Engaging Communities

Cheryl Morgan Receives the 2012 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach
ON THE COVER
Cheryl Morgan, the 2012 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.

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Until the end of the Industrial Revolution, or about 1850, higher education, for the most part, had been reserved for training doctors, lawyers, teachers, and preachers. Answering an American populace that wanted to know when universities would adapt to the needs of the industrial classes, U.S. Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont introduced the Morrill Act of 1862, which established land-grant colleges.

The original mission of these institutions, as set forth in the first Morrill Act, was to teach agriculture, the mechanic arts, and classical studies so that members of the working classes could obtain a liberal, practical education. The federal government’s requirement for these schools also included instruction in military tactics as part of their curriculum, forming what became known as the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

The Morrill Act provided the state 240,000 acres—30,000 acres for each U.S. senator and congressman—of federal land, which the state could sell to fund an agricultural and mechanical college. Faced with competing proposals from many colleges across the state, the legislature accepted East Alabama Male College as the land-grant school and changed its name to the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862, and the institutions which emerged as a result of that legislation serve the state as well as the national and international communities with their research and outreach in many fields, including agriculture, engineering, and animal sciences.

Today, Auburn University is one of the few institutions to carry the torch as a land-, sea- and space-grant university. As such, Auburn’s emphasizes strong academic and research programs in agriculture, natural resources and the life and physical sciences, engineering, as well as architecture, business, education, forestry and wildlife sciences, human sciences, the liberal arts, nursing, pharmacy, science and mathematics and veterinary medicine.

Auburn University, ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the top 50 public universities nationwide for 20 consecutive years, is dedicated to providing opportunities for all students to actively engage in socially fulfilling and educationally purposeful experiences inside and outside the classroom. Participation in campus activities is a great opportunity to individually develop leadership skills such as teamwork, decision-making and planning, while creating meaningful relationships.

War Eagle!

JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
Among the thousands of institutions of higher education across America, land-grant universities are unique. Established by the 1862 Morrill Act to extend practical knowledge to the masses, only 100 institutions hold the land-grant designation nationwide. Alabama is blessed to have three land-grant institutions – Auburn, Alabama A&M and Tuskegee University. Together, these universities have greatly expanded community access to higher education and have improved quality of life significantly across the state.

This year’s celebration of the Morrill Sesquicentennial also provided a wonderful backdrop for our Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach, which was presented to Professor Cheryl Morgan, director of the Urban Studio program in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. In that role, Professor Morgan has conducted outreach projects in some 70 Alabama communities. Her engagement also benefits students who participate in the projects as part of the service learning component of their professional studies. Professor Morgan’s innovative design and planning assistance to communities has had a profound impact, stimulating revitalization and transforming blighted areas into beautiful and vital civic spaces. She is well-recognized for her outstanding outreach scholarship, and she has received many significant honors in her discipline. I cannot think of a more worthy individual to be recognized among Auburn’s leading faculty scholars with the Award for Excellence.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, we reflect proudly on our distinguished historical legacy. We must also look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the future. Our tradition of integrating learning, discovery and engagement is still critically important to community development and sustainability, especially in these difficult economic times. Thus, we join our sister institutions in recommitting ourselves to the great land-grant mission. Together, we can make a difference locally, regionally, nationally and beyond.

War Eagle,

ROY RICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
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- Cheryl Morgan
Engaging Communities

Urban Studio’s Cheryl Morgan Receives the 2012 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

There is a broad spectrum of communities across Alabama, many in decline and facing seemingly intractable development challenges. Yet each is brimming with potential when viewed through Cheryl Morgan’s engagement lens. In her broad-reaching work, Morgan has applied an assets-based planning strategy that has helped Alabama communities renew and advance.

Morgan, who is director of the Center for Architecture and Urban Studies in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture (SAPLA), is this year’s recipient of the Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach. The award is Auburn’s highest recognition of engaged faculty scholarship.

“Few people have touched the heart of the state as has Cheryl Morgan,” said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. “Her engagement with small communities all across Alabama has not only given these towns hope, but also the tools to grow and be vital.”

The scope of Morgan’s outreach is impressive indeed, touching more than 70 towns across the state for over 15 years.

“She has extended the professional expertise and talents of our discipline into more Alabama communities than any other faculty member in the 105-year history of our program of architecture,” said David Hinson, head of the SAPLA. “[She has] an amazing commitment to the outreach mission of this university.”

More importantly, the impact of her work is equally impressive. Morgan’s “unbridled passion for finding and embracing new visions in Alabama communities [has] truly benefited the City of Valley,” said Martha Cato, city clerk of the east Alabama town. “The 1999 ‘Design Valley’ document [Morgan’s] team created was a road map for Valley’s short-term and long-term plans that the city is still following today.”

In addition to numerous individual town projects, Morgan’s efforts have contributed to the establishment of two nonprofit organizations devoted to community development. The first, Your Town Alabama, has held workshops on planning and design which have involved more than 800 citizen leaders from 65 of Alabama’s 67 counties to date. The second, Alabama...
Communities of Excellence, provides towns with guidance on economic and community development. Morgan’s work through these and other programs has influenced a new generation of enlightened community leaders.

“What is also important about Professor Cheryl Morgan’s work is the mentoring she has provided to so many people throughout Alabama,” said Nisa Miranda of the University of Alabama’s Center for Economic Development. These include professionals in state agencies and regional planning commissions, community planning teams, elected and civic leaders, and others who are “guiding Alabama in its quest for continuous improvement,” Miranda said.

Beyond her leadership role with the center, which is familiarly called “Urban Studio,” Morgan is a licensed architect and a professor of architecture in Auburn’s SAPLA. She holds two degrees from Auburn, a Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Arts in sociology. Her Master of Architecture degree is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Morgan practiced architecture and urban design in the San Francisco Bay Area before joining the Auburn faculty in 1992. She was appointed director of the Urban Studio in 2001.

In more than 26 years of teaching, she has worked with architectural programs at Georgia Institute of Technology, Oklahoma State University and California College of Arts and Crafts, as well as at Auburn. Outreach and civic engagement is key to her teaching and scholarly philosophy. “One of the best ways to learn and teach is ‘learning by doing,’” said Morgan. “One of the great things about the design professions is that you begin in school to engage with the elements that are fundamental to the activities of practice. The Urban Studio adds to this with projects that engage with real-world clients.”

More than teaching methodology, Morgan said, outreach provides her a venue to practice what she preaches. “There is an incredibly important and significant relationship between the classroom and the real world,” she said. “[Outreach] also allows me – I hope – to make a difference, in the classroom and on the ground across the state.”

The Urban Studio and its associated program, the Small Town Design Initiative (STDI), give Morgan an incredible venue for her to “walk the talk.” “I love talking to communities and people all over the state with the example of the STDI demonstrating Auburn’s and SAPLA’s commitment to giving back to the people and communities of Alabama.” Morgan said the impact of these programs provides her “tangible evidence of the application of what we’ve learned in research and teaching that can be applied to help create higher quality of life for the citizens of Alabama.”

Outreach also provides the venue for wonderful relationships to emerge from the engagement. “I love
taking students to our small towns and neighborhoods of larger towns to do an STDI – they bring important fresh eyes and a wonderful naiveté,” said Morgan with a smile. “Citizens in our towns love that students are involved and are often more receptive to new and fresh ideas – sometimes challenging ideas – because they come from Auburn students!”

These spirited relationships encourage Morgan, her students and stakeholders to “set the bar high.” “We often remind our towns and our students of this very human concept: the value of big plans,” added Morgan. “Two of the most important keys to successful communities are: strong evidence of pride in the community – you can tell immediately that folks there ‘give a hoot!’ – and ‘believing you can do it!’”

Cheryl Morgan’s plate is a full one these days. In addition to her teaching assignment and leadership role with the Urban Studio and STDI, Morgan has generated an enviable record of productivity. She helped found the aforementioned Your Town Alabama and Alabama Communities of Excellence organizations. She launched the DesignAlabama Mayors’ Summit, a series of community design workshops for Alabama mayors. Additionally, with colleagues at the University of Alabama, Morgan organized the Alabama Innovation Engine, the initial offering of which engaged 50 designers nationwide in eight Alabama projects.

Since the center is headquartered in Birmingham, Morgan is heavily involved in civic projects in the Jefferson County area like Railroad Reservation Park, which transformed a blighted urban area into a vital central park for the city. She also has contributed to the development of Red Mountain State Park and serves, by appointment of the mayor, on the City of Birmingham’s Design Review Board.

Morgan’s engagement has attracted millions of dollars in extramural support for the university and her programs. She has received more than $500,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission grants and approximately $1.1 million in various grants for the Small Town Design Initiative.

In 2010, Morgan received the Thomas Jefferson Award from the Jefferson County Historical Commission, and in 2011, she was presented with the Alabama Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Distinguished Leadership Award recognizing her as a “Friend of Planning.”
Beyond all the numerous indicators of her success, there are countless accolades for Morgan from her university administrators, peers and collaborators.

“Professor Morgan has established a distinguished and distinct track record of innovative teaching, meaningful research and impactful service,” said Vini Nathan, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. “The impact of her work is sustained, innate transformation.”

Bonnie Durham, program manager for the Alabama Appalachian Regional Commission, said, “If we had one ‘Cheryl Morgan’ in each of our counties, Appalachian Alabama would reach parity with the nation in a very short time.” Glen Haab of the Monroeville/Monroe County Economic Development Authority is equally emphatic on Cheryl Morgan’s contributions to his area. “The communities in Monroe County have begun to change, thrive, and improve for the future as a result.”

“Morgan has helped, through her work across the state, to bring an awareness of the value of planning and design to an audience of communities that had rarely engaged with planning,” said Hinson.

Mayor of Linden, Ala., Mitzi Gates states it more colorfully. “[Morgan] certainly made believers out of us, and her word is community planning gospel as far as we are concerned!”

For Morgan, her engagement is inclusive. “It’s about the ‘we’ and not the ‘I,’” she said. Morgan is quick to cite the influence of her colleague, the late Frank Setzer, who was director of the Urban Studio when she joined the team in 1997. Setzer, with Morgan, created the Small Town Design Initiative. She also credits the inspiration of peers and students as key to her accomplishments. “All the work could not have been done without the many, many partners we have — that includes the students, other faculty and lots of other organizations,” said Morgan.

“This award recognizes not what I have done, but what Urban Studio and our amazing array of partners have accomplished TOGETHER.”

For Morgan, the goal of her community engagement is to produce an engaged community. “The impact of design thinking acknowledges the potential we have here in Alabama and showcases the things that make Alabama special.” Truly, Cheryl Morgan and her stakeholders share a unique spirit of engagement and sense of purpose that is producing special works all across the state.

“It is unusual for architectural students to work beyond the scale of a building and think about how their architectural work is part of the larger ensemble of a place, ... One of the things that we think is important is the potential for students to not only understand how to make great buildings, but also how to make great places.”

– Cheryl Morgan

Auburn University’s Urban Studio was founded in 1991.
http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/newsmakers/urban_studio/index.html
The Auburn University Office of Public Service hosted the annual Fall Volunteer Fair on Sept. 7 in the Auburn University Student Center. Hundreds of potential student volunteers mingled with representatives from nonprofit agencies from the community and university.

The Volunteer Fair provides the volunteer-based organizations a forum to share their mission and service opportunities with Auburn University students, faculty and staff. This year more than 20 agencies set up displays and distributed information.

The Volunteer Fair was established in 2009 in recognition of the September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance to give students, faculty and staff a chance to learn about opportunities for service. The Office of Public Service continues to hold the fair in the same time frame each fall with the hope that the Auburn University community will meet representatives from the various agencies and, subsequently, elect to volunteer with them.

Students attending the event gained valuable information about nonprofit organizations in need of their skills, while faculty and staff inquired about incorporating service and outreach into their existing courses. Many student-led organizations also attended, inquiring about service opportunities for their group members.

The participating nonprofit agencies were happy to recruit new volunteers for the upcoming year and, hence, build their own capacity.

Julee Nappier,
Project Uplift support services manager, was pleased with the fair, saying, “The Volunteer Fair was extremely organized and a huge success. There was a continuous circulation of students in the commons area which kept the organizations busy and momentum up. I handed out close to 100 fliers just within the two hours.”

Auburn students, faculty and staff were not the only faces in attendance; Auburn mascot Aubie made an appearance at the Volunteer Fair as well, encouraging students to follow his lead and serve.

The Office of Public Service will host another volunteer fair during the spring semester. For additional information about the fair or service opportunities, visit AuburnServes.com.
In acknowledgement of the many contributions of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to the quality of life for area residents, Mayor Bill Ham proclaimed Sept. 17, 2012, OLLI at Auburn Lifelong Learning Day. He urged all citizens of Auburn to observe the day by recognizing the impact of the organization upon the community.

“We are honored to be recognized by the city of Auburn in this manner,” said Mary Burkhart, founder and director of the 22-year-old program. “From the very beginning, we tried to make the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners (now OLLI at Auburn) a community organization. We made sure there were no requirements for membership, other than an interest in continued learning. You need not have attended or worked for Auburn University to join. In fact, many of our founding members had no previous formal association with Auburn.”

The contributions of OLLI at Auburn to the city were recognized recently in the national publication, SmartMoney, which listed Auburn as a good place to retire, and gave the city major accolades for its numerous activities for older adults. The article stated that in addition to picturesque golf courses, access to the school’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is an advantage of retiring to Auburn.

OLLI leaders provided an opportunity for all interested area residents to learn at the opening meeting of the 2012-13 academic year, which featured noted syndicated columnist and author, Rheta Grimsley Johnson. A 1977 graduate of Auburn University, Johnson was welcomed back to Auburn by Debbie Shaw, vice president for Alumni Affairs.

“Everyone feels they know Rheta because her picture stares at us daily from the newspapers we read, and her words often remind us of our own experiences growing up in the South. Her gift to write with such introspection, honesty and wit makes us feel she is part of our family. And she really is, as she is an Auburn graduate, and proud of it. We, without a doubt, are extremely proud of her,” said Shaw.

Johnson, an award-winning journalist, is the author of four books, and continues to write her weekly column, which appears in 50 newspapers around the country. “What Sustains Us,” the topic of her presentation, allowed those present to gain a better understanding of what motivated the author to write her 2010 memoir, Enchanted Barbie and the Second Coming. She also treated the audience to snippets from her newest publication, Hank Hung the Moon, which she calls a musical memoir of Hank Williams and which focuses on how the musician affected the lives of a number of people.

Johnson took a moment to reflect on Auburn and the role that OLLI at Auburn plays in making the community such a great place to live.

“In a village where learning is the chief industry, it seems natural that OLLI would be active, strong and important. When we stop learning, we drown. That’s not going to happen in Auburn if OLLI has its way. Think about those older citizens you may know whose minds stay active and lives viable. Most of them never stop learning new things, adopting different interests and perfecting fresh hobbies. OLLI makes sure those with the inclination to continue learning have excellent opportunities,” explained Johnson.

The only requirement for membership in OLLI at Auburn is a desire to learn. Participants can learn from the almost 50 courses available fall quarter 2012. Almost 600 OLLI members participate in classes and programs weekly. For information about OLLI at Auburn, contact the OLLI coordinator by email at OLLI@auburn.edu or go to www.olliatauburn.org.
Shiloh-Rosenwald School and Access & Community Initiatives Participate in National Rosenwald Schools Conference

Auburn University assistant vice president for Access and Community Initiatives Paulette Dilworth and a community team of alumni of the Shiloh-Rosenwald School presented an educational session at the National Rosenwald Schools Conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The panel participants included Barbara Mahone, Felicia Chandler, Shirley Johnson and James Smith. The conference was held June 14-16 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Tuskegee University.

During the session titled “Preserving the Past: The Shiloh Story,” panelists shared and highlighted the ongoing success story about the preservation and restoration of the Shiloh-Rosenwald School. A goal of the session was to share best practices insights focusing on assessing the physical condition of the school, community engagement, preserving oral traditions and heritage tourism.

In the early 20th century, Rosenwald Schools served as centers of community activity and symbols of pride among the populations they served. Today, Rosenwald Schools are being reclaimed and restored as important historical sites to tell stories of African-American education and advancement and to preserve the remaining structures of the partnership between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington. Today, less than 15 percent of the 5,300 original Rosenwald Schools remain.

For nearly 100 years, The Shiloh-Rosenwald School has stood at the center of history. Built in 1922 as a result of a philanthropic partnership between African-American educator Booker T. Washington and former Sears and Roebuck CEO Julius Rosenwald the school was one of the first of thousands founded to give African-American school children a chance to learn and build a better future. In 2002, the Rosenwald Schools were put on the list of endangered places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Shiloh-Rosenwald School also played a role in one of the most infamous chapters in history, a 40-year study of the United States Public Service Syphilis Study of Untreated Black Males. The Shiloh-Rosenwald School and adjacent Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and cemetery were added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on Sept. 20, 2006. They were subsequently added to the National Register of Historic Places on Aug. 6, 2010.

For more information about the Shiloh-Rosenwald School or Access and Community Initiatives contact diversity@auburn.edu.
Center for Governmental Services Hosts 42nd Annual Alabama County Government Institute

An audience of public officials welcomed Gov. Robert Bentley when he addressed the 42nd Annual Alabama County Government Institute that was held in June at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. The Center for Governmental Services (CGS), a division of University Outreach, hosts the annual institute.

In addition to Gov. Bentley, speakers included David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama; Ted Abernathy, executive director, Southern Growth Policies Board; and Julie Magee, commissioner, Alabama Department of Revenue.

The theme for this year’s Institute was “Racing for Revenue – Providing New Resources for Local Government,” which focused on timely fiscal solutions and answers for those serving in all levels of Alabama government. This year’s event brought together Alabama county commissioners, tax collectors, revenue commissioners and other county officials to explore ways for Alabama local governments to enhance their revenue environments, position the counties for economic development and growth and effectively build for the future.

Don-Terry Veal, director of the CGS, notes that over the past few years as the institutes continue to focus on topics designed to address resources and ways local governments can increase or improve their economic bases, the numbers of participants attending this annual conference have grown.

“One of the current goals of CGS is to intensify the collective understanding of governments’ potentials for revenue generation in a global economy,” Veal said.
Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures Hosts International Symposium

In June, Auburn University’s Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures hosted the 11th International Symposium on Genetics in Aquaculture. The symposium, which is held every three years at varying locations around the world, brought 150 scientists from 30 countries to Auburn University for a week to discuss genetic research in aquaculture. Auburn University’s Office of Professional and Continuing Education (OPCE) provided conference planning and event management services for the program.

To kick off the week’s events and welcome participants to Auburn University, attendees were treated to a Southern-style fish fry at the fisheries pavilion in scenic north Auburn. During the symposium, participants attended lectures, round-table discussions and poster sessions pertaining to varying aspects of genetic research in aquaculture. In addition, the symposium agenda included tours of Auburn’s aquaculture research facilities on campus and catfish farms in west Alabama.

Rex Dunham, alumni professor in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and president of the International Association for Genetics in Aquaculture, served as the organizing chairperson directing the overall planning and organization of the conference and selecting the speakers and presentations.

The logistics and detail planning of the symposium, coordinated by OPCE staff members, consisted of registration support and payment processing, event coordination and planning, logo design, designing and printing of the abstract and program books, arranging travel for group tours and on-site event support at the conference venue.

“There were many rewarding experiences associated with this event,” said OPCE Associate Director John Freeze. “I am particularly pleased to have been a part of showcasing Auburn University and the many great things our university is doing with regard to aquaculture research to people around the world.”

“The meeting was a huge success and Auburn received many compliments from the participants, including a standing ovation at the conclusion of the meeting,” said Dunham. “A key component to the success of this meeting was the assistance provided by the OPCE staff. I would highly encourage anyone planning to host a major meeting to seek assistance from OPCE to ensure a first-class event.”

Supporting a program, such as the International Symposium on Genetics in Aquaculture, fits within OPCE’s mission to provide conference event management support to other departments and units on campus. To fulfill this mission, OPCE offers an extensive menu of options from which departments can choose ranging in scope from registration and payment collection to full conference and event planning services. To learn more about the OPCE, contact Freeze at john.freeze@auburn.edu.
Community Foresters Produce First Cooperative Extension Lecture Doodle

Two Alabama Cooperative Extension System community forestry agents have been promoting doodling in the workplace recently, and they are not ashamed of that fact. They maintain that all this workplace doodling can help them and other community foresters throughout the nation reinvent the way they reach their clients. Communicating with the public has been a perennial challenge for foresters Jack Rowe and Beau Brodbeck, and not just for them but for community foresters everywhere.

Numerous studies demonstrate that trees not only enhance the beauty of cities and towns, softening the visual starkness of concrete sidewalks, curbs and overpasses, but also confer immense economic benefits. Cities and towns with a large number of trees are the healthiest and most economically vibrant. This is the point Rowe and Brodbeck have been trying to get across. The problem is that the only people who seem to be getting the message are the 50-and-older crowd.

“We’ve been beating our heads against the wall to find new ways to reach younger audiences,” Brodbeck said. “If you type ‘community forestry’ into a search engine, you’re going to get thousands of items offering the same types of discussion about the topic,” he said. “We were determined to come up with something a little fresher and more compelling.”

Rowe eventually stumbled upon what he perceived as a radically new approach known as lecture doodles — a way to render messages more distinguishable from the thousands of related messages.

The agents enlisted the support of Bruce Dupree, Alabama Extension’s illustrator and art director, and Mario Lightfoote, Extension’s video producer and director.

The end result is a video titled “Why Trees?” It’s the first lecture doodle produced by Cooperative Extension nationwide.

The doodle quickly gained traction, garnering the attention of several popular online sites, including A Garden Life, a popular online gardening magazine; Deep Root Blog, a widely viewed online resource that explores ways to create more livable and sustainable human environments; and The Truth About Trees, a social media effort that grew out of the PBS series exploring the positive benefits of trees. To date, Why Trees? has garnered some 5,500 YouTube views.

The doodle has also inspired several Extension sites focusing on ways to revamp Extension’s outreach strategies to reach 21st century audiences. Bob Bertsch, editor of Working Differently in Extension, an effort of the University of North Dakota Extension, credits the doodle with expanding the definition of how Extension educators reach their diverse audiences.

The initial success already has the four Alabama Extension professionals and their supervisors, Paul Mask and Carol Whatley, talking about expanding the conceptual boundaries of the doodle, including a hybridized approach in which doodles could be drawn on photos or superimposed on other videos.

Check out “Why Trees?” at http://www.aces.edu/go/253 to see why this lecture doodle has generated a buzz far beyond Auburn.
partnerships

House United Partnership Brings Rival Schools Together

House United Building Project
May 5-11, 2013
Lee County, Alabama

If you’d like to participate, contact Joyce Thomas-Vinson, coordinator, service learning and student engagement
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http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/news/habitat.htm

Faces of Service

SARA BEASLEY

Since becoming a student at Auburn University, Sara Beasley has been involved with a variety of organizations and causes. However, it was not until she enrolled in Sidney James’ Gender, Wealth and Philanthropy class that she learned to give and volunteer in a more focused, goal-oriented manner.

In the class, James required each student to write a mission statement for his or her life, which sparked an epiphany for Beasley. “I realized that I didn’t have to wait until after college to start making a difference,” she said.

In December 2011, Beasley began communicating with the mayor of Loachapoka, Jim Grout, about the need for a public library in the town. Beasley had noticed the lack of a library when she took the ACT there in high school.

Grout agreed that the library was needed and suggested utilizing space in the Loachapoka Community Center. Once the space was acquired, Beasley began collecting books from local thrift stores, bookstores
and businesses. Beasley quickly exceeded her initial expectations for book donations. “When I started this process, one of my biggest fears was not having enough books, but now we don’t have enough shelves for all the book donations,” she said.

The Loachapoka Public Library officially opened on April 15. Since its opening, Beasley has focused on involving the community. She said, “Now, I know more people, and they help spread the word. Everyone in Loachapoka is excited about getting involved.”

In the long run, Beasley said she hopes that Auburn University will maintain a relationship with the library. “I hope that Auburn will always have a hand in it. I don’t know if Auburn should always be in charge, but we should always be involved,” she said.

The next step for the Loachapoka Public Library is obtaining nonprofit status and becoming a state-funded library. In the meantime, Beasley said she hopes more Auburn students and faculty will volunteer at the library. “It’s been such a great experience. It started out as an idea, and we’ve now seen it take off. It’s encouraging to know that people still care about other people.”

For information about volunteering or making donations to the Loachapoka Public Library, contact Sara Beasley at sarabeasley@auburn.edu or (334)750-8917.

BraveHeart program serves area youth

“Expressions of a BraveHeart” is a fine arts program for youth with special needs, sponsored by Auburn’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. The program is coordinated by Angie Burque, associate clinical professor. BraveHeart offers art, music and dance classes through the Opelika Sportsplex. The program also provides opportunities for students to serve as volunteers. BraveHeart held its annual performance in April and started its new season in September.

www.auburnserves.com
celebrating 150 years

Morrill Act Sesquicentennial

As one of the Land-Grant Institutions Established by the Morrill Act, Auburn has a Unique Historical Legacy of Learning, Discovery and Engagement in Service to the State, the Nation and the World

The Morrill Act, which established land-grant institutions across the United States, celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. As a land-grant university, Auburn shares a rich history of educational excellence, innovative research and engagement for the public good with more than 100 other land-grants nationwide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>President Lincoln signed Morrill Act into law</td>
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<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>State legislature chartered Auburn as Alabama’s first land-grant college</td>
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<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Agricultural Experiment Station began with appropriation from state legislature</td>
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<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Congress provided federal funding for the Agricultural Experiment Station through the Hatch Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Second Morrill Act passed; Alabama A&amp;M and later Tuskegee Universities designated “1890 Land-Grant Institutions”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Charles Cary initiated free veterinary clinics for farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Veterinary Medicine held its first continuing education conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Congress provided federal funding for Cooperative Extension through the Smith-Lever Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Cooperative Extension assisted in establishment of Alabama Farm Bureau Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>College of Education launched teacher in-service courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Alabama’s oldest radio station WAPI started at Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>First courses taught off campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>First correspondence courses offered to off-campus students</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Duncan Hall erected to serve as state headquarters for Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>College of Engineering began industrial assistance services and continuing education programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Extension Director Luther Duncan became president of Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940s</td>
<td>Civil pilot training programs initiated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Speech and Hearing Clinic opened</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Auburn Educational Television began programming as part of Alabama’s new public TV network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>National Extension nutrition initiative began with Auburn pilot program</td>
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</table>

Introduced in Congress by United States Representative Justin Smith Morrill, the Morrill Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The act granted federal land to states for use in establishing colleges to promote “practical education… in the several pursuits and professions of life,” extending academic opportunities to all citizens.
Delayed 10 years by the Civil War and post-war Reconstruction in receiving its grant, the Alabama legislature designated Auburn as the state’s initial land-grant institution in 1872 – the first in the South. Under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, Alabama A&M University and later Tuskegee University were designated Alabama land-grand institutions. Initially focused on “agriculture and mechanical arts,” Auburn provided critical educational and technical resources to Alabama farmers and industries. Through the years, familiar Auburn names advanced the outreach mission into other disciplines of the university. Charles Cary established Auburn’s first continuing education programs in 1892. George Petrie, author of the Auburn Creed, conducted public lectures on the radio through the 1930s. Today, Auburn faculty in each school and college engage in outreach, which extends educational opportunities across Alabama, the nation and literally across the globe.

In commemorating the Morrill Act, Auburn celebrates its own rich history of outreach while demonstrating the land-grant institution’s enduring commitment to the ideal of taking the university to the people.

1969
- Auburn established the Conference Office to offer community and continuing education programs
- Auburn-Montgomery opened Division of Continuing Education

1974
- Office of Public Service and Research opens; renamed Center for Governmental Services in 1976

1976
- Auburn established Technical Assistance Center

1982
- Truman Pierce Institute opened

1985
- Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities established
- The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center opened
- Economic Development Institute established

1990
- Engineering conference became first program telecast via satellite from Auburn
- Auburn University Academy of Lifelong Learners organized (now OLLI at Auburn)

1993
- Rural Studio was established
- Outreach Program Office opened

1994
- Vice President for Extension office renamed “University Outreach”

1995
- Outreach hosted seven “Partnership with the People” forums around the state
- Birmingham Early Learning Center opened
- Extension Service renamed Alabama Cooperative Extension System, with Alabama A&M, Auburn and Tuskegee as collaborative partners in the unified extension program

1996
- Auburn University’s first credit course offered via Internet
- Master of Public Administration (MPA) Department’s election and voter education program received national award
- University Outreach hosted national symposium on faculty outreach scholarship

2000
- University Outreach helped organize Black Belt Community Foundation

2002
- Outreach scholarship definition and tenure guidelines approved for Faculty Handbook
- Women’s Leadership Institute program launched

2006
- EDI renamed Economic and Community Development Institute to reflect new partnership between University Outreach and Extension
- Faculty Engagement initiative launched

2008
- Encyclopedia of Alabama formally launched

2009
- K-12 Initiative launched

2010
- Outreach units renamed Office of Public Service and Office of Professional and Continuing Education to reflect expanded duties
- Auburn University received Carnegie Foundation “community engagement” institutional designation

2011
- Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies dedicated

2012
- For a second consecutive year, Auburn named to President’s Higher Education Honor Roll with Distinction for its public service programming
Auburn, Auburn Montgomery Speech and Hearing Clinics Providing Audiology Testing to Guatemalan Children

Children in Guatemala are on the road to better hearing thanks to Auburn University Audiology. Taking international outreach to a new level, the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts and the Auburn University at Montgomery School of Liberal Arts have purchased equipment which allows students in the Speech and Hearing Clinics on both campuses to provide remote audiological testing to children in Guatemala City.

Since 2009, audiology doctoral students from Auburn and Montgomery have traveled to Guatemala – at the invitation of the Municipality of Guatemala City – to provide hearing screenings, follow-up testing and hearing aids to children who otherwise have no access to these services.

Under the supervision of Auburn University audiologist Sandra Clark-Lewis, more than 1,500 children have received hearing screenings and, if needed, follow-up audiological evaluation. Those identified with educationally significant hearing loss receive hearing aids donated by the GN ReSound Corporation.

“Dr. Clark-Lewis is happy to have established a partnership with the Municipality of Guatemala City, but admitted one of the weaknesses of the program was that follow-up hearing testing was only completed once a year when they traveled to these inner city schools,” said Christi Lynch Bell, director of the AUM Speech and Hearing Clinic.

“Imagine failing a hearing test in June and having to wait until the following May to be seen by an audiologist,” said Clark-Lewis. “With our audiometric test equipment, we are now able to serve these children on a regular basis to assess their needs.”

Once a child in Guatemala is identified as needing an audiological evaluation, school personnel make an appointment by email for an evaluation at the Auburn University or Auburn Montgomery Speech and Hearing Clinic. At the time of the appointment, the audiologist on campus and the school assistant in Guatemala both log on to the Web-based service, which allows the audiologist to control the audiometer in Guatemala. The school assistant puts earphones on the child being tested and the audiologist administers the test. The computer
program allows the audiologist to see and hear the child throughout the process.

“Children needing a hearing test will no longer wait months for audiology students and faculty to return to Guatemala,” said Lynch Bell. “In the future, they can use their limited time in Guatemala to deliver more hearing aids and train personnel.”

Although securing funding for the project has been a challenge, Clark-Lewis remains committed to providing care to the children they serve. Over the past three years, major funding has been through the donations of alumni and friends of Auburn University as well as additional funding from the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Communication Disorders, Auburn Montgomery’s School of Liberal Arts and an Auburn University Competitive Outreach award grant.

“Each year I have faith that we will be able to continue our work with these children, and each year it seems that we have just enough money,” Clark-Lewis said. “The generosity of these many donors has not only enhanced the lives of these children, who have so little, but has also contributed to the clinical, professional and personal growth of our audiology doctoral students.”

For more information, call (334) 844-9600 or visit http://www.cla.auburn.edu/speechandhearingclinic or (334) 244-3408 or visit www.aum.edu/aumshc.
ECDI Develops New Civic Engagement Tool

Over the past two years, Joe A. Sumners, director of the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI), has participated in a national group that is studying the impact of deliberative practices in communities as well as new and innovative ways to engage citizens and community leaders. The project, Citizens at Work: Engaging for Prosperous Communities, convened a group of organizations from throughout the nation that provide planning, training or technical support for community-level engagement. In addition to ECDI, the group included representatives from: the Kettering Foundation, Esquel Group, the International Institute for Sustained Dialogue, the National Civic League, New Mexico First, Southern Growth Policies Board, the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and the West Virginia Center for Civic Life.

With assistance from Linda Hoke of the Southern Growth Policies Board, Sumners took on the assignment of developing a new instrument that can be used to engage community stakeholders and citizens as they address pressing community concerns. Community Questions: Engaging Citizens to Address Community Concerns is a question-based instrument which is used for bringing citizens and stakeholders into a deliberative process to identify the heart of a problem; identifying options for addressing the problem; weighing costs, benefits and trade-offs associated with each choice; designing a possible course of action; and engaging others in working toward a solution.

The publication is more than just a guide to help citizens deal with specific issues. It is an instrument designed to help citizens collaboratively discover their own power to effectively deal with public issues. Based on their collective experiences, the Citizens at Work participants developed the following list of insights about community civic engagement that they hope will benefit citizens and community leaders throughout the nation and around the globe: citizens must be engaged if communities are to solve some of their most difficult problems; citizens often think about problems differently than institutions or professionals; people become engaged only around issues or problems that are of particular interest or concern to them; citizen engagement and governance is a skill learned only by practice; it is often most effective to engage citizens within the organizations and networks they are already a part of; networks and connections between organizations can multiply the power of civic initiatives and make them truly community-wide; when a group of people comes together for a community conversation, there will be tensions among goals, ideas and values.

This year, the Southern Growth Policies Board used a version of the instrument in hundreds of community forums throughout the South to discuss the issue of workforce development.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

“We hope that Community Questions will be a useful tool to help communities talk and think about, and then act upon their most important concerns. Our plan is to find multiple ways to utilize Community Questions in community leadership programs and community strategic planning projects, and to help citizens and stakeholders discuss and take collective action on specific local issues,” said Sumners.
Auburn Extension Agent Assists Belizean Farmers

Belizean farmers are looking for ways to increase agricultural production without the use of genetically modified organism (GMO) technology. Regional Extension Agent Eric Schavey traveled to Belize in April to assist local farmers with crop production and nutrient management practices.

“No GMOs!” were the first words Schavey heard from local farmers when he arrived at their farming operations. The farmers are afraid of the GMO varieties, mainly due to lack of knowledge and political acceptance within Belize.

Traditionally, Belizean farmers have been very successful using crop rotation. “For years the Belizean farmers have rotated their cropland between black-eyed peas and corn,” said Schavey. “The producers typically grow two corn crops a year then follow it with black-eyed peas.” This crop rotation has been very productive for the local farmers; in fact, Belize is the fourth largest exporter of black-eyed peas in the world.

However, as more jungles are cleared in Belize for farming operations, the interest in GMO crops is growing. One local farmer, a former native of Wyoming, is very outspoken about his interest in GMO crops. “The opportunity is there for the producers to increase crop production with the adoption of advanced technologies and increased nutrient management strategies,” he said. “There is no doubt that Belizean producers can maximize production while cutting cost. While production costs are increasing, yields are staying the same thus putting the margin for profit shrinking at a high rate. New technologies will be very beneficial in the future of Belizean Agriculture.”

Eric Schavey is a regional extension agent covering northwest Alabama. He is housed at the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center in Belle Mina, Ala., where his main program area is agronomic crops.
This year in Shanghai, China, a group of very bright people will crunch numbers to determine the top 20 universities in the world. With the exception of Oxford and Cambridge, nearly all will be American institutions. Auburn University will not be among them. In fact, few Southern state universities make the list.

That never bothered me during my 28-year Auburn teaching career for two reasons. You can obtain most any result you want by crunching different sets of numbers. Secondly, the crunched numbers for the Shanghai group reflect the values of Western elite universities for the past five centuries: the reputation of science, math, philosophy, languages, history and other “hard” core faculties; the number of faculty who win major awards; amount of external funding and grants; size of endowments; quality of entering students measured by standardized tests; and general university reputation among scholarly peers.

I focus on different criteria with different results. How many first-generation college students graduate? How does research conducted by faculty penetrate and improve the lives of ordinary citizens who pay taxes to support the university? How effective is the faculty at carrying new discoveries, insights and perspectives off campus to non-academic audiences?

Take agricultural colleges for instance. I personally believe that most American universities determined to be great by the Shanghai group look pretty much like their European ancestors five centuries ago in formation, organization, structure and goals. What little our nation has contributed that is unique to learning came mainly from the free public library and the land-grant university. Although I celebrate July 4, 1776, as the beginning of our national independence from English kings, I celebrate July 2, 1862, as the birthday of our independence from English universities. On that day, the Morrill Act became law. It granted 30,000 acres of federal land for each congressman to “loyal” states in order to endow at least one agricultural college. Under its terms, 69 land-grant colleges have been established (many in the South after the Civil War ended, including Auburn). Augmented by the 1887 Hatch Act, which funded experiment stations to conduct original research, and the 1914 Smith-Lever Act that created the agricultural extension service, the Morrill Act entirely changed the thrust of higher education in America. Henceforth, it would be partly directed toward the common man and woman, welcoming them as students, maintaining reasonable costs to assure accessibility and taking learning off campus to non-traditional groups such as farmers and their families.

On many land-grant campuses, insightful teachers such as Auburn’s classicist/historian George Petrie caught this new vision and adapted it to new disciplines, functions and media. Using Alabama’s first radio station, WAPI, Petrie taught a current events course over the airwaves that brought audiences throughout central Alabama historical insights about the new and dangerous world emerging after the First World War.

I had the good fortune to arrive at Auburn in the late 1970s, just as a group of remarkable faculty in the humanities—Dean of Arts and Sciences Edward H. Hobbs; John Kuykendall, head of the Religion Department, and his wife, Missy, who worked in continuing education; journalism professor Jerry Brown; English Department chair Bert Hitchcock—charted a course to enlarge the agricultural extension idea. Our vision was to organize and export weekend programs to small towns and cities across Alabama, to educate audiences about the religious, historical and literary traditions of their communities, to find humanistic ways of bringing races together to accomplish common goals and celebrate common pasts, to help young people value the places where they grew up and not to leave at first opportunity.

It was clearly an idea whose time had come. Under the wonderful administrative leadership of Leah Rawls Atkins and Jay Lamar of the Auburn Humanities Center (later renamed the Draughon Center), history and culture festivals, Read Alabama literary programs and other outreach efforts flourished.
In time, I helped direct a two-pronged effort by President Bill Muse and Outreach Vice President David Wilson to reward all university outreach as a central function of the university, as valuable in its own way as teaching or research/publishing. In some almost mystical way, I felt by the time I retired, that Auburn had come full circle. Born a Methodist liberal arts college after the Medieval English model, the university had become a beloved land-grant university because it became something better. Honoring its classical roots in the old world, it fully integrated them into the extension mission of the new world. And in that transformation, it afforded higher education something enormously important and unique.

J. Wayne Flynt, Ph.D., is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at Auburn University, and a longtime faculty member of the Department of History. A champion of the Land-Grant mission of outreach and faculty engagement, Dr. Flynt chaired Auburn’s Committee on Assessment of Outreach which contributed to the definition and criteria for outreach scholarship in use today in the University Faculty Handbook.

2013 Outreach Scholarship Symposium Scheduled

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach will host the annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium Feb., 12-13, 2013. This year’s symposium, focused on “Advancing Transformative Engagement,” will be held in the Auburn University Student Center. The event is open to Auburn faculty, staff, graduate students and community partners interested in networking with some of America’s most noted engaged scholars and gaining outreach related awareness. For additional information contact Chippewa Thomas, director of faculty engagement, at thoma07@auburn.edu.
Auburn Hosts Record Number of Summer Experience Academic Camp Students

This summer, Auburn University hosted more than 530 high school and middle school students as part of the Summer Experience residential academic camp program. Students traveled to Auburn from 29 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Campers experienced campus life while residing in Auburn’s resident dormitories, eating at campus dining facilities and enjoying evening social and recreational activities.

Summer Experience camps are a collaborative effort among university colleges, schools, departments and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education. This summer’s programs included: Architecture Camps; Musical Theatre Camp; Project Design Week (fashion and interior design); Fish Camps; World Affairs Youth Seminar (Model United Nations); Veterinary Camps; Summer Art Studio Intensive; Digital Forensics CSI Camp; TIGERS Engineering Camps; Building Construction Camp; Design Workshops (industrial design); the Creative Writing Studio; 21st Century Community Learning Camp; Loachapoka Exploring Auburn Days; the Keystone Center Youth Policy Summit and the Alabama Humanities Foundations Super Emerging Scholars program.

As the cost of college attendance continues to rise and the college admission process becomes more competitive, these programs help students and their families make educated decisions about college attendance. Many high school participants who are actively researching their college choices love the opportunity to meet Auburn faculty and current students as well as get an inside look at Auburn’s facilities.

Carol Warfield, Consumer and Design Sciences Department head, said “Three of last year’s five rising seniors are incoming freshmen to the College of Human Sciences and several of this year’s rising seniors indicated their intentions of applying to either the apparel or interior design programs in our department.” Faculty and students alike value the connections made in these programs.

Summer Experience academic camp enrollment has grown 80 percent in the past two years through the addition of new camps and the increased enrollment in existing programs. James Birdsong, Summer Experience director, attributed the rapid growth to the great working relationships on campus among colleges, schools, departments and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education. “The formula is simple. Faculty focus on the topics they love to teach and our office focuses on the planning, marketing and organizational support required to host high school and middle school students at Auburn,” Birdsong said.

Planning for Summer Experience 2013 is already under way. To learn more about Auburn’s Summer Experience programs, or to develop a new program, contact James Birdsong of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education or visit www.auburn.edu/summerexperience.
Band Camps
Marching Leadership and Auxiliary Camp
Marching Percussion Summer Camp
Summer Symphonic Band Camps

Athletic Camps
Baseball Elite Camp
Baseball Exposure Camp
Baseball Team Camp
Baseball Youth Camp
Basketball: Men
Basketball: Women
Equestrian Camp
Football Kicking Academy
Football Senior Mini
Football Special Teams
Football Team Camp
Football Tiger Camp
Golf: Men’s Camp
Golf: Women’s Camp
Gymnastics: Girls’ Summer Camp
Soccer: Co-ed Day Camp
Soccer: Co-ed Residential Camp
Soccer: Girls’ Elite Camp
Soccer: Girls’ Residential Camp
Swim Camps (3 sessions)
Tennis: Jr. Boys’ Tennis Camp

Tennis: Jr. Girls’ Tennis Camp
Tennis: Kids’ Tennis Camp
Tiger Softball Camp
Volleyball All-Skills Camp (2 sessions)
Volleyball Position Camp
Volleyball Team Camp
Volleyball Team Tournament

Cheer and Dance Camps
Halftime USA Band Fronts Camp
National Cheerleaders Association Camp
Universal Cheerleaders Association Camp
Universal Dance Association Camp
Auburn University Program Helps Build the Next Generation of Young Women Leaders

Have you ever followed a ropes course? It’s a series of challenges high up in the air where you must rely on your own skills and your own inner fortitude, along with the teamwork of those around you, to overcome some pretty intense, hair-raising obstacles.

That may seem like an excellent analogy for the challenges that young women face in junior high school. Every day is filled with potential obstacles: peer pressure, shrieking hormones, teen pregnancy, bullying, drugs and alcohol. Layer that with issues like family crises or economic difficulties, and it is sometimes surprising that young women can not only keep from falling, but, with support and guidance, rise high and strong.

What if you were an Auburn University student, a young woman who had successfully navigated her own junior high years and had studied about adolescent development? Wouldn’t it be rewarding to help guide younger women through the ropes course of adolescence? Wouldn’t it also help you grow, intellectually and personally? Could it help you become a better leader, a better friend?

Through the Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP), Auburn University students have taken up that challenge. They believe that they have something important to share, and they have committed to putting what they learn in the classroom to use in the real world. Under the guidance and tutelage of the Auburn University Women’s Resource Center, they have set out to help mold and mentor the next generation of Alabama’s young women leaders.

You do not have to look far to see that women can become great leaders. From government to business to academia, women have taken on important and effective roles in managing and directing powerful and successful organizations. Even a cursory survey of Auburn alumnae and the university community reveals the crucial leadership roles of our female graduates, faculty and students.

How can our university share that history of success and help foster leadership skills among young women in communities beyond campus?

That question was what led Auburn University’s Women’s Resource Center to develop a research-based mentoring program directed at young women. YWLP is a learn-by-leading mentoring program that links Auburn’s mission of providing high quality educational programs, research, outreach and service.

The mentors are Auburn students who participate in two academic courses. One course focuses on adolescent girls’ development and challenges. The companion component is a service-learning opportunity. The project is a partnership between the Women’s Resource Center, a unit in Women’s Initiatives in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs; faculty in the department of Human Development and Family Studies; faculty from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; and the Office of University Outreach.

The Auburn student mentors currently work with young women at Auburn Junior High School and Loachapoka High School. Junior high school girls are paired with female college students, using a research-based model that combines one-on-one mentoring with targeted group activities. The Little Sisters and their Big Sister college student mentors work together and learn together, and often have fun together.

It can be tough being an adolescent girl, so the overall goals are to help girls address the challenges they face with family, friendships, dating relationships, academics,
and planning for their futures. The program helps build the girls’ leadership potential by improving their self-image, enhancing their relationship skills, helping them make healthy decisions, and promoting their academic achievement.

For Auburn University students, mentoring provides a great opportunity to put their own academic learning into real-life practice. How do course lessons on teen decision-making help encourage an eighth or ninth grader to stay in school, to avoid dangerous risks, or to build healthy romantic relationship? Through mentoring, Auburn students are able to connect theory with reality.

The pairs of Big Sisters and Little Sisters work and play and learn together. One of the most anticipated activities of the year is the annual ropes course. Students at both sites test their nerves and build their relationships and self-confidence through this all-day activity challenge.

YWLP was piloted at Auburn Junior High in spring 2010. During 2011-12, it was expanded to include Loachapoka High School. The current school year will have the largest YWLP group yet, with two Big Sister-Little Sister groups at Auburn Junior High and one group at Loachapoka.

The YWLP is under the direction of Donna Sollie, director of the Women’s Resource Center. Faculty members teach the courses and oversee the evaluations, as well as participate in meetings with personnel from Auburn Junior High School and Loachapoka High School. Graduate students, working with the Women’s Resource Center staff, help to implement the curriculum, manage logistics, lead mentoring groups and supervise the Big Sisters.

Yes, as difficult as it is to imagine: All great women leaders were once junior high students. They were worried about their appearance, whether they were wearing the trendiest clothes, whether their friends liked them, whether they would find true love, and what their lives might hold. Thanks to a group of caring and committed Auburn University students, a large group of tomorrow’s potential leaders will be able to handle the ropes course of life with a little more security and guidance.
IMPACT, Individuals Moving People and Community Together, is an organization that gives students an opportunity to volunteer by acting as a clearinghouse linking Auburn students and campus organizations to needs in the community. IMPACT strives to serve the Auburn community by being a resource for students who wish to volunteer, promoting volunteerism on Auburn’s campus and strengthening ties between the campus and the community.

IMPACT gives those interested an opportunity to volunteer in a variety of ways and settings in the Auburn community. IMPACT currently serves at 14 project sites in the Auburn-Opelika area including elementary schools, retirement homes, the Lee County Humane Society and Storybook Farm. Each week, teams of volunteers work at these sites. Students are selected to participate on a first-come, first-served basis.

During the 2011-12 academic year, 6,717 volunteers participated in 13,434 hours of service to the community. As the 2012-13 year gets under way, IMPACT is continuing in its efforts to leave its mark on the community with 40 different volunteer times available.
during the week. Students can work around their schedules and select a time that is good for them.

Even with demanding academic schedules, students find volunteering rewarding. Annie Stephens, who served as a project coordinator at a retirement home, said, “I enjoyed working with the volunteers and seeing them brighten the days of people at the retirement home. It was extremely rewarding, and I felt as if the few hours I spent there each week really made a difference in the people’s lives.”

IMPACT is a program of the Center for Community Service in the Division of Student Affairs. For more information, contact the Center for Community Service office at (334) 844-4788 or go to www.auburn.edu/service.
Outreach News

Office of Public Service Plans Spring Volunteer Fair
The Office of Public Service at Auburn University will hold the Spring Volunteer Fair Thursday, January 17, 2013, from 10 a.m. until noon in the Auburn University Student Center. The Volunteer Fair gives Auburn students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to interact with local agencies that are seeking volunteers. Representatives from various non-profit agencies will set up displays and distribute information about their missions and opportunities for volunteering and other forms of engagement. The fair is free to all students, faculty and staff.

University Outreach Appointments
The Center for Governmental Services has appointed William Molnar as associate director of the center. Molnar worked with and for local governments for many years in positions in land use planning and county administration. He worked in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas in the private sector, for the federal and state governments and in academia. Early on, he was a legislative aid with the Georgia General Assembly and most recently worked for Clemson University’s Institute for Community and Economic Development, where he developed local government fiscal impact research programs and conducted outreach efforts.

Emily Blejwas has been appointed program administrator in the Economic and Community Development Institute. Blejwas holds a master’s degree in rural sociology from Auburn. She will be responsible for a variety of projects at the institute including development of information resources for communities.

Wilson Appointed Director
In the College of Liberal Arts, Mark Wilson was appointed director of Civic Learning Initiatives. Wilson’s assignment includes coordination of the Living Democracy program and the community and civic engagement minor, as well as other engaged projects and internships.

Outreach Employees Recognized
Several University Outreach employees were recently recognized for their service to the division. Jennifer Turk of the Center for Governmental Services and Claire Twardy of Professional and Continuing Education, were awarded five-year citations at the annual university employee recognition ceremony. Lydia Walls was recognized on her retirement for her long-time service as a program administrator in the Office of Professional and Continuing Education.

Shook Receives Graduate Degree
Linda Shook, coordinator of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn, received her master’s degree in adult education from Auburn in May. Shook has worked for OLLI at Auburn since 2008. Prior to that, she worked in public relations for education and the arts in Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Louisiana. She earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations with a minor in human resource management from the University of Alabama. She is a member of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits and is a facilitator for the Everyone Ready volunteer management program. Active in the community, Shook is on the board of directors for Lee County Habitat for Humanity and the East Alabama League of Women Voters.

Auburn Faculty and Students Presenting at NOSC
Thirteen members of the Auburn Family were selected to present their engagement work at the
National Outreach Scholarship Conference in October in Tuscaloosa. Auburn is a founding institutional board member of the conference and its parent consortium. Among the presenters are: Mary Afton Day, Public Administration; Nan Fairley, Journalism; Ralph S. Foster, Public Service/University Outreach; Stephanie Grant, Liberal Arts; Constance Smith Hendricks, Nursing; Elizabeth P. Hickman, Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; Joy Porter, History; Audrey Ross, Liberal Arts; Marian Royston, History; Christiana M. Russell, K-12/University Outreach; Cheryl Seals, Computer Science and Software Engineering; Kyes Stevens, Human Sciences; Barbara Wilder, Nursing; and Mark Wilson, Civic Engagement.

Auburn Selected to Host 2014 Gulf South Summit

Auburn University has been selected to be the site for the 2014 Gulf South Summit on Service Learning and Engagement, a national conference held annually in March. Ralph Foster, director of the Office of Public Service, will chair the event which will be co-hosted by the Office of Professional and Continuing Education. Institutional partners for the conference include the Alabama Poverty Project, the David Mathews Center, University Outreach and Liberal Arts’ Civic Engagement program.

ATAC Awarded EDA University Center Grant

The Auburn Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) in the College of Business, has been re-funded as Auburn University’s Economic Development Administration University Center. EDA-funded university centers conduct applied research, provide technical assistance to public and private sector organizations and conduct other activities with the goal of enhancing regional economic development. As part of its services, ATAC supports Auburn’s Office of Technology Transfer’s efforts to generate faculty and student startups across campus. In addition, the center helps existing manufacturers implement innovation processes and work with Auburn’s Department of Industrial and Graphic Design to help accelerate targeted start-up businesses in Alabama.

‘Living Democracy’ Students Featured in Chronicle

Auburn students participating in Liberal Arts’ “Living Democracy” civic engagement program were highlighted in a summer edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Kettering Foundation. Part of a yearlong curriculum, Living Democracy placed students in several small Alabama towns to live and conduct outreach projects over the summer. The publication’s article provided national exposure to the students, whose work addressed a number of critical civic issues in the various locales.

Auburn Student Team Wins in Sustainable Home Design Competition

A student team in Auburn’s School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture was the Best Use of Vinyl winner in The Sustainable Home: Habitat for Humanity Student Design Competition for the 2011-12 academic year. The team won for its design of The Gallery House. Members of the team are Mary Win McCarthy, Ashley Clark and Peter McInish, fifth-year dual-degree architecture and interior architecture students.

The team will have its design exhibited at the 101st annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture in San Francisco in March 2013 and at the American Institute of Architects’ national convention in Denver in June 2013. The team was co-sponsored by Auburn architecture professors Justin Miller and Robert Sproull. The competition is administered by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Vinyl Institute. The goal of the competition was “to engage young professionals in Habitat for Humanity’s effort to eliminate poverty housing by advancing the design of simple, decent, healthy and affordable homes.” Out of more than 100 design submissions, the jury chose four regional winners along with one Best of Vinyl Award and one Vinyl Inspiration and Innovation Honorable Mention.

Auburn celebrates Morrill Act anniversary

This year, Auburn and its sister land-grant institutions are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act. At press time, a number of commemorative programs were planned for the Auburn campus, in conjunction with Tuskegee University, Alabama A&M University and other land-grant partners. The E.T. York Distinguished Lecture Program on Oct. 11 featured “The Land-Grant University: An American Icon,” presented by Gale Buchanan, dean emeritus, UGA College of Agriculture. On Oct. 23, a special historical lecture titled “Auburn v. Alabama: The Origin of the Rivalry,” was presented by Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections and Archives at Auburn University. On Oct.
M. Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), delivered a special keynote address to a joint celebration of Alabama’s land-grant institutions. APLU itself will hold a sesquicentennial ceremony at its annual meeting in Denver in November. For more information about Morrill Act commemorations, visit www.auburn.edu/outreach/morrillact.

Auburn Helps Prepare Students for College

The Auburn University College Access Program (AUCAP) began in 2011 when Access and Community Initiatives joined with University Outreach to increase the number of college-bound students who graduate from Loachapoka High School “college ready.” AUCAP is designed to expose students, who may be less likely to attend college, to a university setting. The program includes ACT preparation and educational empowerment workshops. The program also seeks to foster relationships between students and mentors and to afford students opportunities they would not otherwise have in an attempt to increase the likelihood of these students pursuing higher education. This year AUCAP activities have included: a college and career expo, panel discussions, a walking campus tour; attending King Week at Auburn events; exploring academic and career goals; and planning and participating in an awards and recognition reception.

Sumners and Stehouwer Pen Chapter for The Oxford Handbook of Southern Politics

Joe Sumners, director of the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI), and Amelia H. Stehouwer, ECDI research and training specialist, recently contributed a chapter to The Oxford Handbook of Southern Politics, published by Oxford University Press (2012). The prestigious Oxford Handbooks series is available in four subject modules: Business and Management, Philosophy, Political Science and Religion. The Oxford Handbooks bring together leading scholars to offer authoritative and comprehensive guides to issues and scholarship that define an academic field. The chapter Sumners and Stehouwer authored, The Politics and Economic Development of the Southern Black Belt, explores the many controversies related to how the term “Black Belt” is defined and where it is located, the influence of racial attitudes in shaping the region’s political structures and policies and its unique challenges for economic development.

Dominique Rabine and Barbara Osterrieder join Office of Professional and Continuing Education

Dominique Rabine will work as a program developer as the summer client camp coordinator in addition to administering conferences including ALATEC. Before coming to Auburn University, Rabine initially enlisted in the Army after finishing her associate degree, but after a medical discharge, she decided to change her career path and work with adult learners and veterans. Rabine earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Cameron University, a master’s degree in adult education and training from Colorado State University, and is now a Ph.D. student in adult education at Auburn University. Rabine also plays for the Auburn University Water Polo team, and is a proud mom to her son, Gabriel.
Barbara Osterrieder develops professional education certificate programs, computer training courses, and is responsible for the Blue Ridge Conference on Leadership. Osterrieder earned both her bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and master’s degree in educational leadership from Florida Gulf Coast University. She served in K-12 administration in Fort Myers and Orlando, Fla., prior to relocating to Auburn in 2009. Before joining the Office of Professional and Continuing Education in 2012, Osterrieder worked locally in health care educational services and workforce development.

EOA By-the-numbers

Auburn University’s Encyclopedia of Alabama set new records in the first half of 2012. The online resource of Alabama historical and cultural information overall has surpassed five million total page views to the website. Among key usage statistics:

- Most Visits in a Day (4,573)
- Most Visits in a Week (24,639)
- Most Visits in a Month (92,176)
- Most Page Views in a Day (10,795)
- Most Page Views in a Week (48,284)
- Most Page Views in a Month (186,024)

Cindy the Pink Fire Truck visited Auburn University to help kick off the Second Annual All In All Pink breast cancer awareness event. This event is sponsored by Auburn University Outreach in collaboration with the Office of Public Service and the Kappa Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
addressing issues

Auburn University Students Develop Crop Irrigation Systems for Bolivian Village

A group of nine Auburn University students, their professor and an alumna spent a week earlier this month in the mountains of Bolivia, developing and implementing irrigation systems to make life better for the residents of Quesimpuco.

The remote village lies in a rugged and rocky area and receives very little rain during the South American winter. To help improve crop production, the Auburn team designed two projects: a gravity-fed irrigation system and a hydroponics demonstration unit. Both are aimed at managing the limited amount of water that is available while providing enough to meet demand.

“Our students are introducing the science and technology in a way that meshes with what the local people are already doing,” said Steve Duke, team leader and Auburn professor of chemical engineering. “We have tried to listen to the needs and requests of the people of the village and engineer solutions to their challenges.”

One of those challenges is irrigating the crops that struggle to grow on the terraced, rocky sides of the mountains. Over multiple visits to the village, Auburn students have been creating a system that will employ a storage tank to collect water from a nearby waterfall. The water will then be distributed to the crops at the appropriate flow rate.

“The people here do not live on a money market system,” said civil engineering major Travis Bugg. “They grow everything they eat. We’re trying to help them increase their yield because the threat of starvation here is real.”

Other Auburn team members built a small-scale hydroponics system that recycles water across crop roots growing in gravel beds. The team worked with local high school students and others from the village and showed them another way to water crops and keep them thriving.

“This is Auburn’s third trip to Quesimpuco,” said chemical engineering major Whitney Brown. “We have a commitment to this community and are hoping to improve their way of life each time we come.”

To view a video about the Auburn students’ effort in Bolivia, go to http://ocm.auburn.edu/featured_story/bolivia.html
Learn more about Auburn University Outreach and read additional issues of Beyond Auburn Magazine.