She is also a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, chairs the Council of Presidents of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, serves on the executive committee of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, and is a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 1890 Task Force.

In addition to Dr. Sias’ keynote, the symposium featured presentations, poster sessions, plenaries on

documenting outreach projects via outreach scholarship for preparing tenure and promotion materials, and a town hall meeting. Concurrent sessions highlighted outreach exemplars and projects that have received extramural funding as well as funding support through the Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grant Program.

A new addition to the event was a pre-symposium grant success workshop. “We want faculty, students, and community partners alike to be informed about best practices in the development of extramural funding to support outreach and engaged scholarship,” said Thomas.

The symposium program featured: Nan Fairley, 2012 Faculty Excellence in Outreach award recipient as a plenary facilitator; David Hinson, 2011 Faculty Excellence in Outreach award recipient; and Wayne Flynt, professor emeritus, Department of History. The recipients of this year’s Competitive Outreach Scholarship grants were announced during the last symposium luncheon. *(See page 37 for a complete listing of the Outreach Scholarship Grant recipients for 2012.)*



distance learning

## Doing Distance a Better Way - Taking the Different Out of Distance



Great professors, a diverse curriculum, leading-edge facilities, and a friendly campus are all characteristics that define Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. So is a commitment to continuous improvement, as illustrated by recent enhancements in the way the college delivers course content to its online students – improvements that go a long way to ensuring that their classroom experience matches that of their on-campus peers. That this new recording and delivery technology is home grown makes the new technologies even more impressive.

“A few years back we started looking for off-the-shelf software solutions that would enhance the delivery of classroom content to our customers,” said Greg Ruff, director of engineering outreach and continuing education for the College of Engineering. “We soon realized that the only way to meet our goals was to do it in house.”

With the help of Auburn Engineering instructional technology specialist Ken Williams, information technology specialists Zeb Whitehead and Jeff Walker, and a small programming firm, the team developed a

leading-edge recording and delivery system that works with existing recording infrastructure and improves the experience for students and professors, as well as the staff that administers the program.

“I love this new system,” said Robert Thomas, who teaches a number of distance education classes. “Engineering instruction requires a lot of visuals. This system adapts to the tools I use every day in the classroom – overheads, Power Points, spreadsheets, and video and blends them seamlessly into the stream via split screen technology. This means that I don’t have to do a separate set of visuals for distance classes, and most importantly that my distance students get an experience similar to that of my on-campus students.”

According to Walker, the system works well with existing video infrastructure and with almost any device -- anywhere, anytime. “We work on PC’s, Macs, IPads, iPhones, Android phones, and MP3 players. We also work behind U.S. Department of Defense firewalls – which is critical for our many military clients.”

On the delivery side, the system also sports an impressive list of administrative tools and is currently used by the college for its academic credit, certificate, and non-credit continuing education offerings. “Students can register and access classes within minutes,” said Ruff. “Tests are also done online in a professional and convenient manner. Customer satisfaction is higher and my staff loves the back end functionality and digital records.”

For Brandon Daugherty, safety coordinator for Sikorsky, the engineering graduate online program made the transition from campus graduate student to distance graduate student seamless. “I was an on-campus graduate student doing a summer internship with a firm when they made me an offer of a half-time position with a guarantee of a full-time position when I graduated. It was an opportunity for a dream job I did not want to miss.”

Daugherty found the distance classes were no different than his on-campus classes. “The delivery of class materials was great, and I felt as though I was on the same playing field with my on-campus peers. In fact, at times, it felt easier than being on campus. If I missed something in the lecture, I could pause and go back.”

And although he had a lot going on in his life, he found that the time he spent “in-class and studying” was more productive. “Because I controlled the scheduling of the class, I was able to be more productive and focused. There were fewer distractions and, if I needed a break, I could take it and then return to class. Overall, I got more out of the lectures, spent less time on school and got better grades.”

## Sharing a Good Thing

Given that track record, it is not surprising that others have taken notice. The software development team behind the new tools recently formed a company, Blended-Tek, to market the product. As a partner in the firm, Auburn University and the College of Engineering will get a share of the profits.

“We are beginning to get serious inquiries about the products and are looking forward to bringing this tool to other colleges,” explained Walker. “We are also seeing interest from K-12 schools where administrators are looking at this as a way to leverage teachers with special competencies – say calculus – to students at multiple schools within a district. On campus, some of our traveling teams are using it to allow students to keep up when they are on the road, and some professors are opening the content to on-campus students who don’t speak English well or just want to review what they heard in the classroom.”

The team, with Thomas’ help, is also experimenting with short video modules that provide more detailed discussions of fundamental engineering concepts. Thomas creates these modules using the computer in his office, posts to the server, and asks students to review the material before they pull up the next class. These tutorials provide students with exposure to the fundamentals in advance and allow him to deliver a more dynamic lecture and to address questions early in the discussion. Students are reporting that they love the tool and want more.

“The new delivery system has made life easier for professors and staff, with the result of providing us with more time to search out and test other tools to enhance student learning,” said Ruff. “Distance education is here to stay, and my goal is to make sure that Auburn is delivering the best education possible. These new technologies are helping us meet that goal.”



# Nutrition at Your Fingertips: Engineers Develop iPad Applications to Teach Elementary Students Healthy Eating Habits

Jonathan Lartigue and Russell Thackston, doctoral students in Auburn University's Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, have built seven interactive iPad applications as part of a program that teaches elementary students about nutrition. The series of virtual games and lessons, called *Body Quest: Food of the Warrior*, was built at Auburn by Lartigue and Thackston, who wrote the code and brought the apps to life on the iPad.

"We approached building *Body Quest* in the same manner as a commercial software development firm," said Thackston. "We worked with the client to understand their needs and to explain what technology was available on the iPad to meet those needs. Then, over the course of a year and a half, we built, tested, and refined the apps until everyone was happy with the final product."

*Body Quest* promotes healthy eating by encouraging students to eat more fruits and vegetables, as well as exercise and spend time with family. The program was created by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Department of Human Resources, and has been introduced in schools with at least half of students receiving free or reduced lunch – more than 2,000 third graders in rural Alabama.

"The original idea was to create mobile classrooms and provide high-quality education to third graders," said Sondra Parmer, project manager of ACES nutrition education program. "Forty ACES educators use iPads to teach *Body Quest* in multiple classrooms once a week for a 17-week period."

The *Body Quest* curriculum consists of seven lessons, each with its own iPad application. Animated characters named *Body Doctor*, *Shining Rainbow*, *Graino Supa*, *Muscle Max*, *Super Slurper*, *Fiberlicious*, and the app's villain, *Trans Fat Cat*, lead students through each exercise. Spelling, sharing, and pronunciation are also

incorporated into the activities.

"Grabbing the attention of school children is difficult," said Lartigue, "but the iPad is both fun and cool. They want to play with it, and that keeps their attention focused much longer. The iPad and these apps are perfect for engaging students and communicating the principles of each nutrition lesson in a fun and effective way."



*Body Quest* is complete with banners, posters, playing cards, T-shirts, and stickers with the logo and motto. "The idea is to teach nutrition through increased engagement with the kids," said Parmer. "Our program is activity-oriented, and using iPad apps is one more attempt to reach another learning style." The app's lessons and games offer follow up "reinforcement lessons" for teachers to incorporate in their lesson plans the following week. Parmer says repetition is a key method used to introduce students to new, healthy foods.

"We really see a future with the iPads," said Parmer. "I envision a lot of things we can do with applications like these that Jonathan and Russell have built for us."

# Nursing Students Learn to Provide Medical Care to the Masses at Jordan-Hare

When 80,000 to 90,000 fans file into Jordan-Hare Stadium on any given fall Saturday, anything can happen – on the field and off.

Constance Hendricks, the Charles W. Barkley Endowed Professor in Auburn University's School of Nursing, wants each student in her Population Health class to work at a home football game to get firsthand experience of how medical care is provided at a mass gathering.

"The students experience a different kind of healthcare delivery in the stadium than they are used to seeing in a hospital or clinic," said Hendricks.

The collaboration provides a team of 50 to 60 doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, paramedics, and student nurses on any given game day.

"I learned that when you are with that many people, there are so many variables, you never know what's going to happen," said senior nursing student Heather Bagents.

She ended up spending the day helping a young diabetic boy, an unconscious fan, and a woman in premature labor, among others.

Senior Heather Edell spent the same day working in the main first-aid station, patrolling the student section, and riding with a nurse on one of the EMS medical carts.

Both Bagents and Edell enjoyed the class assignment because, coincidentally, they are interested in emergency medicine.

Hendricks also has her class learn about public health by working alongside the nurse at the Lee County Detention Center, following a nurse on home healthcare visits, and providing healthcare screenings to youngsters in area schools. They even visit Head Start locations to teach topics like bus safety and oral hygiene, and senior centers and nursing homes to present lessons such as preventing falls at home and herbal and prescribed medicine interactions.

Goslin, a registered nurse, appreciates Hendricks' strategy to provide a well-rounded education.

"What you find out when you get out of nursing school is that nursing doesn't fit any particular mold," he said. "There is no nursing floor or doctor's office or ER or ICU that's going to give you exactly what you see

in school. A program that mixes up what your clinical experiences are, and then ultimately what you see and what you learn, will ultimately turn out better nurses in the long run."

Student nurses work with the staff from the Emergency Medical Service at East Alabama Medical Center to address the needs of the population of the stadium from nine first-aid stations, said EMS Director Dan Goslin. The fall semester marked the first time in a number of years the collaboration between EMS and the nursing school has been a part of the course curriculum.



# Wilcox County Students Attend Two-Day Educational Program



Jay Herndon with Weyerhaeuser Corporation explains how seedlings can be damaged by pests such as moth larva.

Last fall, the Auburn University Environmental Institute collaborated with a number of organizations to conduct a two-day educational outreach program for eighth-graders from the Camden School for the Arts and Technology.

A group of 30 students joined Auburn University as guests of the Alabama Department of Transportation and HMS Global Maritime to travel the Alabama River to learn about how it is used for recreation and transportation and the importance of protecting its water quality. Students traveled by ferry from Camden to Gee's Bend in a program that brought together environmental science, history, art, and industry.

"The program is in its eleventh year," said Kay Stone, outreach program administrator for the Auburn University Environmental Institute. "While the AUEI outreach program is small, we work very hard to partner with others and offer students such as the ones in Wilcox

County opportunities that they might not otherwise get to experience."

Missy Burford, eighth-grade science teacher at Camden School for the Arts and Technology, said the experience was a positive one for students. "Students enjoyed a first-time ferry ride, even though they actually live in the county; students were able to ask questions about the ferry itself – its engines and the jobs of the various employees; they experienced wildlife native to the river; and students from Gee's Bend had the chance to show pride in 'their' part of the county," she said.

Upon returning to Camden, the students visited the Auburn University Natural Resources Education Center, where they conducted several experiments demonstrating various properties of water, had lunch, and finished the day with a question-and-answer session before returning to school.



Marianne Pettway and Linda Munoz show the CSAT students one of the Gee's Bend hand-made quilts prior to grouting their mosaic glass quilt.

Later that afternoon, a group of 15-20 students went back to the center for a project with Monica Moore from the University of West Alabama's Center for the Study of the Black Belt and Linda Munoz, a glass artist and owner of Little River Arts and DANA teaching artist. Munoz has received specialized training from the Alabama Institute for Education in Arts and the Kennedy Foundation to integrate the arts into classroom curricula. The "Patchwork History Mosaic Quilt Project" is a lesson plan she developed in response to her training.

Students learned about the history of the Alabama River community, Gee's Bend, and the story of the quilters who are now known nationwide, then visited Gee's Bend Ferry Welcome Center and participated in the art project, creating a stained-glass quilt in the style of the local artists.

The following day, students worked with members of the Gee's Bend Quilters to grout the "quilt" blocks. The finished panels are on display at the welcome center, and project organizers hope to produce a mosaic quilt in each of the traditional Black Belt counties.

"The students were proud to be a part of something that is a 'spin off' of the famous Gee's Bend Quilters," Burford said. "It made them appreciate the way of life back in the day and realize their way of life is valued today. The river and the ferry brought attention to the primitive seamstresses and their ways of life."

A second group of 30 students toured the Weyerhaeuser Tree Nursery, where they experienced the science behind the growing of one of Alabama's most important crops. Burford called the nursery a "giant science fair project."

"It's science applied to real life," she said. "I would like to visit the tree nursery several times a year to experience all of the processes going on to produce seedlings that support our county's economy."



After visiting the nursery, students traveled to the power

generation plant at Millers Ferry. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff conducted a tour of the operation. Because eighth-grade students study physical science, the process of converting water from the Alabama River to electrical power correlates with their classroom studies.

"Second semester we start a unit on energy, machines, and motion," Burford explained. "The tour of the power plant provided students with some background knowledge and provides a relationship between our science class and real life."

Program collaborators include the Auburn University Environmental Institute, the Center for the Study of the Black Belt, Alabama Cooperative Extension System of Wilcox County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilcox County Chamber of Commerce, Camden School for Arts and Technology, the Gee's Bend Quilters, A-Z Animals, Alabama Department of Transportation, and Weyerhaeuser Corporation.



Students examine a control panel at the Millers Ferry power generation plant.

## Outreach News

### **Auburn Invention2Venture Workshop Teaches Hands-On Entrepreneurship**

Auburn University's Thomas Walter Center for Technology Management, along with the university's Business-Engineering-Technology program and the new Auburn Student Inventor's Club, recently held the second annual Invention2Venture Apprentice Challenge workshop, a program that equips students with entrepreneurial skills.

Twenty-one students on five teams heard from a panel of entrepreneurs and completed a 72-hour challenge to select a product or service, sell it on a football weekend, and produce a profit using a \$100 seed investment. Each team was required to return the investment, as well as provide evidence of their net profits over costs and original investment. Student teams were evaluated on profits, scalability, uniqueness, and moral appeal by a panel of judges, including James Corman, entrepreneur-in-residence at the Thomas Walter Center; Robert Crutchfield, venture partner with Harbert Management Corporation; and Gene Fuller, owner of REMTECH Inc., who also spoke to students about starting and running a new business.

### **Smart Contact Lenses at Auburn Could Make Eye Drops a Thing of the Past**

An Auburn University team of chemical and biomedical engineers led by Mark Byrne, the Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden associate professor in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has developed a new method to deliver eye medication by wearing contact lenses.

Byrne's lenses are the first to release drug doses over time for as long as the contact is worn. The lenses deliver a constant flow of medication without altering a patient's natural vision, or can be used to correct vision while also delivering eye medication, such as anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, and anti-allergy drugs.

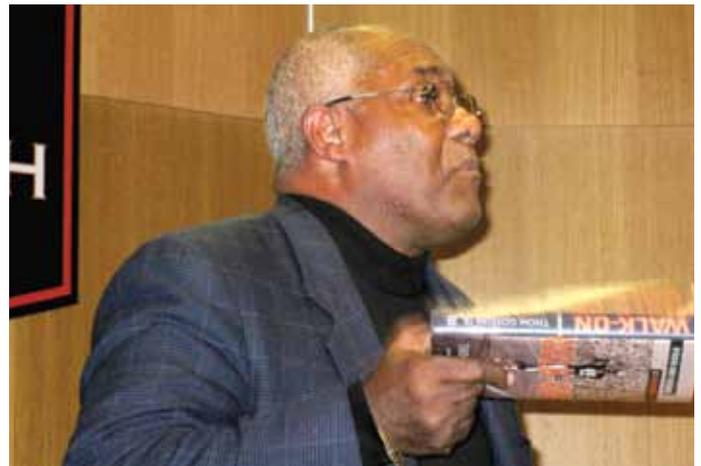
"Eye drops may soon be a thing of the past," Byrne said. "Results indicate that our lenses release a constant drug concentration for the entire time the lens is worn. This is about 100 times better than the conventional therapy, which consists of drug delivery via eye drops. With numbers that impressive, this technology is a real game-changer."

### **Auburn to Host Summer Research Program on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**

Saad Biaz, faculty member in Auburn University's Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, and Gilbert Crouse, faculty member in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, have received more than \$320,000 from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense to host an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates on smart unmanned aerial vehicles for three more years. This is the tenth summer for the REU site, which was focused on pervasive and mobile computing until changing topics to smart UAVs two years ago.

Auburn's REU site on UAVs will offer a diverse group of undergraduate students from universities across the country the opportunity to conduct research and design algorithms to meet the challenge of flying six to 12 UAVs autonomously, safely, and efficiently within a limited space. Smart UAVs alter their course to avoid conflict without requiring intervention from human operators.

### **Auburn's Gossom Speaks to Students**



Actor, writer, and former Auburn Tiger football great Thom Gossom recently shared his experiences and leadership insights with a class of Auburn athletes and west Alabama high school students. Gossom, who, in 1970, became the first black athlete to walk on and earn a scholarship in the SEC, recounted challenges he faced and how he persevered to success. Dr. Arturo Menefee hosted Gossom as part of leadership classes sponsored by the Athletic Department.



### Faculty and Students Discuss “Crucible” Report

A discussion on the role of engagement in university and civic affairs was held in February on the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement report “A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy’s Future.” The program was hosted by the College of Liberal Arts’ Community and Civic Engagement Initiative and the University Outreach Office of Public Service. The group was joined in a live weblink by Dr. Caryn Musil, senior vice president of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Musil served as coordinator of the task force which produced the report.

### Liberal Arts to Host Engagement Conferences

The Community and Civic Engagement Initiative within Auburn University’s College of Liberal Arts held its first annual “Academy for Community and Civic Engagement” for faculty throughout the Southeast in the arts and humanities who are interested in incorporating civic engagement/service learning practices into their courses, outreach scholarship, and P & T documentation.

The academy was May 14-16. Later in the summer, the college’s Women’s Leadership Institute, Community and Civic Engagement Initiative, and MPA-Political Science Department will host “Scholarship in Action: Communities, Leaders, and Citizens” on August 9-11. This program focuses on the intersection of scholarship, outreach, and teaching as related to non-profit leadership, civic education, women’s leadership, and a variety of other topics. Carnegie Foundation scholar Amy Driscoll will offer the keynote address.

### OPCE Hosts Medal of Honor Recipient

Outreach’s Office of Professional and Continuing Education hosted Medal of Honor recipient Col. Jack Jacobs, USA ret. for a free public lecture. Jacobs was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Vietnam. He also served on the faculty of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After his military career, Jacobs worked as an investment consultant and military analyst for NBC television. Jacobs spoke to a capacity audience of some 80 students and faculty on his military experiences and his current efforts with the Medal of Honor Foundation. The program was sponsored as part of a series of free, public outreach programs offered by OPCE.



PICTURED: Gunnery Sergeant Jeffery Williams, MOH Recipient Colonel Jack H. Jacobs, USA Retired, Major General Perry Smith, PhD, USAF Retired

## Visit by Belizean Community Developer, Cynthia Ellis

Cynthia Ellis, a native of San Ignacio, Belize, delivered a lecture on “Building Bridges/Making Connections: The Foundation for Peace and Democracy” on Wednesday, January 25 at 4:00 p.m. in room 2227 of the Auburn University Student Center. The program was free and open to the public.

Ellis’ visit to Auburn University was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts’ Community and Civic Engagement Initiative and the AU Special Lectures Fund. While on campus, she met with students interested in the new Belize Abroad program coordinated by the College of Liberal Arts, as well as with CCE faculty to brainstorm and inspire future programming related to global citizenship.

Ellis earned degrees from the University of the West Indies and Antioch University, and she continued studies in law in Jamaica and in sustainable development and economic planning at The Hague, Netherlands. Ellis is past director of gender studies at the University of Guyana, South America and the founding director of both the Belize Organization for Women and Development and the Belize Rural Women’s Association. She is currently the champion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme in Belize.



## Outreach Professionals Honored with Campus “Spirit of Excellence” Awards

Two University Outreach staff professionals were recently honored for their exemplary work by the campus “Spirit of Excellence” award committee. Karen Rankin, senior IT specialist in the Office of Public Service, and James Birdsong, program developer in the Office of Professional and Continuing Education were nominated separately by colleagues in the division. Both were recognized by the committee for performing “beyond the call of duty” to improve service and quality at the university, and for their professionalism and dedication to their work. Congratulations Karen and James on your jobs well done.



## ECDI Engaged in Alabama Black Belt through the Stronger Economies Together Initiative

In partnership with USDA Rural Development and the Southern Rural Development Center, the Economic and Community Development Institute developed and manages the Stronger Economies Together project aimed at regional economic development training and technical assistance for a five-county region of the Alabama Black Belt.

Stronger Economies Together is an exciting collaboration launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development along with the nation's Regional Rural Development Centers and their land-grant university partners. SET is designed to enable communities and counties in rural America to work together on a multi-county regional basis to develop an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of their region. State Partner Teams bring together the talents and resources of key state and federal agencies, land-grant university Extension programs, and other organizations to provide training and technical assistance to each of the regional teams.

Pilot efforts for Phase I were initiated in 23 multi-county regions located in nine states: Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. In Phase II, SET expanded to 10 new states in 2011, including Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire/Vermont, New York, Texas, and Washington.

Thirty-five hours of SET training will be delivered to 25 community leaders in the five-county Black Belt region. The process will guide the development of practical and viable regional economic development strategies. Much of this training involves actual hands-on work on the regional plan by team members. ECIDI will also provide the region with tailored economic analyses describing the region's current and emerging clusters and its comparative economic advantages. To supplement the SET training, each region will receive some targeted technical assistance to help them launch their plans.

To learn more about SET and other ECIDI programs visit: <http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/ecdi/>.

## Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grant Recipients

Integrated Design & Construction Outreach: Cordova, AL, Long Term Recovery; **Joshua Emig**; Architecture and Building Science

Empowering Distressed Communities through Digital Signage Technologies for Effective Recovery from Disasters; **Chetan S. Sankar**; Business

Developing Career and College Competencies: Preparing At-Risk Students to be Successful in Career and College Opportunities; **Amanda Evans**; Education  
Health-enhancing physical education initiative – Butler County Schools; **Peter Hastie**; Education  
Green Teams: Leading Green and Saving Green in Four Alabama Public Schools; **Lisa Kensler**; Education  
Developing a Virtual Community Support Network to Promote Rural Entrepreneurial Sustainability; **Sang-Eun Byun**; Human Sciences  
Tele-Health in Guatemala: Serving Hearing Healthcare Needs of Impoverished Children; **Kelli M. Watts**; Liberal Arts -Communication Disorders  
Auburn University Summer Science Institute; **Allen Landers**; Sciences and Mathematics

## Auburn Named to National Service Honor Roll with Distinction

For the second consecutive year, Auburn University has been named to the President's Higher Education Honor Roll with Distinction for its extensive outreach and public service programming across the state. Auburn is one of only 110 institutions across the United States to receive the designation this year. University Outreach's Office of Public Service coordinated Auburn's application. The Honor Roll is a federal program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school's commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service. In announcing this year's Honor Roll, Eduardo Ochoa, the U.S. Department of Education's assistant secretary for postsecondary education said Honor Roll schools should be proud of service-learning on their campuses. "Galvanizing their students to become involved in projects that address pressing concerns and enrich their academic experience has a lasting impact – both in the communities in which they work and on their own sense of purpose as citizens," said Ochoa.



# Extension Publication Aimed at Putting Down Roots – Tree Roots

Alabama residents will not forget last April's devastating flurry of tornadoes that swept across the state. More than 230 people were killed, and damage estimates are in the billions of dollars. There is no accurate estimate on how many trees were toppled by the massive outburst of storms.

So many trees were knocked down by the storms, one county coordinator with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System said his hometown was unrecognizable.

"You could have gotten lost in downtown Cullman, even if you were a longtime resident," said Tony Glover, the Cullman County Extension coordinator. "Buildings that we used as landmarks were destroyed.

"We are a Tree City USA, and we were used to seeing all of the trees, especially older ones that gave Cullman its character. In parts of town, hundreds of trees in the public right of way were just gone. That doesn't begin to consider how many trees were toppled on private land."

Glover and Extension colleagues spent much of the weeks immediately following the tornadoes helping individuals and communities get back on their feet.

But after that initial work was done, Glover, a horticulturist by training, realized that Extension could play a major role in reestablishing tree plantings both on private land and public green spaces.

Glover felt that one way Extension could make an impact was to develop, create, and distribute a publication.

"We wanted to make sure that people did a good job when they began replanting trees," he said. "Since fall and winter are the best times to plant trees in Alabama, I thought we needed to get something in the public's hands fairly quickly."

Glover, Kerry Smith, who is also an Extension horticulture expert, and Jack Rowe, an Extension regional forestry agent, wrote an easy-to-read, short publication that focused on selecting the right tree for the right place and how to correctly plant and care for a new tree.



At 8.5 inches by 14 inches, the full-color publication is designed to fit easily in a business-sized envelope. While this format is somewhat unusual for Alabama Extension publications, Glover had his reasons for wanting it sized this way.

"Extension people have answers. Sometimes our challenge is getting that information to the people where they need it and when they need it."

Glover saw the most direct way to get this publication in citizens' hands was in their utility bills.

"We partnered with the Cullman Power Board to insert the new publication in every power bill ensuring the publication would go to every home, enabling Extension to deliver the information at no cost."

But there were more partnerships that helped put Extension publication ANR-1405, "Tree Selection, Planting and Care" publication in the hands of more than 200,000 Alabama residents. Glover and Bethany O'Rear, an Extension regional horticulture agent in Jefferson County, sought help from the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association.

James Harwell, ALNLA executive director, said it was obvious that the publication would be valuable to Birmingham as well.

"Drawing on the relationship that we established during the 2007 drought, we worked with the Birmingham Water Board to get the publication in every November water bill," said Harwell. The ALNLA paid for the publication's printing.

O'Rear said the partnership with ALNLA is vital.

"Connections with industry organizations are critical to Extension," she said. "Extension is all about outreach, and we would not be able to reach all who need us without the help of industry partners."

Glover says the publication will create multiple positive results.

"First, it will help people select and plant trees correctly," said Glover. "That means that both public and private land will be improved with trees that enhance their appearance and that can provide energy conservation benefits.

"But also the state's green industry will benefit as people purchase trees and other supplies. Extension's partnership network has also expanded meaning that we have additional potential partners for future projects."

[www.auburn.edu/outreach](http://www.auburn.edu/outreach)





*Learn more about Auburn University  
Outreach and read additional  
issues of Beyond Auburn Magazine.*



**AUBURN**  
UNIVERSITY OUTREACH