Popular Programs Bring Youth to Auburn Campus!
Auburn University Summer Camp
- 21st Century Community Learning School Summer Camp

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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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Dear Reader:

Spring and summer semesters have been a very busy time at Auburn University for outreach. This issue of Beyond Auburn contains highlights of some 30 outreach initiatives which involve faculty and staff all across campus. These programs, as well as the greater body of outreach work performed year 'round, are having a tremendous impact on our community and state.

For example, summer camps administered by the Outreach Program Office attract some 5,000 teens to Auburn for academic and athletic camp experiences. But did you know more than a third of these students come from states throughout the southeast and as far away as Massachusetts? This reflects the positive national reputation Auburn enjoys in its outreach programming for youth.

Similarly, AU’s outreach to seniors is nationally recognized for its effectiveness. Recently the prestigious Osher Foundation awarded Auburn’s long standing Academy of Lifelong Learners program with a renewable $100,000 grant and recognition as part of the Osher network of lifelong learning institutes. You’ll learn more about this fine program in an upcoming edition of Beyond Auburn.

Over the last few months, I’ve visited the faculty and administrative leadership of every school and college at AU. I’m pleased to report that these meetings have been very productive. There is great support for faculty – and student – engagement in outreach all across campus. The opportunity – and challenge – here is capitalizing upon this interest and creating a synergy among the many resources in Auburn academic community to produce outreach that benefits the community while also contributing to scholarship and service learning.

To this end, we’ve launched several new engagement initiatives. First, we’ve added a staff component to the University Outreach office focused on faculty outreach scholarship. Dr. Kimberly King-Jupiter has joined our staff to coordinate this effort. This spring, Dr. King-Jupiter chaired our first outreach symposium which attracted almost 100 Auburn faculty participants. The reaction to this program was so positive, we intend to make it an annual event.

Dr. King-Jupiter also chaired a new round of Outreach Scholarship Grants, awarding $100,000 to six faculty proposals which show enormous potential for connecting research to the direct benefit of external audiences. These projects will contribute greatly to Auburn University’s efforts toward improving the quality of life for individuals, organizations, counties and towns throughout the state of Alabama.

Another key focus for this office is distance education. At present, Auburn hosts some 21 distance degree and course programs, some of which are ranked nationally for their quality. The demand demonstrated for these programs is great; but there is a large untapped audience yet to be reached by distance technologies. Currently we are conducting a national search for a director in our Distance Learning office. This position will work collaboratively with AU’s academic leadership and faculty to develop a comprehensive base of credit and non credit programming with the goal of extending educational opportunities to students of all ages wherever they live across the nation.

On behalf of AU’s outreach community, allow me to extend a hearty welcome to our new president, Dr. Jay Gogue, as he returns to the Auburn family. We look forward to Dr. Gogue’s leadership and support as we build upon our already substantial base of quality, effective outreach programs and services throughout the university. As demonstrated by the scope of programming represented in this magazine, Auburn’s commitment to outreach is strong, both at the administrative level and throughout the ranks of Auburn’s great faculty. Working together, we can build on our current successes and take advantage of the new opportunities that await us.

As always, I hope you find this edition of Beyond Auburn informative and enjoyable, and encourage you to watch for future issues.

Best regards,

ROY RICKERS COOK
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AUBURN UNIVERSITY
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Outreach News
AU Summer Camps Are a Big Hit!
Popular Programs Bring Youth to Auburn Campus

Summer is a busy time on Auburn’s campus. Although the student population typically drops by two-thirds, summer camps bring many young people to campus, including a great number who will be future Auburn Tigers.

The Outreach Program Office coordinates the AU summer camp schedule and administers more camps than any other campus unit. Approximately 90-100 summer camps are conducted on Auburn’s campus, and 30 of these will be sponsored all or in part by OPO. Camp offerings include athletic and academic enrichment, as well as, extracurricular interests of a predominately high school age audience.

Of the 30 camps administered by OPO, approximately 5,000 teens, come to Auburn from around the country. Last year 66 percent were Alabama residents, but campers also traveled from Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Texas, Kentucky and North Carolina.

By far, the largest camps administered by OPO are for cheer and dance and are conducted by the Universal Cheerleaders Association, the National Cheerleaders Association, and the Universal Dance Association. A single cheerleading camp at Auburn may have as many as 700 participants. The participants attend as teams and are accompanied by their coaches and sponsors.

Academic camps administered by OPO include Architecture Camp, Design Camp, Engineering TIGERS, and 21st Century Learning Camps. The Architecture, Design and Engineering TIGERS camps are intended to provide participants with an introduction to specific areas of study and careers. The 21st Century Learning Camps, a new initiative last year conducted in cooperation with the Truman Pierce Institute of the College of Education, is designed to train student leaders from specific school districts to be volunteer after-school tutors in their schools.

For many young people, summer camps are their first opportunity to really get the feel of the Auburn campus. Samuel Burney, director of the Outreach Program Office, states that the camps are a way for high school students to take Auburn for a test drive. “These camps
are some of the best recruiting tools we have and we take the responsibility of representing Auburn University very seriously. We try to show them that Auburn is a neat place to be.”

Survey results for the 2006 camps indicated a 98.8 percent overall satisfaction rate. With those types of results, certainly many of these outstanding young people will be tomorrow’s Auburn students.

For more information about AU summer camps, visit www.auburn.edu/summercamps or contact the Outreach Program Office at opo@auburn.edu or (334) 844-5100.

Intergenerational Eldershostel Program

Though not technically a ‘camp’ program, another type of summer offering sponsored by the Outreach Program Office is the Intergenerational Elderhostel Program. These programs are designed to provide a week of camp-like experiences to grandparents and their grandchildren.

Last year, OPO conducted 3 intergenerational camps at Callaway Gardens. Two were designed for grandparents with 7 to 9-year-old grandchildren and one was designed for those with 9 to 11-year-old grandchildren.

Campers spent the week participating in a variety of activities ranging from classes on raptors, snakes and hummingbirds, to circus training (with instruction provided by members of the Florida State University ‘Flying High Circus’ troupe), to swim sessions, golf and tennis lessons. It’s a great way for old and young to have fun together in a gorgeous setting. For more information on the Intergenerational Elderhostel Program, contact the Outreach Program Office at (334) 844-5100.
Schools Offered Opportunities in Arts and Humanities

For all of its 20-plus years, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts has worked to provide programs on the arts and humanities to communities around the state. For most of its second decade, it has focused a significant portion of its efforts on school programming. Why? First because so many schools in Alabama lack well-developed arts and humanities opportunities. Second because the youth of the state become the adults who participate in and support the arts and humanities. Investing in their education improves the future for everyone.

As a result, schools from Mobile to Aliceville and many points in between have hosted artists and humanities scholars from many disciplines. Last year alone approximately 10,000 Alabama school children met and learned from the presentations of writers, dancers, visual artists and scholars.

Thanks to the support of the Office of the Vice-President for Outreach, this year the center is making programming available to 12 special schools. These schools, all located in the Black Belt region of the state, have been selected to participate in a five-year arts curriculum and capacity building program through the Alabama State Department of Education. Alabama State Department of Education arts specialist Sara Wright, who manages the program, notes that the project is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and cross-curriculum program to enhance student achievement and learning in all subject areas through the arts.

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities will offer participating schools opportunities to host visiting artists, visit campus for in-service training, and attend AU Theatre Department performances and other arts events. Discussions are underway to involve faculty and students in all AU fine arts departments, including theater, art, and music. According to Jay Lamar, director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, the five-year commitment of the participating schools, along with the support and management of the State Department of Education, creates a well-designed, comprehensive plan to which AU’s contribution can have a profound impact for years to come.

For more information, contact the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at (334) 844-4946 or visit www.auburn.edu/cah.

The Camden School of Arts and Technology is one of the 12 schools participating in the Arts Education Initiative. Here, students take what they learned from artist Charlie Lucas, also known as The Tin Man, and make their own wire sculptures.

Camden School of Arts and Technology students had a chance to learn about Hispanic art and culture thanks to a visit by the Hispanic Ballet of Greensboro, Ga., at the Performing Arts Center. Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities will collaborate with Camden School of Arts and Technology and other participating schools to offer even more arts experiences to students and faculty over the next five years.
The Alabama Humanities Foundation was recently awarded the Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize in recognition of its sponsorship of the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project’s “Pilot Course in a Survey of Southern Literature.” Presented annually by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the Schwartz Prize recognizes outstanding public humanities programs.

The Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project is a program of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University. It sponsors classes in creative writing, visual arts, Southern literature, African American literature, Alabama history, and photography in several facilities and supports library development at 15 facilities in Alabama.

The Alabama Humanities Foundation provided a $2,250 grant to the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project in 2005 to support the pilot course in Southern literature and an additional $6,900 in 2006 to support more classes in the humanities.

According to the judges, the Schwartz Prize was awarded to AHF for sponsorship of “Pilot Course in a Survey of Southern Literature” because, they found this ground-breaking program, which brings writers and scholars into prisons to teach courses in literature with an emphasis on political and social contexts in which these works were produced, to be an incredibly moving and well-documented illustration of the potential of the humanities to empower neglected and marginalized groups.

“We were very surprised and honored to receive this distinguished award from the Federation of State Humanities Councils,” said Robert Stewart, executive director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

“The Foundation was pleased to have provided funding for the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project, as we have had a long history of funding and partnering with the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for Arts and Humanities on innovative educational projects. To have this national recognition is certainly a high point in that mutually supportive relationship.”

For more information, contact the Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project at (334) 844-4946, or visit www.auburn.edu/cale/apaep.
The Harrison School of Pharmacy has opened a new pharmacy on campus for AU faculty and staff.

The pharmacy, part of the AU Pharmaceutical Care Center, is on the second floor of the W.W. Walker Pharmacy Building and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. After hours, in case of an emergency, patients can reach a pharmacist by telephone at 750-1048. Pharmacists are available on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Harrison School of Pharmacy administrators say the pharmacy will provide personalized clinical and dispensing services to ensure that faculty and staff are receiving the greatest benefit from their medications.

Prescriptions may be transferred to the pharmacy by calling 844-8938 or by e-mail to AUPCCRx@auburn.edu. The pharmacy delivers prescriptions to faculty and staff anywhere on campus and accepts most major pharmacy insurance. An automatic refill service is also available.

In addition to prescriptions, over-the-counter items such as aspirin, cough drops, cold remedies and pain relievers are available, and faculty and staff may stop by the AUPCC Pharmacy for a free blood pressure check.

Pharmacy Practice Experience

Auburn University’s Harrison School of Pharmacy is reaching out to the community in a way that benefits both pharmacy students and the general public.

There is a need for pharmacy graduates who can practice in a variety of pharmacy service environments. As part of the pharmacy curriculum at Auburn, students are involved in Pharmacy Practice Experience, which entails visits to individuals in the community to provide basic pharmaceutical care.

PPE was created on a service-learning model, which suggests it is mutually beneficial to the participant and to the student pharmacist. Services that students can provide include blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, filling pill boxes, medication and health information, and patient counseling.

Visits are most often made to an individual on a bi-weekly basis; however, the frequency is based on both patient need and patient desires, and thus frequency varies among participants. There is no age requirement and AU student pharmacists have visited patients aged 7 to 101. For children, a parent or guardian must be present. For adults, it is best if the person is able to converse about his or her medications and health issues or have someone present to assist.

Student pharmacists are divided into teams who each have a weekly team meeting, which is overseen by two mentors. The mentors are faculty of the Harrison School of Pharmacy and at least one person in every pair is a clinical pharmacist. Confidentiality is maintained at all times.

The service is free of charge and is open to anyone; participants do not have to be an employee of AU. Anyone interested in participating can call Tara Maple at (334) 844-8345 or email mapletw@auburn.edu.
AU College of Veterinary Medicine Celebrates 100 Years of Annual Conference, DVM Degree

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine hosted its 100th Annual Conference in April for about 2,000 veterinarians, faculty, students, exhibitors, special guests, and spouses. The program included professional seminars, entertainment and alumni class reunions. The annual conference is labeled the biggest non-football weekend of the year in Auburn and the largest educational conference held each year in Auburn.

Not only does 2007 mark the 100th anniversary of the conference, but also the 100th year of the DVM program at Auburn. Established as a college in 1907, more than 5,700 doctors of veterinary medicine have graduated since the first degrees were officially awarded in 1909.

“The teaching of veterinary medicine at Auburn actually dates back to 1892,” said Gary Beard, assistant dean of AU’s veterinary college, “making it the oldest veterinary program in the South and the sixth oldest in the country.”

The conference is one of the longest-running continuing education outreach activities at the university. Conference participants earned up to 21 credit hours of continuing education and gain valuable insight from a wide variety of experts during general sessions, labs, master classes, and in four specialty tracks—small animal, equine, dental, and large animal reproduction.

This year’s keynote speakers featured television celebrity Jim Fowler and AU’s own Veterinary Dean Emeritus J. Thomas Vaughan. Fowler, one of the world’s best known naturalists, has presented information about wildlife to the American public on television for more
than 40 years. He first served with Marlin Perkins as co-host and later became host of Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom, as well as, Mutual of Omaha’s Spirit of Adventure.

Vaughan, who earned his DVM from Auburn in 1955 and served as dean from 1977 to 1995, launched the opening session with a special rendition of the history of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine. He met Auburn’s first veterinary dean, Charles Cary, as a boy, and went on to know all subsequent veterinary deans at Auburn. Vaughan returned to AU from Cornell in 1974 as head of the Department of Large Animal Surgery and Medicine before becoming dean in 1977.

Mark Russell, incoming president of the Alabama Veterinary Medical Association and an Auburn 1982 DVM graduate, greeted attendees with an update of the ALVMA’s centennial convention this summer.

One unique aspect of this year’s 100th Annual Conference was all of the 50 speakers are connected to Auburn as either DVM graduates or former or present faculty, residents, or interns. “The college has produced some of the finest veterinary professionals in the country, and it was exciting to have several back to be a part of the 100th celebration,” Beard said.

The conference also serves as the forum for renewing old acquaintances. “Class reunions are also a big part of the conference; this year we hosted 13 reunions for classes from 1944 to 2002,” Beard continued. “We had a special Golden Eagles induction for graduates of 1957 and honored Young Achievers from the Class of 1997.”

The program included a charity golf tournament to raise funds for special projects at the college, followed by an Exhibit Hall reception with special guest AU Football Head Coach Tommy Tuberville. A “Back-to-College Night” included a centennial historical program and video, in addition to special performances by the University Singers and Auburn Knights Orchestra. Educational sessions ran the entire weekend, from Thursday evening through Sunday morning.

For more information on the history of the college and its continuing education programs for veterinarians, visit www.vetmed.auburn.edu or contact (334) 844-3699.
Twelve African American women living around the Boykin Community Center in Auburn, Ala. are standing a little bit taller and walking a little bit further these days. These women are voluntarily participating in a health and physical activity program led by the Auburn University School of Nursing and funded by Auburn University Outreach. The City of Auburn approved the program to be held at the Boykin Community Center. Equipment purchased locally from the Fitness and Recreation Outlet, including a gift of a standard universal weight-lifting station, now makes up a fully equipped gym. Robin E. Pattillo PhD, RN designed and developed the project with assistance from Dr. Peter Grandjean of the TigerFit Program in the College of Education’s Department of Health and Human Performance. Dr. Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach, is very excited and has great expectations for this project. “I believe this program could very well have broad policy implications in terms of the overall health and wellness of Americans, specifically residents who live in areas where immediate access to fitness facilities is not available due to a lack of transportation, cost and other related issues,” said Cook.

Twelve women volunteered to participate in this program. The women experienced a thorough physical assessment through the TigerFit Program, and received a detailed health report that included cholesterol levels, blood glucose levels, a bone density scan, and a complete exercising electrocardiogram. The women also received an individualized exercise prescription.

Following exercises recommended in their individual TigerFit exercise prescription, each made a commitment to exercise one hour a day at the Boykin Gym, at least three days a week for six months. Many of them are coming additional days. The women have developed a support system and come to the gym together. One group likes to come in the mornings and another after work in the afternoons.

The focus of the program is to increase physical activity to improve health; However, the women are seeing weight loss as an added benefit. Health statistics for African American women in their middle years are alarming. The incidence of heart disease, hypertension, Type II diabetes mellitus and various forms of cancer is very high. Research has shown that increasing physical activity can have a beneficial effect on these health problems. Often African American women living in public housing do not have the time to exercise due to caring for multiple generations. Also, access to fitness centers may be limited due to location, transportation or cost. The project provides access to a fully equipped gym with supervision at times that is requested by the participants. So far the program has been well received and may be able to expand into other public housing facilities.
Next time you vote—no matter what state you are in—there is a good chance your election officials have a connection to Auburn University.

Through a partnership with the Election Center, a non-profit education organization based in Houston, Texas, professors in AU’s public administration program have developed a certification program for election and voter registration officials throughout the United States. The award-winning and nationally recognized procedure is the only national certification program in the country.

While the 2000 presidential election brought much attention to the election process, Auburn is the only university in the country that has been working to educate elections officials for more than a decade.

“Our goal is to help professionalize the field of elections and voter registration,” said Christa Slaton, professor of political science. “We provide the elections officials a way to understand, evaluate, and improve the administration of elections. All of our workshops are a combination of various activities that include lectures, group activities, and projects. Participants also learn from each other.”

Since its inception, approximately 375 elections officials nationwide have completed the 12-course program, which also offers advanced workshops to retain certification. Faculty from the College of Liberal Arts’ Political Science Department, including Slaton and Clif Perry, have traveled across the country to offer the election workshops. This past year they taught courses in Chicago; Los Angeles; Cleveland; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Portland, Oregon.

Because the demand is so great, there are now four workshops each May in addition to workshops offered at other locations every February, April, July, and August.

“We gear all the workshops toward improving the administration of elections so that citizens are the primary recipients of more effective, knowledgeable, and efficient administrators,” Slaton said.
Civic officials from around Alabama learned how successful public events can generate economic impact for their towns at the seventh annual Community Festivals Best Practices Workshop hosted by the Auburn Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) at Auburn University.

“Community festivals are estimated nationally to be a more than $25 billion economic engine, attracting a combined attendance of more the 405 million people to them every year,” ATAC’s Festival Event Coordinator Talitha Norris said. “Each year, we assemble a program designed to provide festival planners with tools and information and the ‘how to’ to make their event as successful as it can be.”

A nationally recognized panel of experts in festival organization, development, and management presented seminars on such areas as strategies and tactics for attracting attendance; securing volunteers and community advocacy; obtaining no-cost event publicity; promotion; working with limited budgets; building and fostering a reputation for the event; planning the right type of event for the location; and the economic impact of community festivals.

Presenters included Carolyn Morris, regional director for the International Festival and Events Association; L. Wright Tilley, president and chief executive officer with the Macon, Ga., International Cherry Blossom
Festival; Patti Culp, executive director of the Alabama Travel Council; John Wild, president, Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau; Lee Sentell, director, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel; and Kathy Danielson, executive director, Foley Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Participants in this year’s workshop attended from throughout Alabama, and Florida.

“I met some interesting people and retrieved a lot of good information during the day,” said Gayle Etheridge of the Alabama Rural Heritage Foundation in Thomaston. Others from among the more than 40 workshop participants echoed similar comments.

“We really enjoyed the workshop, and the information was very beneficial,” said Robyn W. Andrews who attended with a group representing the City of Daphne.

“I have the conference down for 2008 already,” added Shirley Flora, executive director of Keep Opelika Beautiful Inc.

The annual one-day workshop is one of many services through which the ATAC serves the community through university outreach.

Formed in 1976, ATAC is an arm of the AU College of Business outreach program. The center is an affiliate of the Alabama Technology Network and is designated an Economic Development Administration University Center.

“ATAC provides business and technical assistance, customized training, and consultation in implementing value-added strategies to manufacturers and other businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies throughout Alabama and the Southeast,” said Director Henry Burdg. “Our Community Festivals Best Practices Workshop is one of the programs we started to help Chambers of Commerce and other civic groups improve the outcomes of special events organized to promote their local economy.”

Through the Alabama Technology Network, ATAC also works with manufacturing industries throughout the state to provide training and expertise in the areas of Lean Manufacturing – a philosophy that emerged from the Toyota production system and the Japanese automotive industry that is designed to remove waste and non-value-added elements from the manufacturing process.

“We also conduct training in Six Sigma, a statistically based management paradigm designed to improve profits and enhance productivity,” Burdg said. “However, it is important to note that all of our training and services are designed by working directly with the company or organization to identify their specific and unique needs and to develop and deliver programs that meet those needs.”

ATAC staff also work with companies to improve the skills and capabilities of their workforce – and more importantly – to keep jobs in the state.

“Economic benefits or impacts directly related to our work with those companies and organizations have been in the millions of dollars,” Burdg notes. “Moreover, because of our university outreach mission and through our affiliations with the Alabama Technology Network and Economic Development Administration, we are able to provide highly valuable and effective programs that our clients consider to be an excellent value.”

Sustaining School Success

The College of Education Truman Pierce Institute has launched the Sustaining School Success initiative in partnership with school systems in Fayette, Hale, Macon and Tallapoosa counties. The initiative was funded for the 2006-07 school year through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

The program’s purpose is to build a coalition of administrators, teacher leaders, and traditional and non-traditional student leaders engaged in school renewal. The project includes students as active participants in reform efforts and allows teachers, school administrators, and students to become actively involved in action planning and strategizing. Sustaining School Success is an expansion of a former TPI program and this new program builds upon the successes and lessons learned through the Instructional Improvement Institute (I3) program.

“It is the college’s goal to develop competent, committed and reflective professionals,” said College of Education Dean Frances Kochan. “Through the Truman Pierce Institute initiatives and ARC funding, we are able to achieve that goal by serving those in critical education positions, not to mention current students who represent the region’s future.”

The program focuses on specific objectives for both students and teachers. Objectives for student leaders include decreasing drop-out rates and increasing graduation rates, encouraging teaching as a career, promoting college enrollment, enhancing leadership capacity, and improving academic achievement. Objectives for teacher leaders and administrators include improving instructional effectiveness, increasing leadership capacity, promoting mentoring and developing grant writing and acquisition skills.

Ongoing activities of the Sustaining School Success initiative include leadership retreats and monthly meetings for students as well as monthly professional development activities for teachers and administrators in each school system. Two coalition meetings will include traditional and non-traditional student leaders, teacher leaders, and administrators from all four school systems.

“It is a long-term goal of this program as well as the Truman Pierce Institute to provide these dedicated and talented teachers and administrators with the tools they need to continually improve the quality of education for all students,” said Cindy Reed, director of the Truman Pierce Institute. Reed can be reached at (334) 844-4488.
Outreach Launches Major Focus on Engagement

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach has launched a major effort aimed at promoting faculty engagement at Auburn. Since January, the office has committed $100,000 to outreach scholarship grants, reorganized its campus advisory council, and held its first annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium.

“Outreach scholarship is central to the purpose of a land grant institution,” says Kimberly King-Jupiter, director of Outreach Planning and Faculty Engagement in the University Outreach office. “Our goal is not to rehash land grant philosophy, but to create opportunities for faculty to conduct outreach scholarship and promote its recognition in the tenure and promotion process.”

In January, the office committed $100,000 to support Outreach Scholarship Grants and issued a call for proposals. The grant program builds upon the experience of previous grant initiatives offered by University Outreach. As in the past, faculty were encouraged to propose programs which addressed critical needs in Alabama. However, this grant program more strongly emphasizes linking outreach initiatives to the investigator’s overall research agenda. More than 20 proposals were received and reviewed by a peer committee.

By March, a new University Outreach Council was formed and held its first meeting. Over the years, the vice president’s office convened various meetings to tackle special projects or to encourage networking among outreach offices. However, the office wanted to establish a more regular meeting forum for campus outreach stakeholders.

“We recognized the need to form an appropriate internal advisory group,” said King-Jupiter. “But it was equally important that we provide the group with a well defined charge.” The office worked with Auburn’s deans and directors of major outreach units on campus and at Auburn University-Montgomery to identify representatives for the council. These individuals not only represent their units in policy discussions for the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach but also serve as advocates for outreach and faculty engagement in their areas of concern. At its first meeting in March, the new group heard presentations on economic development, natural resources initiatives, and outreach scholarship. “We had a good discussion,” said King-Jupiter. “Now we’re looking at how to act upon what we heard and determine what activities the group is interested in pursuing.”

The next phase of the initiative took place in June with the institution of an annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium. The program included sessions on cross-disciplinary outreach projects and strategies for program evaluation. The symposium provided an opportunity for administrators and faculty to discuss the role of outreach initiatives and outreach scholarship in the tenure and promotion process. Kay Kohl, CEO of the University Continuing Education Association was the keynote speaker.

The council, grant and symposium programs are all designed to compliment each other as well as reinforce their shared objective. “These activities help us establish working relationships with faculty and administration that can encourage community engagement which is recognized and valued as scholarship,” said King-Jupiter. For more information on Outreach Scholarship, contact King-Jupiter at (334) 844-5701.
BEST Robotics Competition
ONE OF AUBURN’S MOST UNIQUE K-12 OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In 2001, Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering jointly started Alabama Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology—a robotics competition for schools in Central Alabama.

BEST is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization based in Dallas, Texas. Its mission is to inspire middle through high school students to pursue careers in these three career fields through participation in a sports-like, hands-on engineering and science competition. The program is free to schools. Sponsors provide funding to purchase the equipment and materials used by the schools during the six-week long competition.

The premise behind BEST is simple: teams of students have six weeks to build a functioning, radio-controlled robot that performs certain tasks in a game-type competition. BEST merges the excitement of a high school basketball game with the strategy of a chess match and intellectual challenge of a science fair. Bands, cheerleaders, mascots, and team supporters cheer their teams on in the competition.

One of the unique features of BEST is the role team mentors—engineers and technical professionals from industry—play in the success of the teams. The mentors serve as guides or advisors, shepherding the team through the design and construction phase. They help students understand real-world applications of abstract science and math principles in the context of designing, building, and testing their robot.

“We started Alabama BEST to help address a crisis that industry in Alabama and the United States is facing: a critical shortage of engineers and scientists in the workforce,” said George Blanks, director of K-12 engineering outreach in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. “We needed to be part of the solution and help attract students to these career fields. What could be a better way of demystifying engineering and science than by having students build robots from scratch?”
“BEST students relish the challenge of building a robot and love to compete against other teams,” Blanks adds. “What is so great about the program is that the kids just think they’re building a robot to race other robots. They don’t know how the program will help them develop better organizational, leadership, and decision-making skills. They learn how to work on a team and gain a newfound ability to analyze and solve problems. It’s incredibly rewarding to be part of a program that changes students’ lives like BEST does.”

“When we started the program,” said Mary Lou Ewald, director of outreach in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, “we knew it would have a tremendous impact on K-12 education. There was absolutely nothing like it in Alabama at the time. After that first year, word spread like wildfire about how incredible BEST was. It was amazing to see how fast the program grew.”

“We went into this with a vision of growing the program across Alabama and eventually across the South,” Ewald said. “We not only wanted to see other hubs get started, but also planned from the beginning to establish a BEST regional championship at Auburn. Winning teams from the additional hubs would advance to Auburn to compete with the best of the BEST.”

“When we started Alabama BEST, the only other hub east of the Mississippi River was in Chicago. We knew that if we wanted Auburn to eventually become the site of a championship, we would have to help other hubs get started, Blanks said.”

The two were instrumental in getting hubs started in Mobile, Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama, Marietta, Georgia, Nashville, Tennessee, Starkville, Mississippi, Pensacola, Florida, Cincinnati, Ohio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and New Haven, Connecticut. With the growth of these hubs, the two colleges started South’s BEST Regional Robotics Championship.

More than 200 schools competing at these hubs vie for the chance to be one of 50 teams to come to Auburn for the championship. More than 2,000 students, mentors, parents, and other supporters attend the two-day event held in November in the Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.
The most unique feature at South’s BEST each year is the backdrop that frames the playing fields and creates a dramatic atmosphere for the competition. The first year program students from the School of Architecture design, build, and erect the backdrops, which are typically 20-feet tall inflatable structures that span the floor of the coliseum. The collaboration between engineering, sciences and mathematics and architecture is unlike any other program at Auburn.

It requires a significant number of volunteers to run both Alabama’s and South’s BEST. A steering team of 26 members, who hail from 18 departments in four colleges and schools on campus, organize and run the events. More than 200 students representing 46 majors in eight Auburn University colleges and schools helped in various functions. More than 100 judges from 13 departments in three colleges on campus and 23 industries and organizations from three states volunteered for both competitions.

Auburn’s BEST competition started as an outreach program for 20 or so central Alabama high schools. Through the commitment and dedication of hundreds of Auburn students, faculty, and staff, it has evolved into what is now Auburn’s largest, most unique, and most collaborative K-12 outreach program. For more information, visit Alabama BEST at www.alabamabest.org, BEST Robotics, Inc. at www.bestinc.org, or South’s BEST Regional Robotics Championship at www.southsbest.org.

Museum provides tours for area seniors

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art has joined with University Outreach, Qantum Communications and the Lee-Russell Council on Governments to provide free monthly excursions to clients of seven senior centers in Lee and Russell Counties. The program serves predominately low-income and minority seniors who have limited access to cultural opportunities such as are offered by a museum of fine art.

A typical monthly program includes transportation, lunch and a tour of a current exhibition. Seniors arrive at the Jule Collins Smith Museum before lunch and hear a presentation on the subject of their afternoon tour. After a light meal provided by the Museum café, the seniors participate in a guided tour. To date, more than 100 senior adults have participated in the mid-day programs. Visit jcsm.auburn.edu.
Auburn University now offers a new distance education certification program, “Emergency Management for Government and the Public Sector,” through AU’s Center for Governmental Services within University Outreach.

AU began offering the five courses required for certification last fall. “Planning and Preparedness for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Post 9/11 and Post Katrina” was taught by Paula Gordon, homeland security consultant and author.


“The courses were designed for governmental managers and leaders, elected officials, individuals employed by governmental entities and other individuals employed in the public sector,” said Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services.

Each of the courses lasts four weeks and is offered exclusively online.


“We need, now more than ever, a new generation of more professional, skilled, diverse and better-educated emergency managers, emergency services personnel, public health workers and public officials in order to better face the challenges facing the nation,” said Blanchard. For more information about the Emergency Management certification program and to register, visit www.auburn.edu/outreach/cgs, or call (334) 844-4781.
There is no shortage of good ideas for improving conditions in our rural communities. There is, however, a shortage of funding to support these good ideas. Thanks to the Rural Alabama Initiative, 47 ideas from rural communities throughout the state will get the chance to come to fruition.

The initiative, funded by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, aims to provide financial support for worthwhile educational projects that promote rural development. The program is administered by the Economic and Community Development Institute, a partnership of Extension and Auburn University Outreach.

The grants were open to county extension coordinators for projects in their counties or joint projects between other organizations and extension. Priority was given to projects that involved collaborations among jurisdictions and/or organizations. Grants ranging from $4,000 to $20,000 were awarded to 47 projects across the state, for an overall total of approximately $500,000. Funded projects included community and regional leadership development programs, youth leadership programs, workforce development academies, a technology camp for high school counselors, a high school robotics competition, computer skills training for adults, economic development workshops and training programs, rural tourism and entrepreneurship programs, and several folk/heritage cultural programs.

“At last summer’s Alabama Rural Roundtable (a meeting of rural development stakeholders), participants identified community leadership and workforce development as the two most critical issues for rural prosperity. That’s why we are delighted that the Rural Alabama Initiative is able to support about 40 local and regional projects related to adult and youth leadership and workforce development,” said Joe Sumners, ECDI director. “ECDI is committed to making a positive difference for rural communities in Alabama. We think these projects will have huge impacts in many communities throughout our state.”

### Rural Alabama Initiative - Approved Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project (Organization)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Leadership Talladega (ACES, Talladega County)</td>
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<td>2. Leadership Greene (Leadership Greene)</td>
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<td>3. Leadership Winston County (Haleyville Area Chamber of Commerce)</td>
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<td>4. Black Belt Mayors Leadership Initiative (Black Belt Mayors)</td>
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<td>5. Blount County Rural Development Project (ACES, Blount County)</td>
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<td>6. Bibb County Citizen Leadership and Engagement Program (Bibb County Chamber of Commerce)</td>
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<td>7. Leadership Selma-Dallas County (Leadership Selma-Dallas County)</td>
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<td>8. Vision 13: Regional Leadership Skills Training for Cherokee, Cleburne, Clay, Randolph, Chambers, and Lee Counties (East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission)</td>
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<td>9. Leaders for Pike Road (Town of Pike Road)</td>
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<td>10. Leadership Pickens (Leadership Pickens)</td>
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<td>11. Educating the Leaders of the Town of Magnolia Springs (Town of Magnolia Springs)</td>
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<td>12. Gulf Coast LEADERS Program (Mobile and Baldwin County Extension offices)</td>
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<td>13. Henry County Workforce and Leadership Academy (Renaissance Headland)</td>
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<td>16. Your Town Alabama 2007 Workshop (Your Town Alabama)</td>
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17. Artware: Using Art-based Learning to Help Youth and Adults Reach their Potential
(Covenant Community Church–Elba)
18. Youth Leadership Bullock County
(ACES, Bullock County)
19. Youth Leadership Elmore County
(ACES, Elmore County)
20. Perry/Wilcox Youth Leadership Initiative
(ACES, Perry County and Wilcox County)
21. Youth Leadership Lawrence
(Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce)
22. Youth Leadership Lowndes County
(Lowndes County Partnership for Children)
23. Monroe County Youth Leadership Program
(Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce)
24. Town of Shorter, after school/summer program Renovate, Innovate, Explore (REI)
Youth Leadership Program
(Shorter Community Action program and Town of Shorter)
25. Youth Leadership Shoals
(Shoals Area Chamber of Commerce)
26. Youth Leadership Shelby County
(Leadership Shelby County)
27. Youth Leadership for the Camden Community Youth Development Center
(Camden Community Youth Development Center)
28. Pine City Ambassadors: Jackson’s Junior Leadership Program
(Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce)
29. Realize Your Potential: Lauderdale and Marion Counties
(ACES, Lauderdale County)
30. Providing Follow-up Counseling and Assessment for Tree Amigos 4-H Youth
(ACES, Calhoun County)
31. Butler Workforce Preparation and Development Program
(Greenville-Butler County Boys and Girls Club)
32. Chambers County Workforce Preparation and Leadership Development
(Chambers County Career Technical Center)
33. Retention of the 18 to 25-Year-Old Workforce of the City of Fort Payne
(Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce)
34. Alabama BEST: Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology
(School and Team Member Recruitment Program: AU College of Engineering and College of Sciences and Mathematics)
35. Technology Camp for High School Counselors
(Southern Union State Community College)
36. Students Exploring the Workforce (SEW): Hale County
(Hale County Schools)
37. Computer Literacy Lab for Rural Adults
(ACES, Coosa County)
38. Enhancement of Computer Usage of Rural Residents of Escambia County
(ACES, Escambia County)
39. Prattville-Autauga County Character Coalition
(Prattville-Autauga County Character Coalition)
40. Pick Pickens for Peace and Prosperity
(Pickens County Retiree Association)
41. The Hallelujah Trail of Jackson County
(Jackson County Tourism)
42. Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area: Alabama Black Belt Heritage Area Task Force
43. Black Belt Treasures Folk Life Festival
(Black Belt Treasures - Wilcox County)
44. Implementation of a Marengo County Economic Development Authority
(ACES, Marengo County)
45. Shelby County Small City I.D.
(South Shelby Chamber of Commerce)
46. Economic Development for Limited Resource Farmers in Rural West Alabama
(Alabama Rural Heritage Foundation Center)
47. Presenting a Specialty Food product at a Regional Market Learning through Workshops and Practical Experience:
(Enterprise Coffee Geneva Economic Development Corporation)

Visit ECDI at www.auburn.edu/outreach/ecdi.
In O. D. Smith Hall, on Auburn University’s campus, instructional designer Prasanthi Pallapu works with faculty to convert traditional campus-based courses into distance education delivery formats. She manages many long-term projects, including courses such as statistics, soils science, business French, and film studies. “My work is challenging and interesting,” said Pallapu. “Every day is different and each project brings its own set of teaching issues to be addressed.”

Across campus in Petrie Annex, a small building on the north side of Jordan Hare Stadium, Ernestine Morris-Stinson, student and faculty services manager for the Independent Learning Program handles her own set of issues. “What I find most rewarding is hearing the sigh of relief or satisfaction when I help a student or faculty member who is having some difficulty,” said Morris-Stinson. Her faculty are Auburn’s faculty but her students come from all over the United States and beyond, including Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, and Central America.
These professionals are part of the Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology, a unit in Auburn University Outreach. The office offers all the services necessary to help departments and faculty create and offer distance education programs, including consultation in program and course design and development and implementation of support services. “A number of academic departments provide a substantial part of their own infrastructure for their distance education programs; others prefer to draw on the services of our office,” said Rick Alekna, who recently retired as director of the Distance Learning Office. Support is flexible, tailored to the specific needs of the academic department or the faculty member involved in distance education activity.

Originally, the unit was called the Office of Independent Study and had only a small staff providing services for a handful of print-based courses. Fostering distance education into new academic areas, the office initiated projects using new delivery technologies—live satellite broadcasting, computer-based modules, and teleconferencing. In 1993, the name changed to the Office of Distance Learning reflect its broadened responsibility of supporting the development of distance education across the university.

In order to perform this expanded mission, the office added the skill sets needed to properly support distance education programming—text and graphics, editing, instructional design, multimedia, marketing, and financial management. Additionally, it expanded the technical options to include still and motion digital imaging, digital audio and video editing, audio and video duplicating, specialized web functions and graphics, and packaging systems.

Over the last decade, distance education programs at Auburn have experienced steady and substantial growth.

**Opportunities at a Distance**

Auburn’s schools and colleges offer a number of distance degree options and programs, many of them nationally-ranked in their disciplines. These include:

- **BUSINESS** – Master’s degrees in Business Administration, Management in Information Systems, and Accountancy; Executive MBA; Physicians and Healthcare EMBA
- **ENGINEERING** – Master’s degrees in Aerospace, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science/Software Engineering, Industrial/Systems, Materials, and Mechanical Engineering; a Master of Industrial and Systems Engineering with a dual MISE/MBA option available
- **EDUCATION** – M.Ed. degrees in Rehabilitation Counseling, Music Education, Foreign Language Education, Special Education and Business Education; Ed.S. degrees in Business Education and Foreign Language Education; Academic Certificate in Early Intervention and Graduate Support Courses in EFLT
- **HUMAN SCIENCES** – Master’s degree in Food and Nutrition with an emphasis in Hotel/Restaurant Management
- **PHARMACY** – Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.)
- **SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS** – Graduate Support Courses in Math (engineering)

Each school and college maintains detailed information about these programs on their individual web pages via the main university site www.auburn.edu. Information on business and engineering distance programs also is available through the Graduate Outreach Program site at www.gop.auburn.edu.

A comprehensive summary site reflecting all the university’s distance education programs is available on the “AU Online” web page at www.auburn.edu/auonline.
Due to university policies established in the 1990s that encourage development of distance courses. Those policies permit an academic department to propose a unique tuition rate for a distance education program based on its projected costs of delivery and to retain most of the tuition revenue to fund the program. Since that time, AU’s distance education offerings have doubled. Students now have 21 distance options from which to select degree programs from the Colleges of Business, Engineering, Human Sciences, Education, or Pharmacy. The university receives nearly 3,000 registrations annually in more than 200 course sections offered by Auburn’s academic units.

While providing a variety of support services to the university as a whole, the Distance Learning Office also manages Auburn’s Independent Learning Program. The program consists of both college credit and professional/non-credit courses and programs. Annually, the Distance Learning Office serves more than 300 credit students and 250 non-credit clients. A number of AU faculty offer individual credit courses through the program. Additionally, the office provides administration of non-credit programs such as the Center for Governmental Services’ certificate program in emergency management, an information technology certification program for the Black Data Processing Association, for which AU’s Juan Gilbert serves as Academic Director, and the highly regarded dietary manager independent study program authored by Robin Fellers, associate professor of Nutrition and Food Science in the College of Human Sciences.

Once traditional campus-based courses are converted into the distance education environment, Auburn maintains a rigorous quality review process of the courses and programs. All courses go through academic committees in their respective departments and deans’ offices as well as through the Provost’s office. Several of Auburn’s distance education programs have received national recognition for quality and innovation.

In addition to Auburn’s own rigorous academic quality standards, these programs must meet exacting industry and regulatory criteria for accreditation. For example, the dietary manager professional development program serves directors of food service operations in nursing homes and hospitals. Completing the Auburn program and passing a national certifying exam is extremely important to these facilities if they expect to receive Medicare funds. The course is organized in 24 modules, includes three texts, 14 audio lectures on CDs, approximately 2,000 pages of instructor-supplied text and guided study, and is supervised by a local mentor. Over the past 20 years the program has graduated around 10,000 individuals who go on to qualify for additional certifications and promotions in their field. Graduates of the program typically score higher on the national certifying exam than students from other similar programs, including those students who complete resident associate and bachelor degree programs. Robin Fellers created the program when she worked with the Morrison’s Food Service Corporation. She continues to update the program, which must pass a recertification review every five years.

More Auburn courses and programs are likely to be offered through distance education in the future. Nationally, consumer demand is on the rise and a number of departments are exploring some exciting opportunities for serving AU’s off-campus clientele.
Where can you find novelists, poets, artists, illustrators, playwrights and children’s writers? A host of them could be found at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery for the 2007 Alabama Book Festival.

The festival, was the “Year of Alabama Arts” top literary event and featured more than 50 nationally recognized writers and artists, including Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler, Printz Award winner John Green, Alabama’s beloved Kathryn Tucker Windham and the quilters of Gee’s Bend. The free event showcased readings, book signings, children’s activities and numerous literary and literacy organizations.

Throughout the day festival-goers heard authors and presenters in five venues. A special children’s area included activities and programs designed especially for young readers. Alabama Public Television’s Reading Rainbow awards were presented at the event to young writers.

Festival guests included Gayden Metcalf, author of the hilarious “Being Dead Is No Excuse” and the just released “Somebody’s Going to Die if Lilly Beth Doesn’t Catch That Bouquet.” Acclaimed cooking writer and television personality Nathalie Dupree, novelists Elizabeth Dewberry and Howard Bahr and many others presented their new works and autographed books for visitors. Ravi Howard, Julia Oliver, and Wayne Greenhaw were among the Alabama writers on the program, as were Auburn University’s Leah Rawls Atkins and Wayne Flynt.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival Southern Writers’ Project playwright Peter Hicks, whose play recently premiered at the ASF theatre, joined Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder, author of “Gee’s Bend,” in a special Southern writers panel.

The festival was hosted by the Alabama Center for the Book, a designation awarded by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to Auburn’s Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, the outreach center for the College of Liberal Arts. Festival sponsors included the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, Alabama Children’s Literacy Guild, Alabama Humanities Foundation, Alabama Library Association, Alabama Public Library Service, Alabama Public Television, Alabama Reading Association, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Supreme Court and Law Library, Auburn University College of Liberal Arts, Alabama Writers’ Forum, Capitol Book, City of Montgomery, Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery City-County Public Library, NewSouth Inc., Old Alabama Town, River City Publishing, “Support the Arts” car tag fund, Troy University Montgomery Campus and University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. Learn more about the festival at www.alabamabookcenter.org.
Auburn University’s Center for Governmental Services, a unit within University Outreach, named Caleb M. Clark as its 2006-07 Senior Fellow.

Clark, an alumni professor of political science and program director for the Master of Public Administration, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in political science. His career in academics has spanned more than 30 years in which he has authored or edited 17 books and published in excess of 300 publications. Clark’s primary areas of teaching and research interests are in public policy, comparative politics and methodology.

As a primary component of the Senior Fellow recognition, Clark serves as primary co-author to generate a book dedicated to conducting an examination of selected prominent governing and public policy issues that affect the citizens of Alabama.

Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services, states that the Senior Fellows program recognizes that experienced practitioners, academicians and researchers make meaningful contributions to government and to associated targeted projects.

“Our Fellows utilize their expertise to engage in research or funding opportunities that enhance the quality of public policy for the State of Alabama,” said Veal.

Requirements for Fellow status include extensive experience, prominence and recognized contributions in public affairs. Additional factors considered include academic qualifications in a public affairs discipline, reputation, contributions and achievements to public affairs nationally or internationally and demonstrated characteristics as a public affairs thinker, author or entrepreneur. Visit www.auburn.edu/outreach/cgs.

AU’s Urban Studio: DID YOU KNOW?

Auburn University’s Urban Studio is an outreach program of the School of Architecture located in the restored historic Young & Vann Building in downtown Birmingham.

The studio has created comprehensive community design plans for 42 under-served small Alabama towns and neighborhoods in support of development, revitalization, and preservation efforts through the Small Town Design Initiative Program (STDI).

Urban Studio’s internship program provides a hands-on opportunity for fifth-year architecture students to engage with practicing architects and in projects that provide economic impact to the community and lay the groundwork for improved quality of life.

Plans are developed with strong community participation in town-hall style meetings that help residents identify the opportunities and assets in their community, contribute to the future vision, and provide input for actions and priorities.

The resulting design proposals and recommendations create a comprehensive plan that unites the community in an effort to improve their quality of life. The plan is summarized in an oversized poster distributed to every household within the community and is also posted in stores, public venues, churches, schools, and across the community.

Learn more about Urban Studio at http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/urban-studio.
Black Data Processing Associates joined with Auburn University to launch the Information Technology Institute Certification Program, an innovative online service designed to help IT professionals sharpen their technical skills and boost their leadership potential.

In this partnership, AU will provide an Academic Chair for the BDPA IT Institute and BDPA will utilize AU’s Office of Distance Learning, within University Outreach, to deliver the IT Institute certification content. “This service will help IT professionals brush up on their technical skills, improve their ability to make career changes and develop the skills necessary for upward mobility in IT,” said Juan Gilbert, AU professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and academic chair of the IT Institute.

The BDPA IT Institute offers online certification programs supporting IT professionals from entry-level associates to advanced-level masters. The initial 14-week course offering, beginning this month, will be the mid-level IT Professional Certification. Participants must have a bachelor’s degree, five years of IT experience and practical substantiation of skills and experience.

Minority high achievers in the field of IT often struggle to move from purely technical roles to leadership roles in the industry. With 54 chapters across the United States, BDPA is the premier organization for African Americans in technology.

“We are excited by the academic support we have received from Auburn University, with Dr. Gilbert as Academic Chair and the Distance Learning Office supporting the online course work,” said Betty Hutchins, vice president of Member Services for BDPA.

“Distance Learning provides a wide range of instructional and web support to aid the BDPA program.”

“We are excited to offer the new services of the BDPA IT Institute to the membership. Although the program is available to non-members, it provides valuable benefits to support member development,” said National BDPA President Gina Billings.

Founded in 1975 by Earl Pace and the late David Wimberly, BDPA is a global member-focused organization that serves the professional well-being of its stakeholders.

The BDPA IT Institute is supported by some of the best corporations in the IT industry. Sponsors include Merck and Company, whose CIO Chris Scalet serves on the Institute Advisory Board; JP Morgan Chase; Eli Lilly and Company; SunTrust Bank; Gartner Research; Hewitt Associates; Limited Brands; Avue Technologies; Strategic Staffing Solutions; Ajilon Consulting; Digital Rhythm Interactive; EMC Corporation and UBS Investment Bank.

“The launch of the IT Institute is a tremendous milestone for BDPA and all of its stakeholders,” said Hutchins. The BDPA national headquarters is located in Greenbelt, Maryland. For more information, call 1 (800) 727-BDPA or visit www.bdpa.org.

The Distance Learning Office within the University Outreach division provides assistance to academic departments in their distance education efforts and serves 800 individuals each year in a variety of credit and non-credit programs. For more information about Auburn’s distance education programs, visit www.auburn.edu/auonline.
Auburn University Hosts 10-Nation Trade Delegation from Africa

Representatives from 10 African nations visited the Auburn campus to learn about trade possibilities between the United States and Africa, as well as opportunities with Auburn University and the east Alabama region.

The visit was hosted by AU’s Office of University Outreach and was the first of its type and scope to come to the Auburn area.

“This was a great opportunity for Auburn University and east Alabama to showcase our resources for a unique gathering of trade officials from the African continent,” said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach.

An 11-member delegation is part of a U.S. Department of State leadership initiative and is made up of business leaders, government officials and researchers from the nations of Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The State Department’s U.S.-Africa Trade Program provides delegations such as this with information on business culture in the United States and trade possibilities between the United States and Africa. The program also focuses on the link between good governance and economic development in the new global economy.

While on campus the delegation heard presentations from representatives of the Auburn Research Park and the I-85 Corridor Alliance. Delegates then participated in a roundtable discussion on economic development with local government and business officials from Auburn and Opelika.

The delegation’s visit was coordinated by AU student volunteers with the Alabama Council for International Visitors. “We hope this was the first of many such visits,” said AU graduate student and volunteer John Markow.

Spirit of Auburn Credit Card and License to Learn

Auburn graduates, not only in Alabama and the Southeast, but also all over the world make extraordinary strides in improving the lives of others through their efforts at work, in the community, and by their service as volunteers. Wouldn’t it be a waste if young talented, deserving students weren’t even given this opportunity … to live the Auburn experience … to go out into the world and make a difference … to be ambassadors of the Auburn spirit … to be living examples of the Auburn Creed?

We can all help shape the future of academically gifted student leaders who deserve the chance to make their mark in the world. Share your Auburn spirit by participating in two programs that fund scholarships awarded to these worthy scholars.

The Spirit of Auburn credit card is available to alumni, students, and friends of the university. Our partner, Bank of America, gives the university a percentage of the amount of consumer purchases made on the Spirit of Auburn card, which funds the new Spirit of Auburn Scholarship program. The credit card program will fund 500 new scholarships for fall 2007 incoming freshmen. You can do your part by using the card for your normal, everyday charges … at the gas pump, the grocery store … anywhere. Every time you use the card, it helps provide an Auburn educational experience to students who have worked hard to earn this opportunity. And your efforts will be rewarded too. You’ll enjoy redeeming all the points you earn for cash back or travel. To apply for the card, call 1-866-438-6262.

If you’re an Alabama resident, do you share your Auburn pride by sporting the AU vanity license tag on your vehicle? If so, then you’ve made a difference in a young person’s life, as proceeds from vanity tag sales benefit the AU License to Learn Scholarship Endowment Fund. For the 2006-07 school year, $1.9 million in scholarships were awarded to 674 students. The tag costs $50, plus the regular Alabama state vehicle fee of $24.25. There is no extra cost to order a personalized AU tag. Get your AU tag at your local DMV office.
Sesquicentennial Lectures On-Line

In 2006, Auburn University celebrated the 150th anniversary of the state legislature’s incorporation of the East Alabama Male College, AU’s earliest predecessor. The festivities included a Sesquicentennial Lecture Series sponsored by the Sesquicentennial Committee, the Center for Arts and Humanities of the College of Liberal Arts, AU Outreach, and the Auburn University Libraries. Videos of the lectures are now available online at http://diglib.auburn.edu/150th.

The Systems Department of the Auburn University Libraries recorded the lectures and prepared the Web site. In addition to videos of each lecture, the site features a narrative history of Auburn University and historic photographs from the Special Collections and Archives Department of the AU Libraries.

Topics of the lectures included Auburn during the Civil War era, the origins of Auburn as a land grant university, women at AU, the rivalry between Auburn and Alabama, the impact of veterans who returned to school under the G.I. Bill, the desegregation of the university, intercollegiate athletics, photographic documentation of the campus, outreach at Auburn, agriculture and cooperative extension, and the president’s home and AU first ladies.

King-Jupiter Appointed Director of Outreach Planning and Faculty Engagement

Kimberly L. King-Jupiter has been appointed director of Outreach Planning and Faculty Engagement in the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach. King-Jupiter is responsible for advancing outreach scholarship on campus through faculty engagement. Arriving at Auburn in 1997, she is tenured as an associate professor in Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology in the College of Education. She received her doctorate in History, Philosophy and Policy Studies and a master’s degree in Higher Education from Indiana University-Bloomington. She completed her bachelors degree at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. “I look forward to identifying ways to connect faculty to the community and demonstrating how scholarship can be advanced via involvement in outreach activities,” said King-Jupiter.

Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities

The Center for the Arts and Humanities has been renamed The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in honor of the beloved Auburn first lady and wife of former university president Ralph Brown Draughon. The College of Liberal Arts’ long-standing outreach center at Pebble Hill strengthens the bonds between the academic community, the arts, and the general public through quality programs in schools, towns, and communities around the state.

SBDC Awarded $25,000 Grant

Alabama Small Business Institute of Commerce has awarded the Auburn University Small Business Development Center, Jackie Alexander Di Pofi, Ph.D., director, a grant of $25,000 to train Alabama workers. This amount is almost $10,000 more than last year’s grant of $15,100.

Bond Named Community Course Teacher of the Year

Outreach Program Office recently named Evelyn Bond as its first “Community Course Teacher of the Year. Bond has been teaching community courses since the program began in the early 1970s. For more than 30 years, she has proven to be extremely popular with students of all ages. Bond holds a master’s degree from Auburn University, and she served on the faculty for more than 30 years. When she started teaching for Outreach, Bond taught typing on the typewriter, and later moved to office machines and computers. After years of helping secretaries pass typing proficiency exams, Bond developed a passion for teaching computer classes to senior citizens who missed the opportunity to grow up with computers. Her course, Computers for Older Adults, is one of OPO’s most popular programs. Bond says she has ‘loved every minute’ of teaching and helping others to learn. On campus, she is known as Evelyn, but in the bridge community, she is known as “Brownie.” Bond is an avid bridge player and puzzle solver and enjoys living in Auburn with her husband, Dean. Over the years OPO has received hundreds of letters from students compliment Bond’s of the patient, thorough, and clear manner in which she has taught.
Certificates of Professional Management Awarded

The Auburn chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Management, an international professional organization, awarded Certificates of Professional Management to 10 of its members, all Auburn University employees. Shown in photo (left to right) are Victoria Tate, John Jensen, Jackie DiPofi, Clint LeNoir, Angela Erlandson, Ralph Foster, Barnese Adair-Wallace and Lane Sauser. Janine Slick and Hope Stockton were among the awardees but absent from the photograph. The certificate recognized completion of eight hours of professional non-credit instructional programs provided by the chapter in the previous year.

SAM is an international organization with a 95-year history. Founded in 1912 by the colleagues and disciples of Fredrick Taylor, often referred to as the “Father of Scientific Management,” SAM’s mission is to provide an opportunity for members to increase management skills and expertise through participation in programs and services designed to improve the professional quality of their knowledge, performance and leadership ability.

The local chapter was organized by several members of the university community, but membership is open all in the local area including professionals, academics and students. The chapter meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. Jackie DiPofi, director of AU’s Small Business Development Center, is the current president. For more information, contact her at dipofja@auburn.edu.

ATAC Specialist First in State to Attain Prestigious ‘Lean’ Certification

David Hicks, a member of the Auburn Technical Assistance Center staff at Auburn University, has achieved the prestigious Lean Bronze Certification for manufacturing expertise and is the first to achieve this honor in the state of Alabama, according to the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

The Lean manufacturing certification program is a nationally recognized qualifications process. Certification at each of its three levels—Bronze, Silver and Gold—involves many hours of education and testing to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Lean manufacturing principals.

“David’s certification is the first in the state of Alabama at any of the award’s three levels and is an achievement to be commended,” said ATAC Director Henry Burdg. “Lean manufacturing certification is something that not many people attain, and this is a significant accomplishment.”

Lean manufacturing is the leading paradigm in industry. With the objectives of eliminating waste and improving efficiency, it focuses on making products only when a customer expresses a need by placing an order. Hicks, a registered professional engineer with more than 20 years of experience in manufacturing, test engineering, quality and plant management, is a management scientist with the ATAC.

“One of the missions of Auburn University is outreach,” Hicks said. “ATAC has helped hundreds of firms statewide and working with ATAC is rewarding because it has given me the opportunity to help businesses keep jobs in Alabama by implementing Lean manufacturing techniques.”

Smith named Extension Director

Gaines Smith was named the director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, removing “interim” from his title. He was appointed interim director in 2001. Smith holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from AU. His career in Extension extends over four decades with service at all levels of the system—county, district and state. He worked as a county agent in Jefferson County before becoming a district agent in Selma. Smith was named associate director in 1990. He has served as interim director once before, from September 1994 to December 1996.
Fillmer Appointed Executive Director of AU Natural Resources Management and Development Institute

Larry Fillmer was appointed the executive director of the new AU Natural Resources Management and Development Institute. Fillmer is a 1969 graduate of the AU College of Business with a degree in Business Administration; he also holds a master’s degree in Industrial Management from the University of Alabama. Upon graduating from Auburn University, he received his commission in the United States Air Force. He served seven years and attained the rank of captain. In his 35-year corporate career, Fillmer worked with several large technology firms before his appointment as president and CEO of Amdahl IT Services and Fujitsu Technology Solutions. He retired from the company in January 2004. Fillmer led the university’s I-85 Corridor Alliance outreach initiative as executive director prior to his 2005 appointment as director for Major Gifts and Corporate Relations in the AU Office of Development.

Alekna Retires After 30 Years in Teaching and Administration

Richard Alekna, retired recently from his post as Director of Distance Learning at Auburn University after a 30-year career in teaching and administration. Alekna served in the Air Force Security Service and at the National Security Agency prior to his career in higher education. He was an administrator and faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University in the English Department and for the Continuing Studies Division, where he served as an Assistant Director in the Evening and Summer Studies Office. He founded the Office of Media Instruction in 1984 and served as its Director for seven years. Richard Alekna joined Auburn University Outreach in 1991, where he was involved with the development of a central distance education support infrastructure and in the expansion of distance education programs. This led to the establishment of the Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology in University Outreach. Alekna was appointed director in 1993 and served in that post until his retirement in June.

Inaugural University Outreach Service Award of Merit Awarded to Stehouwer

Amelia Hall Stehouwer of the Economic & Community Development Institute received the inaugural University Outreach Service Award of Merit at a ceremony in June. The award recognizes outstanding performance and significant contributions as an administrative staff member in University Outreach. Stehouwer serves as research and training coordinator, and assistant to the director at ECDI, where she has worked since August of 2004. As training coordinator, Amelia manages ECDI’s educational and professional development programs, including the annual two-week Intensive Economic Development Course as well as short courses and roundtables on issues relevant to Alabama economic and community development practitioners. She was also cited for her ongoing contributions to Outreach’s Uniontown and I-85 Corridor initiatives.

IN MEMORIUM

Long time outreach staff member Catherine Payne passed away in June. Catherine worked at Auburn University for 25 years, the last 10 on the staff of the Outreach Program Office (OPO). Catherine will be remembered as a friendly person who represented the university very well by way of her unwavering commitment to superb customer service.

As OPO’s office registrar, Catherine touched thousands of course participants both locally and across the state with her constant cheerful nature and able assistance. But it was her coworkers who were the daily beneficiaries of Catherine’s ever present smile and caring spirit. “Cat was always such a positive, happy person; such a pleasure to be around!” said OPO director Sam Burney in a tribute.

Catherine will continue to inspire the office in years to come; an employee customer service award will be awarded each year in her memory. Catherine is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter.
Auburn University’s College of Human Sciences has received a grant totaling more than $8.2 million to support the work of the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative. The Center for Children, Youth and Families within the college received the five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance.

The initiative will support a variety of educational programs and resources offered throughout the state that support healthy relationships and marriages.

“Historically, this is an area that has not been a focus in programs and services for families, yet, we have research-based information that can be offered through educational programs to assist Alabamians build and sustain healthy relationships and marriages,” said Francesca Adler-Baeder, associate professor of human development and family studies, extension specialist and principal investigator for the project.

The funds will allow AU faculty, working in partnership with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention as well as an established network of other state and community entities, to continue to provide access to marriage education programs for Alabama’s citizens.

Specifically, the grant aims to strengthen family bonds by raising public awareness of the importance of healthy marriages for child, family and community well being; increasing access to healthy marriage resources; and training community members and professionals in methods of best practices for marriage initiatives by providing programming for youth, non-married parents, premarital couples and married couples.

“What we are trying to do is promote access to this information for our citizens and to effect positive changes in people’s lives—in their homes, in their workplaces, and in their communities,” said Adler-Baeder. “For the past four years, we have been piloting methods for doing this work among youth, new parents, co-parents and married couples, and now have the opportunity to greatly expand this outreach effort and research the impact this work can have.”

June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences, said the impressive grant is a strong affirmation of the ground-breaking work being done by scientists at the center.

“Healthy family relationships foster a safe, nurturing environment for children and ultimately serve as the foundation for a stable and economically vibrant society,” said Henton.

U.S. Senator Richard C. Shelby, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced the release of an initial $1.6 million for the project.

“Healthy marriages and stable homes have a significant impact on a child’s development,” said Senator Shelby. “Working to improve the lives of Alabamians, both young and old, is an essential element to our state’s continued growth and prosperity.”

Alabama has a persistent history of high levels of marital and family instability. According to figures released in 2003 by the U.S. Census Bureau, Alabama has one of the highest divorce rates in the nation, consistently ranking in the top 5 or top 10 for the past 62 years.

AU faculty and their partners involved with the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative hope to use the federal funds to increase the number of service providers in communities around the state who offer relationship and marriage education programs, increase the number of citizens who access this information, and ultimately increase the proportion of citizens experiencing relational and marital stability among other goals. For more information visit the center’s website at www.humsci.auburn.edu/hdfs/centers.
Water Resources Conference Bridges Gap Between Science, People and Policies

The Auburn University Water Resources Center, a unit of AU’s Natural Resources Management and Development Institute, hosted the 2007 Water Resources Conference at the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Approximately 200 people attended the national-level conference on water resource issues.

The program included nationally recognized experts and focused on issues related to water policy, irrigation, watershed issues, and water conservation. Sessions included speakers from the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as Sandra Postel of the Global Water Policy Project.

The program featured presentations concerning climate and landscape changes, and the Clean Water Act. The conference concluded with a panel discussion on state water policy with representatives from government, academia, and the private sector.

The program was co-chaired by Larry Fillmer, executive director of the Natural Resources Management and Development Institute, and Graeme Lockaby, associate dean for research and professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. Lockaby serves as director of the Water Resources Center. The conference offered a truly valuable and enlightening examination of the critically needed, visionary changes necessary to protect freshwater quality and quantity throughout the state and nation.

For more information about the conference and other Natural Resources Management and Development Institute initiatives, visit www.nrmdi.auburn.edu.

Alternative Energy a Key Initiative

The Natural Resources Management and Development Institute is also the home of Auburn’s alternative energy initiatives and the new Bioenergy and Bioproducts Center. Steve Taylor, head and professor of the AU Department of Biosystems Engineering, is director of the center.

Alternative energy is important because America’s dependence on foreign oil is rapidly becoming a detriment to national security. Alternative energy means a healthier environment locally and globally; and the potential economic impact from the creation of jobs is significant. With its multidisciplinary expertise in engineering, agriculture, and forestry, Auburn is a “natural” for studying natural resources that could help our state and nation. Dozens of AU faculty are participating in the initiative including the College of Agriculture’s professor David Bransby, recipient of the 2006 AU Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.
Representatives from more than 20 colleges and universities from across the nation gathered at the Auburn University Hotel as AU hosted the second annual War on Hunger Summit. As a result of Auburn’s leadership, more than 50 universities are now part of an emerging social movement known as Universities Fighting World Hunger, a grassroots student campaign to help drastically reduce hunger and malnutrition.

The conference opened with AU College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton who provided an overview of Universities Fighting World Hunger. The Empty Bowls Banquet and Auction followed with AU President Ed Richardson serving as master of ceremonies. James Morris, executive director of the World Food Programme, delivered the keynote address.

“I am so pleased about the leadership role that Auburn has given to the War on Hunger and the formation of Universities Fighting World Hunger, an alliance that now has more than 50 members,” said Richardson. “As an educator, I am convinced that addressing issues like hunger will better prepare our students to more fully understand and contribute to the pursuit of a sustainable world.”

Other speakers for the conference included Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World; Eva Clayton, a past special advisor to the director general of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome; and Rick Leach, special advisor for public policy for Friends of the World Food Programme.

Conference participants learned how to become effective advocates, develop a curriculum with a focus on hunger, start and market campaigns, develop strategic partnerships with the corporate sector and bolster the world hunger movement.

“Joining Universities Fighting World Hunger sends a strong message that a college or university is committed to sponsoring hunger awareness and consciousness raising activities and events; encouraging and supporting student advocacy initiatives; and seeking ways to more effectively integrate hunger and related poverty issues into the academic mission of the institution,” said Henton.

Several corporations participated in the summit, including corporate sponsor Sodexho USA, as well as International Paper and National Farmers Union Insurance. Non-governmental organizations participating include Oxfam, STOP Hunger Now, the ONE Campaign to Make Poverty History and Servants in Faith and Technology.

AU’s War on Hunger focuses on both domestic and global hunger. Since the fall of 2004, AU students helped collect almost 400,000 pounds of non-perishable goods for the East Alabama Food Bank. That translates into more than 250,000 meals for hungry children and families in our area. They have also raised $19,000 for the World Food Programme from donations of loose change at tailgates, events like the annual Empty Bowls Banquet hosted by the AU’s College of Human Sciences and the Jule Collins Smith Museum and the “Eat Less, Feed More” initiative sponsored by the Harrison School of Pharmacy. In the developing world, $19,000 feeds 100,000 school children.

World Food Programme is the largest humanitarian organization in the world and feeds on average over 90 million people a year in more than 80 of the most impoverished countries around the globe.

For more information about AU and the War on Hunger, visit www.auburn.edu/hunger.