

•AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP MAGAZINE•

beyond AUBURN

FALL 2009



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

Busy as a "B"

Liberal Arts' Barry Burkhart
Named Recipient of the 2009
Auburn University Award



ON THE COVER

Barry Burkhart, Ph.D.,
the 2009 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach recipient

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 and publication manager
Ralph S. Foster, Director of Outreach Information
Karen Hunley, writer, editor
Kevin Loden, editor
Joyce Thomas-Vinson, writer, editor
Teresa Whitman-McCall, writer, editor

Contributors and sources:

Leary Bell – University Outreach
Barry Burkhart – Liberal Arts
Mary Burkhart – OLLI
Cheryl Cobb, Sara Borchik, Katie Yester – Engineering
Jamie Creamer – Agriculture
Jane Drake – Pharmacy
Monica DeTure – Distance Learning
Mitch Emmons – ATAC Business
John Freeze – Outreach Program Office
Gail Gauntt – Office of VP for University Outreach
Laura Hill – Encyclopedia of Alabama
Troy Johnson – Education
Jim Langcuster – ACES
Tara Lanier – Veterinary Medicine
Carol Nelson – Architecture
Karen Rankin – Outreach Information
Christa Slaton, Cassidy Hughes, Mark Wilson – Liberal Arts
Angie Stephens, Katie Wilder – Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Joe Sumners, Amelia Stehouwer – ECDI
Don-Terry Veal, David Hill, Maria Folmar – CGS
Karen Mortensen – Communications and Marketing
Charles Martin – Communications and Marketing

Additional photography:
AU Photographic Services
Brandon Young

Submit news items and story ideas to Teresa Whitman-McCall, Office of Communications and Marketing, (334) 844-7521, whitmtl@auburn.edu. For more information regarding outreach, contact Ralph S. Foster, Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification, (334)844-4730, fosters@auburn.edu or visit www.auburn.edu/outreach.

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

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President's message

As most of you know, for 17 years Auburn University has ranked in the top 50 of public institutions in *U.S. News and World Report*. However, did you know that this same publication also just reported what Auburn residents have known for a long time — that the loveliest village of the plain is a great place to live, attend school and raise a family? *U.S. News* selected the city of Auburn as a top 10 choice among all the places in America, recognizing it as “this diamond on the eastern Alabama plain,” and Auburn University as a major contributor to the quality of life of city residents.

Two examples of the university's myriad contributions that go far beyond the city limits are found in bioenergy research and our new Center for Science, Technology and Commerce.

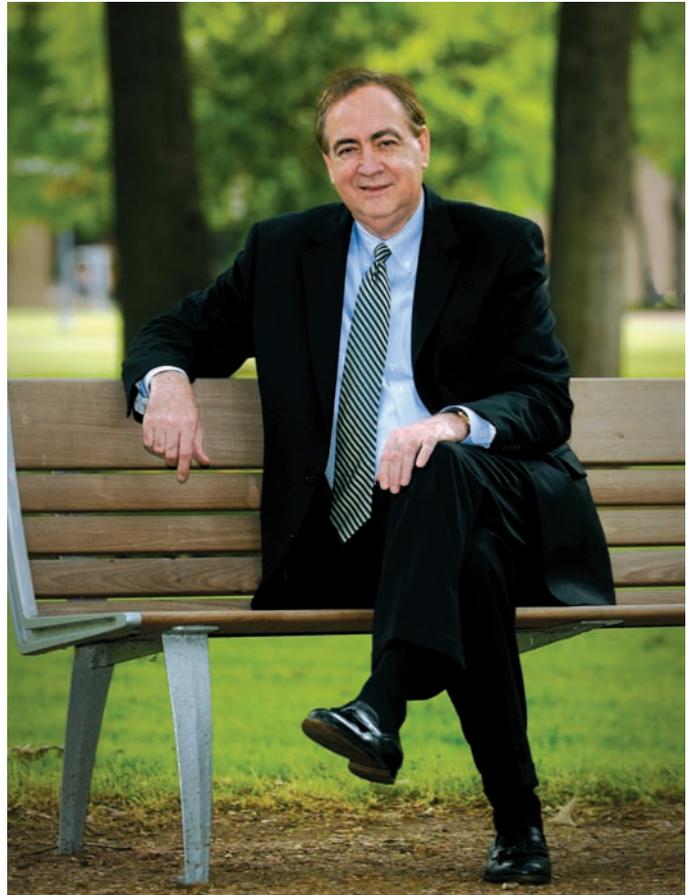
In September, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded Auburn a \$4.9 million grant to develop new production systems to collect woody biomass from pine plantations for making bioenergy. This is a very important grant that will allow us to further develop ways of producing more biofuel. It will help our nation find alternatives to oil and will boost the economy in areas of Alabama that rely on forests for jobs.

Auburn's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts will lead the project as part of a consortium that includes central Alabama company Corley Land Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and companies from the U.S. and Canada.

Auburn will also receive \$14.4 million in federal stimulus funds for construction of a science, technology and commerce research facility in the Auburn Research Park.

The competitive grant will aid Auburn researchers working on standards, measurements and forecasting related to food safety, bioenergy technologies, aquaculture development and sustainability, and water and environmental quality.

The innovations coming out of the new 68,000-square-foot center will advance national priorities that benefit key sectors of the economy and the public in Alabama and beyond. It will feature 21 research laboratories for five major multidisciplinary research groups.



Sen. Richard Shelby and other members of the Alabama congressional delegation have worked hard to support such growth to ensure that the state plays an important role in achieving federal research goals.

Initiatives such as these will further establish Auburn as a major research university, and the fact that we're part of a community recognized as a great place to live makes such accomplishment even more special for our students, staff, faculty and graduates.

War Eagle,

JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn University Outreach

Setting the Bar Higher

During the year, University Outreach has made outstanding progress towards its goals outlined in the university strategic plan. However, we in Outreach have set another goal for ourselves. In 2010, we will seek to secure for Auburn University the Carnegie Foundation's designation as an "engaged institution."

Since Auburn's strategic plan was established last year, University Outreach has expanded its base in both continuing education and distance learning, established new initiatives for both faculty and student engagement, and initiated new alliances with our K-12 community. The following are just a few examples of the first fruits of this busy agenda.

Our Outreach Program Office, already one of the largest providers of non-credit programming on campus, has added a new corporate development service providing customized on-site training to business and industrial clients. The first of many new clients to come signed on this summer for a series of specialized employee development programs. Another great opportunity for innovative training is the Institute for Patient Safety and Medical Simulation, a new partnership between Auburn and Baptist Health in Montgomery. The institute employs a model known as Synergistic Management and Resource Team (SMART) Training, which applies communication methods used in the airline industry to ensure common language and terminology are spoken and understood to enhance the speed and accuracy of critical elements of patient treatment in health care settings.

Outreach has led the effort to develop new policies and rate structures for distance education, encouraging the development of a new generation of accessible on-line courses and degree programs. The "Auburn Serves" initiative is providing a growing web-based network of community partners and resources to support faculty in creating new service learning courses, and to help students fulfill their engagement interests. Outreach also is working with several prospective school systems in establishing comprehensive service agreements, expanding on Auburn's already significant support for the K-12 schools in our area.

Why add to an already full plate of work by seeking a significant national institutional designation from the Carnegie Foundation? Carnegie's classification system is the leading framework for describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education. The Carnegie elective classification of Community Engaged Institution was first offered in 2006. The classification process will enable the

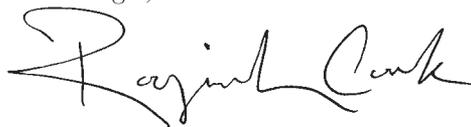
university to examine its commitment to community engagement, and to gauge the success of the policies, strategies, and procedures that truly promote engagement among our students and faculty. The insights gained from this extremely helpful process can greatly benefit each of our strategic initiatives.

Finally, let me congratulate Professor Barry Burkhart, this year's recipient of the university's Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach. Dr. Burkhart's outreach focusing on violent crime has a sustained and substantive impact on the state's youth services and corrections system. He is truly making a difference in the lives of people touched by violent crime – offender and victim alike -- and is improving the community by promoting effective intervention and response. Moreover, Barry's thorough integration of his teaching, research, clinical practice, disciplinary service, public service and outreach makes him a very model of the engaged scholar, one certainly worthy of recognition and emulation.

Our strategic objectives are expanding the opportunities for Auburn's outreach. Attaining the community engaged classification will be affirmation that Auburn values engagement, both as a means to serve the community, and as a partnership that results in a two-way exchange of knowledge benefitting both the university and the citizens of the state that we serve. Our growing academy of engaged scholars such as Dr. Burkhart are putting muscle to the mission.

Be a part of our exciting outreach enterprise. ***Join us in making a difference!***

War Eagle,



ROYRICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Cook meets with Korean dignitaries.

beyond

AUBURN

FALL 2009

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Busy as a “B”

Liberal Arts' Barry Burkhart Named Recipient of the 2009 Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

Witness the honey bee. It industriously goes about its job, collecting nectar to make honey and gathering pollen to support and expand its colony. In performing its job, the bee also provides an "outreach" to the extended community by pollinating crops—not only benefitting farmers but ensuring the viability of the world's overall food supply.

Like his apian counterparts, another "B" works tirelessly at his job and also performs outreach, which is having an immeasurable impact on the greater community. Barry Burkhart, professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts, is this year's recipient of Auburn's Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.

Burkhart, who in his spare time is an avid enthusiast of apiculture, or beekeeping, is a licensed psychologist and a veteran faculty member in the Department of Psychology. His outreach scholarship focuses on violent crime, its aftermath, and its prevention. Burkhart's engagement provides intervention for area at-risk-youth, counseling to victims, treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, and policy consultation to youth-development services and law enforcement agencies across the state and region.

"Barry Burkhart sets the standard for engaged scholarship, not only in his own discipline, but also across the academic enterprise" said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach at Auburn. "Barry's work is respected at the highest levels of his discipline and recognized for its tremendous impact on every aspect of the community touched by violent crime."

Burkhart received his bachelor's degree in psychology and his doctorate in clinical psychology from Florida State University. He completed his internship in clinical psychology at University of Southern California-Los Angeles County Medical Center. He is a fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the Academy of Clinical Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology. He is the former chair of and



currently a professor in Auburn's Department of Psychology, where he has been on faculty since 1974.

For Burkhart, outreach connects nationally recognized research, more than three decades of teaching, active clinical practice, and development of student community-engagement programs.

"Outreach is the crucible for my research," said Burkhart. "Whatever we learn in the lab has to be confirmed and tested in the world, and what we discover in the real world comes back to be examined in the lab. In my work, outreach and scholarship are seamless; they are the warp and woof of one fabric of discovery."

Clearly, outreach is not just a product of Burkhart's other endeavors. It is the heart of an ongoing cycle of responsible civic engagement.

"As a clinical psychologist, my research and professional work are interwoven far more tightly than most. Much of my research is conducted within the setting where I am engaged in providing service work," he noted.

For example, Burkhart was asked by the Alabama Department of Youth Services to develop a program to evaluate and provide appropriate treatment for adolescents convicted of sexual crimes.

"To my way of thinking, given that we knew so little about the characteristics of these boys, it was natural to build in a research component such that we could develop a better understanding of the psychological status of these youthful offenders."

Burkhart used the data collected in the evaluations of the boys to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment services.

“I saw this as not simply important, but absolutely necessary if we were to be intellectually and socially accountable.”

Engagement also informs his classroom experiences. Burkhart considers his outreach most often a form of teaching.

“If we have developed a new method of preventing adolescent suicide, and we need for teachers to be the implementers, then we have to teach the teachers,” he explained. Success is measured by teachers’ acquisition of material and students’ success in learning the information.

“Once again, the process is an ongoing dialectic between implementation, evaluation, review, revision, and implementation,” said Burkhart. “What this has fostered in me is awareness that teaching requires the same consciousness, intention of purpose, and evaluation as does the practice of psychology.”

In addition, Burkhart’s lab and service-learning settings have hosted a number of undergraduate students who completed research and service-learning practica. The experiences to which these students were exposed are profoundly enriching.

“None of our students are unmoved by this exposure and, in fact, often they end up developing professional careers based on their work with us,” added Burkhart. “One of my former students is now working with the behavioral sciences division of the FBI because she found this work so engaging and important.”

Coupled with his broad research interests in assessment and treatment of problems resulting from violence and victimization, Burkhart has significant experience working directly with sex offenders. He was appointed to the board of the first adult sex-offender treatment program sponsored by the Alabama Department of Corrections and worked in the program developed and implemented at the Bullock County Correctional Facility. Burkhart commented that “most faculty spend their sabbatical leave in exotic places; I spent mine in prison learning to treat sex offenders.”

He has also served as a consultant to the juvenile sex offender treatment program at Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Florida. Since 1999, he has been involved with the accountability-based sex offender program in the Alabama Division of Youth Services facility at the Mount Meigs campus. Currently, he is director of a treatment program for juvenile sex offenders incarcerated in a state training school.



Burkhart noted that his project with the Alabama Department of Youth Services has enabled DYS to meet a mandate to provide treatment services to juvenile offenders, which is now a nationally recognized model. Moreover, data collected through his research will have profound implications for DYS and even for Alabama policy makers.

“Our research has demonstrated that juvenile sex offenders are quite different from adult offenders in how well they respond to treatment. Those adolescents we have treated have very low recidivism rates for new sex offenses—extraordinarily low rates,” said Burkhart. “Thus, we can now go back to the Legislature and suggest how policy can be articulated to these findings so as to craft smart laws rather than have to blindly make laws without an understanding of the reality of the situation.”

At the same time, Burkhart’s work has led to the identification of a subgroup of adolescents who, while not at an increased rate for new sex offenses, have a high rate of delinquent offenses. “Now we know that we have to develop treatment strategies that address the risk for this kind of delinquency,” Burkhart added.



Ceremony where the psychological services building of the Lee County Youth Development Center was named in the honor of Barry Burkhart.

“He has made a contribution to our clients and the future well-being of untold numbers of citizens who will now not be victimized (by violent crime),” said Walter Wood, executive director of Alabama’s DYS.

The direct benefits of having the intellectual capital of the university available to sister public institutions and services are immense. “Dr. Burkhart provides an example of how outreach efforts can and should be conducted,” noted Auburn Department of Psychology chair Daniel Svyantek in his nomination of Burkhart for the award.

“The reputation of Auburn University has been greatly enhanced through these efforts,” said Svyantek, adding that Burkhart’s outreach efforts “have greatly benefited people of Lee County, the region, and the state of Alabama.”

Burkhart’s work has reached well beyond the state, though. Burkhart has presented more than 200 academic papers and given addresses at dozens of major U.S. universities. He appeared in nationally broadcasted documentaries on sexual violence for Fox and ABC television networks.

In addition to these and other direct benefits, there are many indirect benefits. Burkhart noted that “many of (Auburn) graduates have learned professional skills that they ordinarily would not have learned because of the specific demands of our work with juvenile sex offenders.”

Because there was a need to develop a network of service providers for aftercare treatment of adolescents, Burkhart began offering continuing professional education for community service providers. In the last five years, the number of certified community providers

available in the state quadrupled, and a demonstration aftercare project funded by federal grants was developed.

“That has demonstrated that not only could we provide aftercare, but for a large number of adolescents, we could safely and effectively provide care and treatment in the community—this saves money and is far less disruptive to the adolescents and their families,” added Burkhart.

Burkhart’s work has earned admiration throughout the university. “No other faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts exceeds the number of years of outreach service and the number of students mentored in outreach than Dr. Burkhart,” said Anne-Katrin Gramberg, dean of the college.

In addition to Burkhart’s influence on junior faculty and graduate and undergraduate students, Gramberg noted another accomplishment. Under his leadership, Project Uplift provides mentoring services for at-risk children in Lee County. “More than a 1,000 Auburn students have participated in this volunteer program that has become a model service-learning opportunity,” said the dean.

Burkhart is married with two children. Outreach is somewhat a family affair with the Burkharts; his wife, Mary, has worked in University Outreach for more than 30 years and established the program now known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn, or OLLI. Indeed, the Burkharts are fixtures at Auburn, each serving on numerous institutional committees and projects. Barry served as chair of the University Senate and many of its central governance committees during the 1990s.

In a testament to the impact of Burkhart’s outreach and civic spirit for the community he has called home for more than 35 years, the psychological services building of the Lee County Youth Development Center is named in his honor.

But back to the bees. Why bees?

“One of my hobbies is beekeeping,” said the professor. “These amazing creatures appeal to the naturalist in me and allow me the opportunity to witness the goodness and beauty of nature.” Burkhart added thoughtfully, “sometimes the nature of my work requires that I be grounded in this productive, fruitful goodness in order to be reminded of how lucky we are.”

In the sad, tragic event of violent crime, all suffer—victim, offender, and community alike. Lucky indeed are those touched by Burkhart’s engagement and outreach scholarship. Even the bees could learn from his tireless industry, perhaps even yielding their age-old idiom, “busy as a bee,” to him.

Busy as Barry “B,” that is.

focus on students
.....

Harrison School of Pharmacy Faculty and Student Pharmacists Participated in APA Legislative Day at the Alabama State House in Montgomery

Student pharmacists and faculty from Auburn University recently set up shop, with practicing pharmacists and other student pharmacists, in the halls of the Alabama State House. The occasion was the 2009 Annual Alabama Pharmacy Legislative Day, sponsored by the Alabama Pharmacy Association.

This was an opportunity for Alabama pharmacists to learn about legislation impacting the practice of pharmacy in the state; voice concerns to Alabama



legislators, and showcase student education through a free health fair.

Health services included weight and body composition analysis, cholesterol screenings, blood pressure checks, cardiovascular risk assessments, smoking cessation counseling, and osteoporosis screenings. The student pharmacists always gain experience and confidence, while getting an opportunity to observe their State Legislature in session.



STARS Helps Shape the Future of Computing and Engineering with Today's Tools

Auburn University's College of Engineering is doing its part in addressing our country's rise of global competition and lack of a diversified workforce, which weakens both economic and national security.

The engineering department program Students and Technology in Academia, Research and Service Alliance, or STARS, helps increase participation in computing disciplines among underrepresented groups, such as women and persons with disabilities. Students who graduate with computing and IT degrees have decreased by 60 percent since 2000, with women and minorities significantly underrepresented.

"STARS focuses on creating interest in computing careers from elementary school through graduate school by using multifaceted experiences that lead to computing careers," said Cheryl Seals, STARS adviser and faculty member in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering.

K-12 programs currently include summer computer day camps, movie-making competitions, science challenges, and numerous others.

College students who participate in STARS receive academic and social development through outreach leadership, mentoring, and applied research experiences. Aside from their regular classes, Auburn engineering students participate in various STARS team-building activities and mentoring programs.

To date, Auburn's Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering has received more than \$350,000 in National Science Foundation awards in support of STARS.

"The funding allows us to strengthen our partnership with Auburn's city school system through computer clubs and other programs," said Seals. "At Auburn, this will also help faculty and staff as we try to recruit, retain, and graduate women and other underrepresented students in computing fields, which contrary to news reports, are hungry for workers."

In fact, there is speculation that more than one million new IT jobs will be created by 2014. This means there will be tremendous opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities as companies diversify their IT workforces and address labor shortages.

"In addition to high salaries and good benefits, these young IT professionals will be able to look forward to work in a socially engaging field, with the opportunity to make a real difference in the future of our nation in areas ranging from national security to global competition," said Seals.

STARS (Students and Technology in Academia, Research and Service Alliance)

Formed in spring 2005 in response to the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing program, the STARS Alliance is comprised of 20 academic institutions, including Auburn University, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State, Spellman College, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, and Virginia Tech.

Auburn Hosts Summer Program to Help Train AP Class Teachers and Leaders

Each year, the Auburn University Advanced Placement Summer Institute allows high school teachers, administrators, and counselors in Alabama and surrounding states to receive the training necessary to teach advanced placement courses in public and private high schools.

This prestigious program is a partnership between the College Board Advanced Placement program, Auburn's Outreach Program Office, the College of Education's Truman Pierce Institute, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

The APSI program provides high-quality training to the teachers who attend, with an ultimate goal of better preparing teachers to serve students enrolled in these advanced courses. APSI covers a broad range of subjects, including AP English literature, English language, history, calculus, chemistry, biology, as well as pre-AP English, math, and history.

"The importance of this program cannot be overstated," said John Freeze, interim director of the Outreach Program Office. "It serves as a critical component to the university's outreach goal of increasing involvement with the K-12 schools across the state."

This summer, the program was divided into two components, one for teachers and the other for administrators and counselors. The teachers spent an intensive five days on campus with College Board-endorsed consultants, learning valuable techniques that can be used in the planning, preparation, and delivery of their respective AP courses.

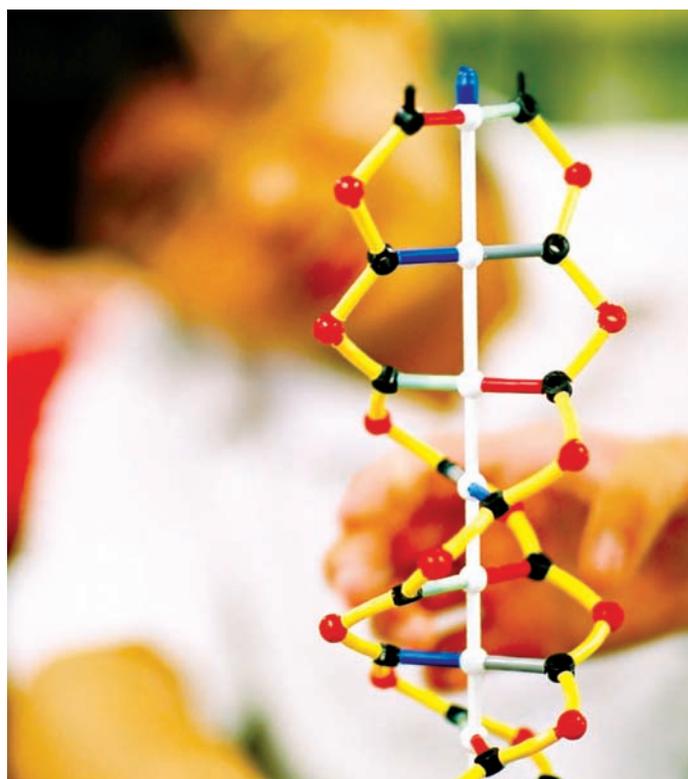
The administrators and counselors participated in a two-day series of workshops addressing the formation of new AP programs and how to ensure the success of existing AP programs.

A key feature of APSI is the exposure to the Auburn campus and faculty resources that attending teachers receive. Not only do they get to spend time in some of the most state-of-the-art facilities on campus, they also interact with faculty members in their discipline. This summer, AP calculus teachers had the opportunity to

meet and interact with Chris Rodger, world-renowned faculty member in the College of Science and Mathematics.

The program's success draws on the valuable contributions made by the distinguished partners. The College of Education's Truman Pierce Institute provides assistance with the planning and preparation, assisting generously with staff time and resources. The College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences both give access to state-of-the-art classroom space, as well as technology and logistics support.

"Needless to say, the Outreach Program Office is very pleased to be an integral part of such a wonderful program, said Freeze. "It's an opportunity to improve the quality of education our state's students are receiving, as well as to showcase the programming that Auburn University has to offer."



Auburn Students' Landscape Design Could Put Fayetteville School in Spotlight

Pretend money's no object, they were told—just dream big.

That's exactly what five graduate students in Auburn's College of Agriculture horticulture department did, pulling out all the stops and creating an amazing landscape plan that would transform the bland 17-acre campus of a small K-12 school in Talladega County. Now, Fayetteville School may be one of the most phenomenal school campuses in the nation.

The students' final master plan would fill Fayetteville School's stark grounds with hundreds of low-maintenance trees, wildflowers, and ornamental shrubs and grasses of all colors and textures. The plan includes 20-plus extraordinary, educational feature areas—from wetlands to themed gardens—giving the school's 650 students a giant outdoor classroom.

Early in the 2008–09 school year, the student designers presented their ultimate school landscape plan to Fayetteville School administrators, teachers, and parents, and a thrilled school and community pledged to make the dream plan a reality.

At the end of the first Saturday workday in March 2009, almost 200 volunteers had planted 100 trees, as tall as 12 feet, and 100 shrubs that nurseries from Birmingham to Montgomery either donated or sold at cost. The overnight makeover was so dramatic, support for the project soared.

Thanks to private funding, design team member Ann Fleener, who earned her master's degree in horticulture at Auburn in December 2008, headed to Fayetteville in January as campus landscape coordinator and will remain in that position at least through the 2009–10 school year. In addition to organizing workdays and the installation process, she's seeking funding, soliciting material donations and, as official project cheerleader, building community involvement to ensure the project continues to grow.

The Auburn horticulture team launched the design project in summer 2008 at the request of Auburn business alumnus Jimmy Pursell. A resident of the Fayetteville, Pursell is chairman of FarmLinks, an 18-hole, multi-award-winning public golf course the Pursell family built on Pursell Farms' land in early 2000.

The FarmLinks entrance adjoins Fayetteville School property, and the course staff is a strong supporter of the school. In 2008, FarmLinks grounds crews voluntarily built the school's first-ever football field.

Keep up with the Fayetteville School landscape project online at campuslandscapeproject.wikispaces.com.



Rural Studio Continues to Better Lives Through Outreach Building

The Auburn College of Architecture, Design and Construction's outreach building program, Rural Studio, is entering its fourth year with the 20k House program, a charity project created in a joint effort by Auburn architecture students to provide affordable homes for low-income residents in Alabama's Black Belt.

"We usually find clients to build for by getting suggestions from people in the community," said Daniel Wicke, outreach instructor at Auburn University. "The citizens know their community best, therefore, they can help us find people who need houses the most."

Wicke said the 20k House project is an instrumental part of Rural Studio because they are doing something no one else has done by giving people who are on a limited income another option besides living in a trailer. It also gives architecture students first-hand experience in the design field by constructing modern homes at a minimal cost.

"We are building for older clients, single clients, or couples who couldn't afford something else," he said, "so we are providing them with a place that is low maintenance and something they don't have to worry about too much."

The project's mission is to design and develop a range of home plans and prototypes that can be built by local contractors for families who qualify for a mortgage loan under the 502 Program.

The houses are specially built to remain in good condition for an extended period of time to ensure that the occupant can build equity and show some type of return in the future.

The architecture students are also doing their part in the move toward sustainability by building houses that are environmentally conscience. The eco-friendly homes are all low maintenance and energy efficient. Andrew Freear, Rural Studio director, attended the Global Awards for Sustainable Architecture in Paris. He was the first architect to represent the United States.

On average, Rural Studio builds one 20k House per year with grants from various contributors. This year, Region's Bank sponsored the current project, Dave's House—a 44 x 14 ft. house in Newbern, Ala.

Rural Studio was established in 1993 by D.K. Ruth and Samuel Mockbee. Since then, students have built more than 80 projects spanning over five counties in the Black Belt, including a fire station and city hall, Boys & Girls Clubs, and baseball fields.

The studio has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, such as being included in the prestigious United States Pavilion in the Venice Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy.

D.K. Ruth, Longtime Friend of Outreach, Co-Founder of Rural Studio Passes



Professor Dennis K. "D.K." Ruth of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction died suddenly at his home in August. He was 65. Ruth earned a bachelor of architecture degree from Auburn and a master's in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. After practicing architecture and teaching at Mississippi State and the

University of Tennessee, he returned to Auburn in 1989 as a professor in the School of Architecture. He later served as department head and interim dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. In 1992, he co-founded the Rural Studio in west Alabama with colleague Samuel Mockbee. The Rural Studio has been a catalyst for a number of innovative and effective outreach initiatives in the Black Belt, including the Rural Heritage Center in Thomaston. In recent years, Ruth created the college's design-build graduate program. He was the recipient of more than 20 teaching and design-excellence awards, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for service to humanity. As a mentor, Ruth frequently helped colleagues develop outreach projects and often contributed to panel sessions encouraging faculty engagement. An architect, educator, and community servant, Ruth leaves a positive legacy of leadership from which others in his profession, his students, and thousands in the Alabama communities continue to benefit.

Auburn Research and Extension Faculty Focus on Feral Swine Control



Auburn University faculty are using science and outreach to outwit the state's most serious, invasive wildlife threats—wild hogs.

Most Alabamians are unaware of the dire threat wild hogs pose not only to Alabama's forest and agricultural lands but even to certain facets of the state's economy.

Wild hogs have been in North America for a long time—since the late 1500s, in fact, when the first wild hogs were introduced by Europeans. But in the last 20 years, these hogs—or feral swine, as they're commonly known among wildlife experts—have steadily increased in range and number in Alabama and are now a bane not only for wildlife biologists but also for landowners, forestland owners, hunters, farmers, and livestock growers.

“When it comes to feral swine, Alabama landowners are now divided into two groups—those who have hogs and those who are about to have them,” said Mark Smith, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System wildlife specialist and Auburn assistant professor of forestry and wildlife sciences.

Smith is one of several Auburn faculty members searching for ways to manage the spread of these animals.

Wild hogs compete with native wildlife, such as deer and turkeys, for limited food sources and also prey on bird nests, reptiles and amphibians, and other important plants and animals.

They're also damaging the state's agricultural economy, wreaking havoc in corn, cotton, peanut, and soybean fields. By the most conservative estimates, wild

hogs account for more than \$800 million annually in crop damage throughout the U.S.

“It's a big problem—the reason why it's critical that landowners and natural resource professionals receive sound, science-based information and technical guidance on feral swine ecology, management, and especially removal methods,” said Stephen Ditchkoff, an Auburn associate professor of forestry and wildlife sciences and a researcher helping develop strategies for controlling wild hogs.

Working with other faculty in the Auburn School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Smith and Ditchkoff are spearheading efforts to provide Alabamians with the information and skills they need to deal with this threat.

Ditchkoff and a team of graduate students have used motion-sensitive cameras to study the behavior of wild hogs around traps to determine what types of traps work best.

“Trapping is by far the most effective and efficient technique for removing hogs, but not just any trap will do,” Ditchkoff said.

Their research has revealed that corral-type traps with wide, high doors work best and that the key to success is conditioning the animals to the presence of the traps before setting occurs.

“The object of the game is not to catch one hog at a time but to capture the entire group at once,” Ditchkoff added. “If you fail to catch all of them in your first attempt, you've only made it harder to catch the ones who escaped.”

The task now falls to Smith and other extension personnel to educate the public about these trapping techniques.

Some 360 landowners and natural resource professionals have attended Smith's sessions focusing on wild hog control, which, in turn, was estimated to affect more than 330,000 acres of forest and crop land.

Smith said he considers trapping wild hogs the easiest part of the equation. Now comes the hard part: enlisting enough landowners to participate in a large-scale removal program aimed at making a significant dent in the wild hog population.



Insurance Giant Aflac Finds ATAC Training Practical, Beneficial

Quickly and accurately processing transactions is crucial in the insurance business. For industry icon Aflac, who annually handles billions of dollars in policies and claims for more than 400,000 U.S. payroll groups and 40 million insured individuals worldwide, having a system that ensures speed and accuracy is vital.

Aflac has partnered with the Auburn Technical Assistance Center at Auburn University to help its system run as smoothly as possible. Since mid 2007, ATAC has facilitated training for Aflac in the continuous-improvement areas of Lean and Six Sigma.

Lean and Six Sigma help a company identify and eliminate unnecessary activities that slow production. Using these continuous-improvement systems, companies can increase production and reduce costs simply by focusing on the aspects of their businesses that matter the most. Companies using these techniques in both operational and transactional industries more effectively keep costs down while maintaining a high-quality standard.

“This has been some of the most practical and applicable training that we have found,” said Jason Goodroe, second vice president of Aflac benefit services.

During February 2009, Aflac engaged with ATAC to provide a seminar in continuous-improvement training and application techniques to some 130 employees from its corporate offices in Columbus, Ga., and New York operations.

Aflac representatives called the two-day event a huge success.

“It is awesome training,” said Bob Ottman, senior vice president, claims division. “The interaction and participation and keeping everyone engaged are excellent.”

Debbie Simmons, senior business analyst of administration and technical support added, “It is the best training I have participated in during my more than 18 years with Aflac. It is very thorough and easy to understand.”

“The extra hands-on (training), using our own business examples, made it stick,” said Joe Smith, second vice president of business architecture.



Aflac managers also are seeing benefits in quality improvement, particularly among internal customers, from one department to another.

“This has made a huge increase in our overall transactional quality,” Goodroe added. “We are finding that our internal customer service among our own departments gets consistently better as we apply these tools and techniques.”

Employee morale and job satisfaction are other noticeable improvements.

“This training is giving our employees the empowerment to question the efficiency of processes and the tools and knowledge to make improvements,”

Smith said. “We now can speak a common language about waste and value-added issues. We are seeing a broad culture shift as a result. We are becoming more process-centered and customer-focused regarding our services and timely response.”



ATAC Lean specialists Terri Lawrence and Rick Battye describe the “House of Lean” to Aflac employees during the insurance giant’s Lean seminar held in February for its claims division. Building blocks in the “House” example are the tools and processes used in continuous improvement.

Summer English School Ensures Students Don't Get "Lost in Translation"

Having studied a foreign language for five years, Holleigh Patterson figured she would be well-suited to volunteer at the Auburn University Summer English School, a College of Education program aimed at improving the proficiency of non-native adult speakers and students in grades K-12.

One potential obstacle briefly flustered Patterson on the first day of class at Richland Elementary School, however. Patterson, a junior English education major from Vestavia Hills, Ala., has a strong grasp of Spanish. But when walking into her classroom for the first time, Patterson couldn't help but notice that all her students were Korean.

Of course, Patterson recognized that certain fundamentals apply when teaching students any new language, whether it's English, Spanish or Korean.

"I know how hard it is to want to say something and to not be able to spit it out," said Patterson, one of 20 College of Education student volunteers. "I know what they're going through in trying to speak English."

The Summer English School, held June 1-26 in partnership with Auburn and Opelika city schools, can be a valuable resource for international students making the

transition to a new culture. This region's economic growth, which includes a Kia automobile plant in West Point, Ga., suppliers and other related businesses along the Interstate 85 corridor, has brought demographic change.

Jung Won Hur, an assistant professor of educational media and director of the Summer English School, said the vast majority of the students have already studied English but need to build confidence in addition to proficiency. Students receive 60 total hours of instruction. Of the 100 students enrolled over the summer, 98 were Korean and two were Chinese.

"The general classroom environments might be overwhelming to some newcomers," Hur said, "and they might be afraid of speaking in front of many native speakers. But this environment is much more comfortable in that most people can understand the difficulties, but they all share the same goal."



CADC Construction Camp



Auburn's College of Architecture, Design and Construction hosted nine 9th and 10th graders from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida for two weeks this summer in the college's second Academic Success Action Program. The goal of ASAP is to develop students' academic skills in trigonometry, physics, and drawing and sketching. Week two of the program brought additional students to Auburn for one of three camps in architecture, design, and building construction. Fifteen ASAP scholarships were provided through the college's Donor Scholarship Initiative, which focuses specifically on increasing the participation of minorities and females in the fields of architecture, design, and construction. (In photo: Students in the building construction camp visit the firm of Robins & Morton in Birmingham, Ala.)

University Outreach Awards Scholarship Grants to Faculty

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach at Auburn University has awarded almost \$90,000 to fund faculty scholarship grants for 2009-10. Six projects were funded out of 40 proposals that were submitted for the competitive program.

The primary goal of the Outreach Scholarship Grant program is to provide Auburn faculty members with resources to connect their research with pressing needs of the state. Assistant Vice President for University Outreach Royrickers Cook was excited about the response to this year's program. "I am very pleased with the significant increase this year in the number of proposals submitted, all of them high quality concepts," said Cook. "The proposals selected offer great potential for positive impact toward the needs they address."

The six projects selected for funding and principal investigators are:

"Mathematics in Motion: Bridges between Visual Mathematics and Public Education"

- Lead Investigator: Andras Bezdek, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Sciences and Mathematics

The project will make mathematical models and exhibits to provide informal learning experiences aimed to improve the understanding of mathematical ideas and improve the appreciation of mathematics by the general population of Alabama.

"Auburn Audiology Outreach in Guatemala"

-Lead Investigator: Sandra Clark-Lewis, Department of Communication Disorders, College of Liberal Arts

The project will provide hearing and middle ear screening to street children and the children of the underclass who are enrolled in six daycare centers and three schools in Guatemala City.

"Alabama Partnership for Research and Training on Positive Academic and Behavior Supports"

- Lead Investigator: DaShaunda Patterson, Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling and School Psychology, College of Education

The project will involve the second year of an Auburn University and the Alabama State Department of Education collaborative partnership involving research, training, and technical assistance on School-wide

Faces of Service



TIM KING

Tim King joined the Auburn University staff in December 2007 as the adviser for IMPACT and other student organizations.

Working with IMPACT, King oversees service projects with eleven agencies in Lee County. He has volunteered with Storybook Farms, a therapeutic horseback-riding facility; Reading is Fundamental; Joyland child development center; Azalea Place Assisted Living; and Camellia Place retirement home. Additionally, King volunteered with the East Cooper chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Charleston, S.C., with the alternative spring break program.

King said the alternative spring break was his favorite project throughout the past year. "Seeing a group of students that had never met come together for one purpose, learn so much about themselves, and develop the closeness of a family in a week really made me excited to work even harder," he said. "The families that we helped by working on those houses are affected daily by the work that we were able to do."

King added that service should always be a part of our lives. "We are on this earth to serve others, and if we are not doing that, we are taking for granted the opportunities that lay in front of us," he said.

He summed up his philosophy about the value of service by quoting Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others."



Academic and Behavior Support to serve K-12 public schools in east central Alabama.

“An Evaluation of Attachment Training for Mentoring Effectiveness”

– Lead Investigator: Elizabeth Brestan Knight, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts
 The project will apply the principles of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy to help mentors build a warm relationship with their mentees and thereby increase the effectiveness of one local mentoring program, Project Uplift.

“Preservice Science Teachers Volunteering in an After-School Program: Service Learning through Environmental Education Projects”

– Lead Investigator: Carolyn Wallace, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, College of Education

The project will bring together graduate students enrolled in an alternative master’s and certification program in secondary science education at Auburn University with children in the Opelika afterschool program.

“Advanced Inferential Control of Kamyr Digesters”

– Lead Investigator: Jin Wang, Department of Chemical Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

The project seeks to extend the control solutions and continuing professional training material in order to modernize the US pulp and paper industry.



BRANDON YOUNG

Brandon Young, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, finds time for numerous service activities. While a student at Auburn, Young has participated in the National Panhellenic Council, Black Student Union, National Society of Black Engineers, and the Franklin Society, but he said his membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. has provided him the most service opportunities.

One of Young’s favorite Auburn memories occurred while representing his fraternity. One semester the Greek organizations spent Friday afternoons working with children at the Boykin Center, a daycare, in Auburn. During their last visit, each group performed a skit for the children.

Brandon was the only member of his fraternity present, but that did not deter him. He performed by himself, receiving a rousing ovation from the children, adults, and other performers.

He said his solo performance gave the children a good life lesson. “You do not need a lot of people to do anything,” Brandon said. “Just give it your all and have enthusiasm.”

Young said he has a simple philosophy on service: “... lifting as I climb, meaning on the way to success, take time to reach out and give back because it may truly shape someone’s life.”



www.auburnserves.com

What I Did This Summer: Biomedical Research

This summer, Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine looked like the location of an upscale science fair, with veterinary students preparing abstracts that describe their research activities and submitting their findings in posters or PowerPoint presentations.

Completed by 22 students as part of the Veterinary Scholars Research Program, the presentations had titles such as "Thromboelastography as a method of monitoring hemostasis in dogs" and "Alpha-melanocyte stimulating hormone and melanocortin-4 receptor in pancreatic neurons."

Twenty of the students are enrolled in Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine while two attend Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine.

The 10-week program allows students to participate in a research laboratory environment with Auburn veterinary faculty and scientists. The program's mission is to expose first and second-year veterinary students to biomedical research and career opportunities in research.

Co-sponsors include Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, the Merck-Merial Foundation, the Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Scholars Programs, and individual faculty members' grants.

"The program provides an intensive and high-quality research experience," said Carl A. Pinkert, PhD, associate vice president for research at Auburn.

Each student is linked with a professor who serves as his or her mentor. Haroldo Toro, DVM, PhD, helped direct Contessa Bowman's

project, which targeted chicken embryo tissues following in ovo delivery of Adenovirus-vectored vaccine. Toro is a professor of avian diseases in the Department of Pathobiology.

Bowman, a second-year veterinary student at Tuskegee University, described Toro as helpful, enlightening, and patient. She said by allowing her to assist with other projects and work hands-on with chickens, he helped her learn as much as possible during the ten weeks.

Along with their laboratory work, students visited extramural sites to learn more about research and career opportunities for veterinarians. Students received competitive stipends and all were encouraged to attend the Merck-Merial NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium held in August at North Carolina State University. At the symposium, students from veterinary schools in the United States and Canada gathered to present the results of their summer research.



School of Forestry Co-Sponsors Live, Statewide Deer-Management Seminar

Deer hunting is big business in Alabama—more than 352,000 hunters head to the woods each year. Not only is hunting a favorite pastime for many Alabamians, the sport also injects about \$678 million yearly into state's economy.

White-tailed deer are one of the state's most cherished resources, and many avid hunters want to do their part in managing the deer on their properties. As a result, one of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's most popular seminars, Advanced Deer Management I, is about to go live statewide. Previously offered only at select locations throughout Alabama, the seminar will be broadcasted throughout the state via the ACES's network of video-conferencing sites.

The day-long seminar is packed full of information on deer management—from tips on how to grow that big buck to the latest techniques in habitat and food-plot management.

Mark Smith, wildlife extension specialist for the ACES and assistant professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, organizes the event each year, hand-picking the top deer biologists in Alabama and Mississippi to give presentations.

"There's been such an incredible demand for this seminar over the past two years that we've had to make it a statewide program this year," said Smith.

Co-sponsored by the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences' deer lab, the Alabama Department of Conservation, and the Alabama chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association, the seminar brings the latest science-based information to Alabama hunters.

"There's a lot of new research coming out everyday on deer management, and this seminar is the perfect venue for getting that information to the public," said Stephen Ditchkoff, associate professor and deer specialist in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

And it doesn't stop with one live seminar. Smith is already planning next year's Advanced Deer Management II, which will take a more in-depth look at topics such as genetics, culling, camera surveys, and more.

For more information about the seminar, visit the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences' deer lab's website at <http://deerlab.auburn.edu>, or contact Kelly Knowles at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at (334) 844-1010.

years of service

Burney Retires After 23 Years of Service

Samuel M. Burney Jr. retired from Auburn University June 30, 2009, after 23 years of service. Burney came to Auburn in 1986 in the office of University Continuing Education. Burney became the director of the Outreach Program Office when it was formed in 1993. A graduate of the United States Military Academy and Georgia Tech, Burney had a distinguished military career and taught engineering at West Point. Burney served in Vietnam and Thailand, receiving several decorations. He completed both the Airborne School and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga.

As director of the Outreach Program Office, Burney assisted in establishing the summer coordination and scheduling policies, and directed efforts to increase enrollment in summer camps. During his tenure as director, the office experienced steady growth in Elderhostel, lifelong learning programs, professional development training and

community courses.

Burney said he is proud of the work done by the OPO under his leadership. "I have taken great pride in the sustained superior performance of the Outreach Program Office over the past 16 years," he said.

"I take pride in the fact that OPO has provided outstanding educational opportunities," said Burney. "I am personally pleased that those who have worked in this unit throughout the past 16 years have brought such enthusiasm to the task and taken such pride in their work. I leave feeling our joint efforts have made a difference."

After retirement, Burney is looking forward to spending time with his wife, Sandy; his sons, Rick, Chris and Curt; and his five grandchildren.



partnerships.....

Auburn University and Baptist Health Collaborate to Increase Patient Safety

Auburn University and Baptist Health in Montgomery have joined forces to improve the quality of health care and reduce the likelihood of medical errors through a unique approach that applies the airline industry's advanced communication methods to the medical field.

The collaboration was marked with a ceremony in June at which an official agreement was signed at Baptist Health's Institute for Patient Safety and Medical Simulation. Auburn University President Jay Gogue, Provost Mary Ellen Mazey and Assistant Vice President for University Outreach Royrickers Cook joined Baptist Health Chief Operating Officer Robin Barca and Institute Director Judi Miller at the ceremony.

"Auburn University is honored to be working with Baptist Health in this new endeavor to improve health care communication and safety, not just at Baptist Health but throughout the entire health care industry," Gogue said.

"This partnership is a great example of what can be accomplished when two organizations come together to combine their unique capabilities and create a whole which is greater than the sum of its parts," Barca said. "The patient safety research and training accomplished will have a long-lasting effect on the quality of health care in our region and far beyond."





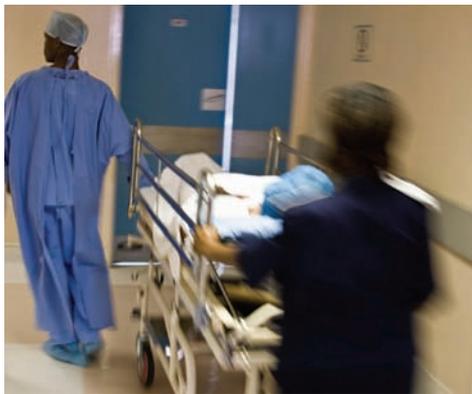
The two parties have developed a training model known as Synergistic Management and Resource Team (SMART) Training, which applies communication methods used in the airline industry to significantly increase the safety and quality of patient care.

SMART Training ensures that common language and terminology

are spoken and understood to enhance the speed and accuracy of critical elements of patient treatment. It combines the tactics of crew resource management, purpose-based decision making, evidence-based practice and simulation, which together reduce risk and increase safety.

According to Project Director Randall Johnson, the SMART Training method could also be applied to other health care providers and to other fields involved in crisis situations, like police and firefighters. Areas of the transportation industry, such as trucking and railroads, could also benefit. Johnson is an associate professor in Aviation and Supply Chain Management at Auburn University.

Baptist Health's Institute for Patient Safety and Medical Simulation is a 22,500 square-foot facility where clinical skills are practiced in conjunction

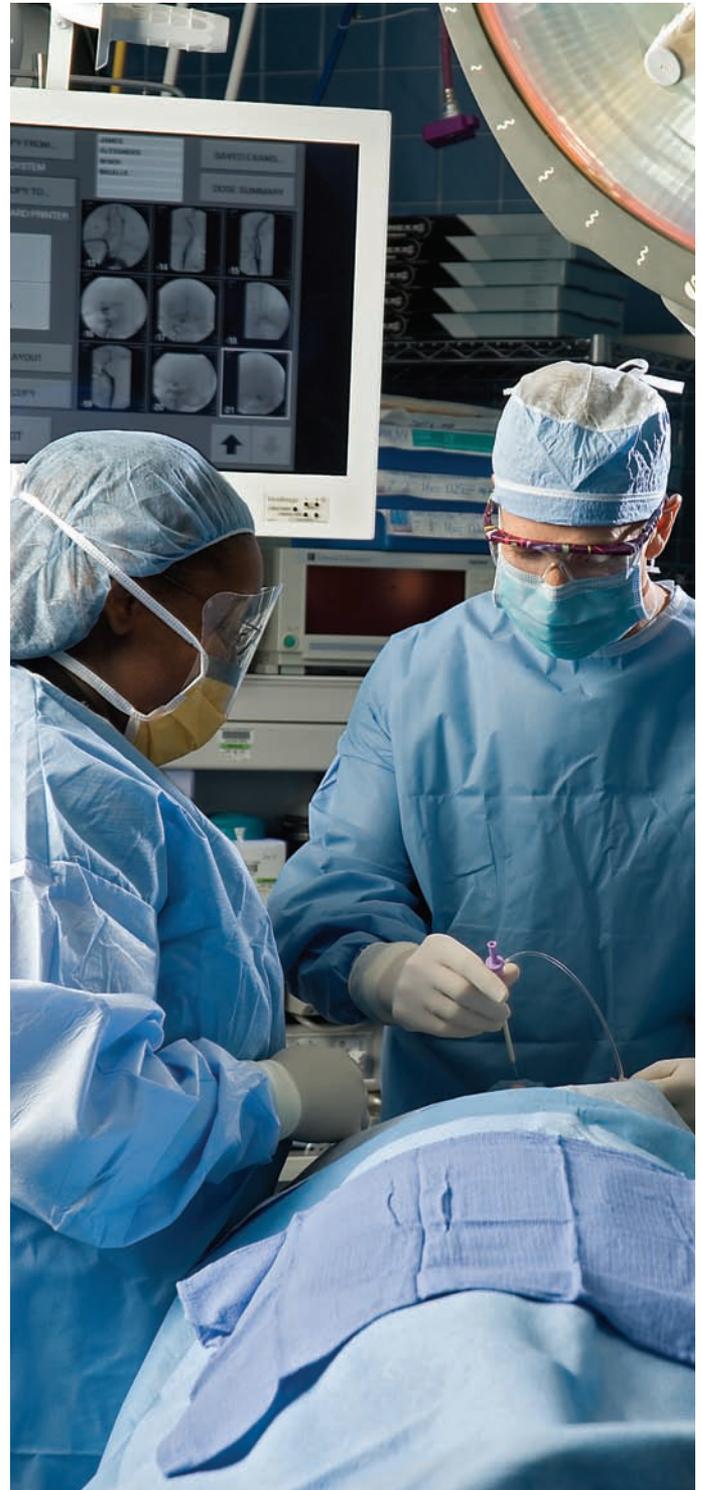


with the SMART Training method. New and experienced health care professionals are trained at the facility, including physicians, experienced nurses and nursing students, residents and fellows, medical students, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and paramedics.

Auburn University's outreach mission is dedicated to improving quality of life in communities and helping people fulfill their educational goals. Auburn applies its faculty expertise and research resources to training

professionals, promoting business, advising governments and assisting families.

"Professional education is one of Auburn's traditional strengths in outreach and it is an ongoing commitment expressed in our university strategic plan," Cook said. "Leveraging partnerships with corporate institutions such as Baptist Health is a great way to assure high quality, effective training is accessible to the professional work force in our state and across the nation."



OLLI at Auburn Helps Citizens Continue Adventures in Learning

While looking toward its 20th anniversary, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University, OLLI at Auburn, has received a third year of funding from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The third grant of \$100,000 will help ensure that OLLI will grow and continue providing adventures in learning.

OLLI at Auburn was congratulated for meeting all the goals of the second-year proposal, for the leadership shown in hosting a second Southern regional conference, and for the contributions made to Auburn University by participating in a number of research initiatives and student-training programs.

OLLI at Auburn was also invited to apply for consideration of a \$1 million endowment plus a \$50,000 bridge grant in 2010. The endowment would provide a guaranteed \$50,000 per year income base in perpetuity.

The additional funding could assist the continuing education program with its many future endeavors, primarily centering on ways the program can serve more Alabama citizens. Plans include taking OLLI classes beyond the Auburn area, expanding the scholarship program, and using technology to both enhance classroom courses and also offer online courses.

Program leaders had the opportunity to discuss these plans and more at the Southern regional conference "Continuing the Adventure" for members, leaders, and administrators of institutes for learning in retirement on July 29–31, 2009, held on Auburn's campus. Participants from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South

Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana registered, as well as participants came from as far away as Maine.

The conference included sessions on marketing, member involvement and retention, academic programming, diversity outreach, long-range planning, building partnerships, and organizational goal-setting and quality assessment. Concerns surrounding economic change were discussed as well, with development directors from the University of Alabama, University of Georgia, Emory University, and Auburn discussing options for funding and sources for scholarships for lower income members of institutes for learning and retirement.

OLLI at Auburn offers continuing education courses during three academic terms per year. Open to people of all ages, available classes include arts, history, science, politics, religion, literature and writing, fitness, and languages. These programs are open to the whole community and not limited to OLLI dues-paying members. OLLI also offers other free lectures each term; this fall, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, former editor of *The Auburn Plainsman* and syndicated columnist, spoke on her latest book, *Poor Man's Provence*.

The program began in 1990 as the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners, with 37 charter members. It has grown to more than 550 members through the past 20 years.

For more information, visit the OLLI at Auburn website at www.olliauburn.org or the University Outreach site at www.auburn.edu/outreach.

www.olliauburn.org

AU Outreach News

Extension Faculty and Researchers Assisting Farmers with Climate Management

With each passing year, climatologists are developing a clearer picture of our climate and how minute changes from year to year can affect all facets of the environment.

With data provided by the Southeast Climate Consortium, Alabama Cooperative Extension System and research faculty at Auburn University and other land-grant universities are showing farmers how they can use this data to make better crop-production decisions.

“The data will not only enable producers to avoid potential yield losses but also to capitalize on the many advantages this clearer picture affords,” said Brenda Ortiz, an Extension agronomist and Auburn assistant professor of agronomy, specializing in grain crops and precision agriculture.

Ortiz organized a web-delivered Agro-Climate Workshop on June 29, which, in addition to highlighting the differences between weather and climate, also introduced participants to the tools that can help producers make crop decisions based on climate data.

“We chose the web to deliver this workshop because it enables people from many different sites and even via their own computers to obtain this information at minimal cost,” Ortiz said.

Stream Restoration Project Yields Great Results, Great Connections

A public-private partnership that formed to restore a highly eroded stream in Auburn has completed that mission and, in doing so, created an outdoor classroom and established a model for teamwork approaches to revitalizing streams throughout Alabama and beyond.

The restoration project began in October 2008, when an Auburn construction company discovered an ailing stream on its property and called on Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood Inc., a Montgomery-based engineering firm, to spearhead a recovery effort. The stream was an unnamed tributary of Saugahatchee Creek, which flows through Lee, Chambers, Macon, and Tallapoosa counties to the Tallapoosa River.

Shareholders in the community-based and Auburn Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures-coordinated Saugahatchee Watershed Management Plan got involved. The Auburn College of Agriculture and several groups and organizations from public and private sectors also joined the partnership.

The restored stream now is now used to teach university students.

For more information on the project, go to www.swamp.auburn.edu under “SWaMP Highlights.”

Summit Focuses on Future of Arts and Humanities

The College of Liberal Arts, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Alabama Museums Association, and Alabama Humanities Foundation recently sponsored a summit on the role of Alabama’s cultural, arts, and humanities organizations.

Intended to foster discussion about the role of the arts and humanities in civic life,

participants discussed what the arts and humanities bring to civic life and the impact of current economic conditions on the arts’ viability and future.

Charles McCrary, president and CEO of Alabama Power Company and a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees, delivered a keynote address.

Following the keynote, a panel consisting of Ed Bridges from the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Al Head from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, T. C. Coley of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, Gail Andrews of the Birmingham Museum of Art, Shirley Spears from the B. B. Comer Memorial Library, and Robert Stewart of the Alabama Humanities Foundation responded.

Video from the summit will be available on iTunesU.



Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station Launch Agro-Climate Effort

Surviving in an increasingly competitive global economy is requiring farmers to become conscious of every factor that could affect operating costs and yields. A multidisciplinary team of Extension specialist and Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station researchers have launched a statewide initiative to help better understand how climate forecasts and related information can help farmers, as well as foresters and water resource managers, better manage their economic bottom lines.

Bell Represents Auburn at Engagement Academy for University Leaders



Leary Bell, director of faculty engagement in Auburn's Office of University Outreach, participated in the Virginia Tech's Engagement Academy for University Leaders in June.

The academy brings together distinguished university leaders, both as teachers and as students, to help build institutional capacity for engagement with the community. The current civic environment calls for colleges and universities to redefine themselves, requiring these institutions' commitment to build more effective ways to disseminate knowledge and to learn from society and industry in ways that further research and inspire teaching. The university-community partnership represents the best of university engagement, and engagement is important in the modern land-grant university's mission.

The academy involved learning experiences in leading community engagement, creating engagement partnerships, and leading strategic change at the university to put engagement in a core position at the school. The academy also sought to instruct the leaders how to obtain the Carnegie Foundation's Elective Community Engaged University classification. Auburn plans to apply for this classification in 2010 in order to reaffirm the commitment made in its 2008 strategic plan to "expand the impact of the university's extension and outreach activities to better serve our communities and the state."

Representatives from more than 40 universities and three countries took part in the academy.

Hill Named Associate Director of CGS



David B. Hill was recently named associate director of the Center for Governmental Services.

Hill's prior academic appointments were at Texas A&M University, Florida Atlantic University and Kansas State University. At Texas A&M, Hill served as tenured associate professor and director of the Public Policy Resources Center and founding director of the Texas Poll.

Earlier this year, he led a month-long graduate seminar in campaign strategies at the University of Florida. His published research focuses primarily on political psychology, communications, and public opinion. Recently, Hill signed on as co-editor of the second edition of *The Electoral Challenge: Theory Meets Practice*, to be published by CQ Press next year. Since 1984, he has

been a private consultant to diverse clients in public and private sectors, ranging from Dell computer company and the American Cancer Society to former Vice President Dan Quayle and local governments and school districts across the U.S. Since 2005, he has been a columnist for *The Hill*, a capitol hill newspaper that covers Congress and national affairs. Hill earned his PhD from Florida State University and undergraduate degree from Auburn. He is married and has two grown children, one an Auburn aerospace engineering student.

National Outreach Scholarship Conference

Auburn University's Office of University Outreach has accepted an invitation to become the 10th member of the National Outreach Scholarship Conference and to hold a position on the board of directors until 2012. NOSC began in 2001 as a partnership among Ohio State University, Penn State University, and the University of Wisconsin "to provide a framework to facilitate communication, cooperation, and mutually beneficial collaborative research and programming" in order to "develop and deliver programs and educational resources that support the development and advancement of the knowledge behind successful outreach institutions in higher education." Each year, NOSC hosts a national conference that initiates dialogue on the civic purpose of universities as demonstrated by their outreach and engagement endeavors. The conference targets college and university leaders, outreach practitioners, and faculty and staff interested in engaging with those outside the academic community. This year's conference, entitled "Pathways of Engagement Connecting Civic Purpose to Learning and Research—Locally and Globally," will be held in September at the University of Georgia and is hosted by the ten members of the NOSC. The conference attracts participants from more than 80 institutions from more than 40 states and from several foreign countries annually.

Slaton Honored by Alabama Secretary of State

Beth Chapman, Alabama's secretary of state, presented Christa Slaton, College of Liberal Arts associate dean and political science professor, with the National Association of Secretaries of State medallion. This national award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to furthering NASS's mission of fair and honest elections, civic education, and service to state government. Each secretary of state awards only five NASS medallions each year. Slaton was formally recognized in a May awards ceremony in the Old House Chamber of the Alabama state capitol.

Student Pharmacists Participate in 60 Mile March for Hunger Awareness

Harrison School of Pharmacy student pharmacists Charlie Darling, Jessica Gresham, Josh Hollingsworth, Brad Ledbetter, and Somer Smith recently walked 60 miles to the Alabama state capitol to help feed hungry children and raise world hunger awareness.

In spite of developing blisters from walking in the rain, the group cheered and chanted positive slogans. After three days, they arrived at the capitol and found the energy to run up the steps in celebration. They were greeted by well-wishers, including Haley Walker, Auburn's Committee of 19 president and a couple of state representatives. The Committee of 19 is the student leadership arm of the United Nations World Food Programme initiative, representing every school, college, and major organization on campus.

These five student pharmacists stepped out of their comfort zones to make a difference in the fight against world hunger. Somer, the Committee of 19 representative from HSOP, said they raised more than \$1,000, which will feed about 4,000 children.



Outreach team presents at ED-MEDIA World Conference

Members of two University Outreach offices made presentations at the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education "ED-MEDIA" World Conference on Educational Multimedia. Director of distance learning Monica DeTure presented a best practices session that overviewed Auburn's distance education program, policies, and procedures. Distance learning's Leslie Keeler and outreach information's Karen Rankin provided a joint presentation on Groupware, a computer-mediated communications programs for distance courses, and discussed its impact on course design. An international audience of university officials and IT educators attended the conference.



Liberal Arts launches public good course

Last spring semester, the College of Liberal Arts offered a two-hour elective course for freshmen, titled Liberal Arts and the Public Good. The course included

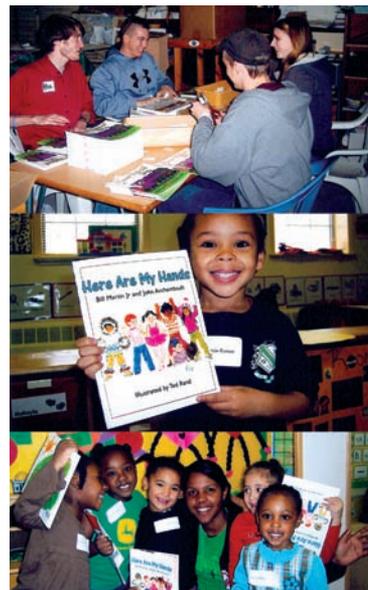
a service-learning component. Based on Auburn's land grant mission of outreach and the college's commitment to civic engagement, the course incorporated lectures, readings, and presentations on individual and cultural differences. The course also required students to perform a service project with a non-profit community partner.

Auburn recognized by national service-learning organizations

Leading national service-learning organizations recently recognized Auburn with two institutional appointments. In May, Auburn was admitted as an institutional member in Campus Compact, the only higher-education association dedicated solely to civic engagement. As a member, the university is recognized as having a specific commitment to service and engagement in the community. Faculty at member institutions receive access to the organization's extensive programmatic resources and venues for national presentation. Auburn was also selected to join the executive board of the Gulf South Summit, a national conference focused on service learning. The summit, organized as a regional meeting among several southern universities, is one of the largest and most diverse national conferences on service learning. The Gulf South Summit is governed by an executive committee of key universities, which serve as hosts for the annual program.

EOA Surpasses One Million Views

The Encyclopedia of Alabama, based in Liberal Arts' Department of History, surpassed its one millionth page view during the first week of June. The online resource, www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org, was also named a "Best of Free Reference" by Library Journal in its annual listing of quality print and online resources. The nationally recognized web site currently offers more than 800 articles on Alabama's culture, geography, natural environment and history. Visitors to the site have been interested in a variety of topics, with Harper Lee and her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* combining to rank as the most popular.



ECDI Participates in Initiative to Address Southern Rural Poverty

Auburn's Economic and Community Development Institute has been selected to participate in a pilot project that aims to address the issue of rural poverty in the southern United States. ECDI director, Joe Summers, is Alabama state coordinator for the project, which is sponsored by the Southern Rural Development Center, the Kettering Foundation, and Everyday Democracy.



The majority of our nation's persistent high poverty counties are located in the rural South. In fact, the South is home for three-fourths of all high poverty counties in the nation (465 of the 610 high poverty counties). The challenges local residents in these communities face are massive and across the board – economic, educational, social, historical, and cultural. The purpose of the initiative is to empower local citizens through community-based dialogue to take action against poverty. The goal is to engage local citizens from all walks of life in sharing their voices and energies to pursue focused actions uniquely tailored to the community's needs, interests, and assets.

The project mirrors the successful Horizons Project, a poverty alleviation initiative celebrating five years of success in the nation's Northwest region. The initiative takes a very citizen-driven approach to addressing the community's problems. Through a series of facilitated group discussions, community participants move toward a shared understanding of the problem, concerns, and possible solutions, with a goal of developing strategies for improving local prosperity.

In addition to Alabama, other pilot states are Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. Each state identifies two communities as pilot sites for the project. In Alabama, the pilot sites are Selma and Uniontown. County Extension Coordinators, Callie Nelson (Dallas County) and Katrina Easley (Perry County), will serve as local project coordinators for the two communities.

The timeline for the project calls for community training and planning to take place in the fall of 2009 so that communities are ready to kick off Study Circles at the start of the New Year in 2010. Study Circles will continue throughout the early months of 2010, ending by April. Action Forums will take place in April, providing the late spring months for communities to begin taking positive steps based on identified actions.

According to Summers the program is designed to be a catalyst for continuing community engagement and action. "It is our hope that these communities will decide to continue talking, working, and growing together long after this pilot project ends. We hope this type of engagement will be replicated throughout the state."



Tasman String Quartet Brings Music, Education to Entire Auburn Community

From February to March 2009, Auburn University College of Liberal Art's Department of Music hosted the Tasman String Quartet in a month-long outreach residency.

Founded in Wellington, New Zealand, in 2006, the Tasman String Quartet includes violinists Anna van der Zee and Jennifer Banks, violist Christiaan van der Zee, and cellist Miranda Wilson.

As part of its residency, the group traveled the state, conducting workshops and performing at 12 elementary schools throughout Auburn, Opelika, Tuskegee, Scottsboro, and Mobile. Both string students and non-string students were exposed to Haydn, Bartok, and Schubert.

The quartet visited six classes in the College of Liberal Arts. Collaborations with a drawing class and poetry class gave both students and the quartet a chance to explore connections between music, visual arts, and literary arts. Music history and music appreciation classes embraced the opportunity to interact with the quartet, who helped bring to life music they had studied.

The Tasman String Quartet also gave five public performances, including two at Goodwin Hall on Auburn's campus and one in the Gorham's Bluff community near Pisgah, Alabama. The quartet participated in a public concert given by the Auburn University/Community Orchestra.

Brought to Auburn under the auspices of the Breeden Eminent Scholar Chair, held by Howard Goldstein of Auburn's Department of Music, the quartet offered special opportunities in string education and performance

for students, faculty, and the Auburn community.

The residency was coordinated by Goldstein, the Department of Music, and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities. For more information, visit www.auburn.edu/cah.



Aquaculture Workforce-Development Needs Addressed Through Distance Learning

The Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture at Auburn University, the recognized world leader in aquaculture education and training for many years, is now on the cutting edge of global workforce-development training. Its new non-credit Certificate for Aquaculture Professionals, or CAP, is provided worldwide via distance education.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recognized the need to develop this global training program, citing increases in both global population and seafood demand per capita.

Global aquaculture production will need to double by 2030 to keep pace with demand, and in most countries, there are already an insufficient number of trained workers in the aquaculture field.

Government agencies require specialists who are knowledgeable about aquaculture activities and can evaluate, develop, and improve aquaculture projects. Aquaculture ventures need specialists in current aquaculture techniques and procedures. Without these trained specialists, government and industry needs are not met, and the potential economic opportunities of the industry are not fully realized.

The CAP program targets four primary educational markets: government agencies, universities, privately owned farms, and individual aquaculture professionals. Each client can benefit from training that will help build the knowledge to perform industry duties with the highest proficiency standards.

Guided by Antonio Garza deYta and Troy Hahn, the CAP program and the Distance Learning & Outreach Technology office have worked to support fisheries and allied aquaculture faculty in the design and production of online modules to deliver program content in multiple languages. The content is structured into modules such as water quality, hatchery management, and genetics and breeding.

Students access the content and are assessed via Auburn's web-based learning management system, Blackboard.



The CAP program was conceptualized and planned in 2008, module development began early in 2009, and program leaders are currently piloting CAP with aquaculture professionals in Mexico.

The Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture is capitalizing on the ability to develop instructional materials, translate them into a variety of languages, and deliver them to multiple audiences across the globe simultaneously to extend the reach of its workforce-development offerings.



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