

beyond AUBURN

Spring/Summer 2010

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

University Service Initiatives Expand
Through Community Partnerships



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY OUTREACH



ON THE COVER

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Auburn University uses internal and external partnerships to enhance and sustain faculty and student engagement.

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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President's message

The strategic plan Auburn put into place in 2008 continues to produce results that strengthen our university and the publics we serve in our city, state, nation, and, increasingly, at the global level.

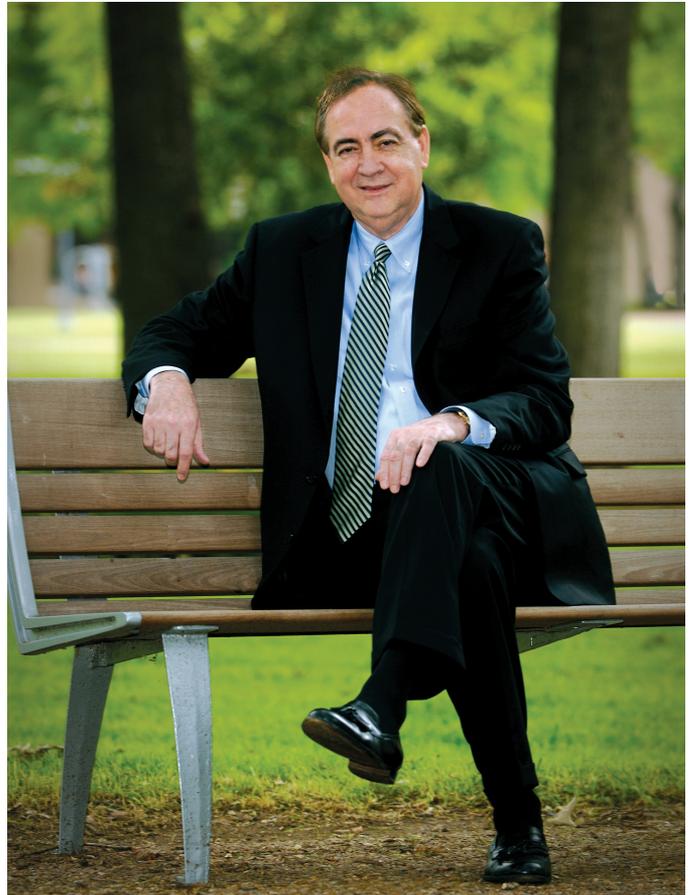
Of the six priorities that form the backbone of the plan, the first is to elevate undergraduate education, and one of the many facets of this goal is providing international experience. It's estimated that one in five jobs in the U.S. is tied to international trade, and reports show that international skills are a key competency required by an increasing number of employers. At Auburn, we want every student to have the opportunity to embrace global engagement.

Since some are unable to travel abroad, it is important to bring international leaders here to complement our growing base of international studies and students. In 2009 and 2010, the heads of more than 17 international consulates in the United States and other international dignitaries have visited Auburn to meet with our students and faculty.

These special guests have come from all over the world, from Albania to Germany and from Kuwait to South Korea. Most have addressed student audiences or spoken to classes in areas of special interest, such as the International Political Economy classes in the Honors College. Lutz Goergens, Germany's consul general for the southeastern United States, participated in classes on contemporary German literature. Others spent time with students and faculty at events organized in their honor.

This "at home" initiative is ensuring all students have the opportunity to understand other cultures and the skills they will need for success in an interdependent world. Meanwhile, other goals of the strategic plan have helped grow study and service abroad to nearly 1,000 of our students and led to 100 percent of our colleges and schools now offering study abroad programs.

In the past year, we have also developed new partnerships or strengthened existing ones with institutions in China, Egypt, India, and Vietnam, to name a few. These partnerships facilitate study tours, educational exchanges and collaborative research, and help our students gain cross-cultural competencies.



Overall, it is our hope that the strategic plan continues to improve lives through solutions and knowledge and opportunities created, including in the international arena. The latest on plan accomplishments and the action items we'll focus on for 2010-11 can be found at www.auburn.edu/strategicplan.

War Eagle!

JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn's Outreach Engagement Can Help Abroad As Well As Home

In March, I had the opportunity to visit the earthquake ravaged nation of Haiti through the efforts of our University Outreach Center for Governmental Services. Seeing the devastation, I was overwhelmed by the extent of the catastrophe. It is easy to despair for the people of Haiti. In the short-term, they are in a life and death struggle to survive; long-term, they face an enormous challenge to rebuild their country.

But Auburn's land-grant mission of Outreach, which has been such a great resource to Alabama's citizens for more than 100 years, can reach across borders as well to engage positively with the people of Haiti. I'm proud of the immediate response of Auburn's student groups which raised thousands of dollars for Haitian relief in the early days after the disaster. Many of these efforts are documented at www.auburn.edu/outreach/haiti. University Outreach will be a part of the ongoing work with Haiti through our Center for Governmental Services and our newly formed Office of Public Service.

At home, we're making great progress in fulfilling the outreach objectives in the university strategic plan. We've expanded our long-standing Outreach Program Office to offer university and community partners a host of new services and programs under the new title "Office of Professional and Continuing Education." The Office now provides conference and event management services to help faculty and academic departments host national-level professional meetings. The office has also developed a new range of executive and technical training programs for corporate and professional clients statewide.

Even with the tough economy, the demand for high-quality, relevant professional development opportunities remains good – registrations for these non-credit programs are running about 1,000 ahead of last year. That is a success story of which Auburn can be proud. Other programming is growing strong as well; our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute now stands at more than 700 members, positioning it to earn another grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Much of the success we've enjoyed in our program development has been due to the hard work of Leary Bell, our director of Faculty Engagement and Program Development. It is with great sadness I report that Dr. Bell died suddenly on May 27. Leary joined the University Outreach family in 2009. He was responsible for promoting faculty engagement in scholarly outreach activities as well as development of comprehensive university-wide outreach programs and partnerships. Over the past 18 months, Leary played an important role in forming many new initiatives, such as the Loachapoka High School Partnership highlighted in this edition. He was a tireless worker for Outreach, a devoted Auburn fan, and a great friend and family man. His presence will be truly missed.

As Leary often said, everyone can be a part of our exciting outreach enterprise -- be it in Loachapoka or Port au Prince. ***Join us in making a difference.***



War Eagle,

ROYRICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
AUBURN UNIVERSITY



beyond AUBURN

Spring/Summer 2010

CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY

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The Power of Partnership

feature story.....

University Service Initiatives Expand Through Community Partnerships

Auburn's strategic plan has been the impetus for the expansion of service initiatives across campus this year, but community partnerships add the substance and spirit to this engagement. Now a new office in University Outreach is working to assure faculty and students have plenty of opportunities for community collaborations.

Since the release of the strategic plan and completion of a service-learning task force, avenues for student engagement have grown throughout the past year. Surveys of academic programs on campus completed over the last two academic years indicated that course offerings including some form of service activity had doubled to nearly 200. Increasingly, new service courses and programs being developed are incorporating

a greater depth of engagement, such as with the community and civic engagement minor recently approved in the College of Liberal Arts.

A significant addition to Auburn's engaged curriculum, the minor is designed for committed students who want to be active in the community. "This is an interdisciplinary minor that offers each student an opportunity to complete at least one service learning course that will place students in a community setting," said Christa Slaton, associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts. "[Students will have the opportunity] to apply the knowledge they are learning in the classroom and to gain knowledge from community partners in a mutually beneficial relationship."



In addition to the college's civic engagement minor, the University Honors College, Learning Communities, and many other academic units on campus have also embraced service learning as a central component of their academic experiences for students. To sustain this growing body of service activity, the university must rely on community service providers who are ready and willing to partner with units on campus.

In March, University Outreach formally established the Office of Public Service to facilitate a community engagement network in support of Auburn's growing service learning initiatives. The new office is an expansion of the former Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification, which has for the last year been assigned to staffing the university's service learning implementation plan.

"The new title reflects the expanded role of this office in advancing the university's strategic objective for service learning, as well as promoting faculty, student, and staff engagement through the development of community and institutional partnerships," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. The unit will offer assistance to faculty in developing service components to courses, work with campus organizations to expand access to service related activities, and provide linkages to community partnerships.

The centerpiece of the office's community partnership effort is the "AuburnServes" network which utilizes a Web-based communications system called Service Learning Pro at www.auburnserves.com. The network offers online faculty course management tools, student service documentation, and access to a directory of

AUBURNSERVES

... I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all ...

- excerpt from The Auburn Creed (George Petrie, 1945)

community partners. Auburn's Learning Communities provided pilot testing for the new Service Learning Pro system in spring semester with more than 800 faculty and students utilized the Service Learning Pro features of AuburnServes.

The AuburnServes directory of partners consists of more than 100 community service providers and agencies. Many of these providers are in the immediate east Alabama area surrounding campus, but the directory also includes the Alabama Cooperative Extension System offices in each county. The linkage with Extension opens more potential connections for service through each office's local collaborations with civic programs and organizations. This interconnectivity makes AuburnServes a statewide community service network, providing faculty and students opportunities to develop service learning projects in every corner of Alabama.

In addition to their listings in the Web-based directory, community partners were the focal point of volunteer fairs hosted by AuburnServes at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The fairs provided community agencies a venue to meet students and faculty who were seeking engagement opportunities for classes and volunteer projects. With each event generating hundreds of inquiries and new volunteers, the fairs have been well received by both campus and community partners.

"We have been very pleased," said Mark Grantham, executive director of the Lee County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, who considers the network to be very useful. "The AuburnServes network is a great asset to students and volunteer community organizations and has helped us at Habitat for Humanity to find volunteers for different projects." Grantham said he sees the network as an opportunity to build effective and continuing collaborations. "I believe this is a great tool that will help match skills and interests of students to the needs of the community organizations."

Internal partnerships also are a significant asset for the university's service initiative. The Biggio Center, the Office of Access and Community Initiatives, and University Outreach's Office of Public Service developed a campus faculty development series featuring nationally known experts in service learning. Working with the Learning Communities, the Office of Public Service helped College of Architecture, Design and Construction students collect more than 1300 pounds of dog food for the Lee County Humane Society, and install five rain gardens at the Boykin Community Center.



Institutional partnerships with other universities and organizations focused on service are another way Auburn is advancing the culture of engagement on campus. In the past year, Auburn secured membership in College Compact, the influential national organization of more than 1,000 academic institutions devoted to advancing service learning. The Office of Public Service represents Auburn on the executive committee of the Gulf South Summit on Service Learning, one of the largest annual national conferences on engagement. Additionally, Auburn is a member of the Alabama Poverty Project. The APP supports a higher education coalition of Alabama universities focused on service learning as a tool to address poverty issues in the community. The Office of Public Service was a sponsor of APP's statewide conference on service learning in 2009.

recovery, a central committee of university administrators, faculty, and students is working to define Auburn's long-term relief projects with Haitian partners. As part of this effort, the Office of Public Service worked in conjunction with the Office of Communications and Marketing to develop a Web page to serve as a central site for information and project coordination.



Auburn students work on rain garden project at Boykin Community Center in Auburn as part of the Architecture and Design Learning Community.

Auburn, at its core, is a caring university. Among the timeless values of the institution the Auburn Creed addresses "the human touch" in service to mankind. Partnerships enhance and sustain faculty and student engagement into stronger, more beneficial outreach exchanges between the university and the communities it serves.



Photo contributed by professor Dennis Shannon who was in Haiti when the earthquake shook Port au Prince.

The tragic earthquake in Haiti initiated an immediate service response from the Auburn community. Units across campus responded in the aftermath of the earthquake. Student organizations quickly mobilized to raise funds and collect other donations that were sent to aid the people of Haiti. Again, partnerships are the key to effective and sustained service responses. Addressing what will be a very lengthy disaster



Operation Rescue Haiti launched by the Sigma Delta chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity raised more than \$5,000 for Haiti relief efforts.

Auburn Students Partner with Census Bureau to Educate Community



Pictured from left are Deputy Director of the Census Reginald Bigham, Alexander, Werner, Sawant, and Atlanta Regional Director of the Census George Grandy Jr. Photo courtesy of Census media.

Toni Alexander, assistant professor of geography, and two geography students, undergraduate Avery Werner and graduate student Rajesh Sawant, represented Auburn University at the 2010 Census Collegiate Summit. Organized by the Atlanta Regional Division of the United States Census Bureau, the conference sought to inform student leaders across the Southeast about the importance of the upcoming 2010 Census, and promote outreach that would result in increased participation in the Census by traditionally undercounted populations, including African-Americans, Hispanics,

and college students. “As a land-grant institution, Auburn University has a unique mission to serve the people of the state of Alabama,” said Alexander. “By partnering with the Census Bureau to educate its community about the importance, ease, and confidentiality of the Census, we can aid in strengthening the financial standing of the university, city, and state, as well as ensure our political voice in Congress.” Upon returning to campus, the Auburn representatives drafted a summary and recommended action report from the summit for Provost Mary Ellen Mazey.

making a difference
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University Outreach Receives Grant from State Farm for College Prep Initiative at Loachapoka School

Auburn University's outreach division received a \$58,000 grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board to develop a service-learning-based preparatory program at Loachapoka High School to help students enter and perform better in college, and ultimately qualify for better jobs. Auburn was one of 82 organizations in the U.S. and Canada to receive a grant. More than 1,100 grant proposals were submitted for this year's Youth Advisory Board grants.

The funding will support programs developed as part of a partnership between the university, Loachapoka schools, the Lee County School District, and Verizon. The initiative will utilize Auburn faculty and students in service-learning strategies to improve Loachapoka students' ability to enter and be successful in college. Programs will focus on building computer and technological skills as well as math, reading, and writing.

"This initiative will help students in this community expand their view of the possibilities of college and career," said project administrator Leary Bell, director of Faculty Engagement and Program Development in University Outreach.

State Farm supports service-learning as part of the company's long history of investment in communities and public education. "State Farm supports service-learning because it combines service to the community with classroom curriculum in a hands-on approach to mastering subject material while fostering civic responsibility," said Emily Clark, State Farm public affairs specialist. "The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is a prime example of State Farm's commitment to education, our community, and our youth."

The company's goals parallel the university's strategic objectives supporting K-12 partnerships and service-learning. "State Farm's grant helps us meet our engagement objectives with the Loachapoka school as well as providing a valuable service experience for Auburn students," says Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach.



The initiative includes a number of internal and external partners. In addition to University Outreach, the College of Education, and Truman Pierce Institute, the College of Sciences and Mathematics will support program development and administration. Verizon has agreed to partner with the project for technological support. School officials and faculty at Loachapoka will oversee the involvement of their students in the program. Loachapoka senior students will also work with the Auburn students in mentoring their junior classmates.

The effort will begin with mentoring for 7th- and 8th-grade students on topics including study skills, time management, problem solving, communications skills, goal setting, and test taking skills. In the 9th grade, students will receive a laptop computer and learn computer and technology skills to enrich their learning experience in all areas of study. In the 11th and 12th grades, students will receive an intense pre-college experience, involving enhanced reading, writing, math education, and test-taking skills. Students will also participate in seminars on the Auburn campus on campus life, enrollment, and financial aid. Auburn will provide a "Family University" for parents, offering a wide range of support services to enable them to better support and prepare their children for college, tutoring and remediation, and career development.

Unlikely Collaboration Brings Art and Agriculture Together

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art in agriculture

Sometimes “outreach” is about reaching not just off campus, but reaching out on campus.

That’s what Auburn’s colleges of Agriculture and Liberal Arts and Department of Art found out through an unlikely but extremely successful partnership called Art in Agriculture.

Art in Ag launched its first project in fall 2009 with *Water: Three States*, a semester-long collection of exhibits, lectures and discussions, all focusing on water issues.

Hundreds of people from on campus and the local community attended lectures, art exhibits, and a panel discussion featuring scientists and artists talking about how they can work together to protect valuable natural resources.

The 2010 Art in Ag project, which began in January and runs through September, is called *Reclaiming Ground: Ag-Gardens-Art* and focuses on gardening. Its art exhibit, lectures, workshops and



discussion sessions attract diverse audiences that are comprised of the campus community, local artists, gardeners, teachers, and school children. Additional participants and sponsors include other Auburn colleges, campus programs, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

Deborah Solie, College of Agriculture student services assistant, first suggested the Art in Ag project based on a similar program in Oregon. “We wanted Art in Ag to explore the visual images of agriculture, natural resources, and related scientific disciplines,” said Solie.

“The program has done that and so much more by building multidisciplinary and community relationships. We hope it will expand to include more partners, both on campus and off.”

For more information about Art in Ag visit www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg.



sharing expertise ...

Auburn University Hosts Disney Institute Keys to Business Excellence

The Auburn University Office of Professional and Continuing Education hosted the Disney Institute Keys to Business Excellence workshops in March. The program, a one-day series of workshops, targets business and industry leaders who have an interest in leadership, customer service, brand loyalty, and marketing.

The Disney program is conducted by trainers from the Disney Corporation who share their expertise in leadership, marketing, branding, and customer service. The name Disney is symbolic of these characteristics, and this program provides business and industry leaders an opportunity to gain insight into the Disney “way” of doing business and demonstrates how these leaders can implement “Disney strategies” into their own organization.

Hosting the program provided an opportunity for the university to offer leaders of state and local business communities with an opportunity to participate in a training program provided by a world-renowned industry leader. It also provided an opportunity for the university to showcase its state-of-the-art facilities and programs to leaders in the business and industry communities. The program was attended by participants from around the region.

University employees benefited from the experience as well. In return for our hosting the program, the Disney Institute provided a free 90-minute session on leadership open only to Auburn faculty and staff. “The session gave a lot of insight into the Disney Company which is a highly respected and very effective business,” said Cathy Burdette Pate, a certified public accountant in the university’s Financial Reporting office. “As employees, we all love Auburn, but it was great to hear how another wonderful institution continues to achieve great results with highly effective leadership.” Pate noted the importance of such national-level professional continuing education to both the individual as well as the institution. “Presentations of this nature assist us in becoming better Auburn employees.”



ECDI's Intensive Economic Development Training Course Begins Its Second Quarter-Century



When Wilson Lee, a specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, developed Alabama's training program for economic developers in 1985, it was called the Intensive Industrial Development Training Course. In 2009, the course celebrated its 25th anniversary as the Intensive Economic Development Training Course, reflecting a broader focus. The course introduces participants to the wide variety of activities involved in the economic development process and examines a wider range of topics, including community leadership and development, business retention and expansion, tourism, and retail and commercial development, as well as industrial marketing and recruitment. ECDI staff, including program manager Allyson Martin, are preparing for the 26th offering of the annual two-week training course, which will be conducted July 19-23 and September 13-17 at the Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

"Auburn's Intensive Economic Development Training Course is the starting place – whether you're new to the economic development profession, or coming to Alabama from another economic development community, or a newly-elected local official who needs to understand the

process and the contacts," said Linda Swann, assistant director of the Alabama Development Office. "I think it's the most valuable training in the basics and the contacts you gain are icing on the cake."

The course has more than 850 alumni, including most of the state's leading economic development professionals. Instructors for the course include the top economic and community development professionals from throughout Alabama and the Southeast. "Many of these practitioner experts are graduates of the course themselves and credit the training with providing them with the expertise necessary for advancement in their profession," said Joe Sumners, director of the Economic and Community Development Institute. "As a result,

this course has been a major contributor to economic development professionalism at both the state and local levels. The course is viewed as a requisite for anyone entering the field of economic development in Alabama and has the enthusiastic support of the state's top economic developers."

The program receives high praise from Alabama's top economic development leaders. "The ECDI Intensive Course at Auburn is a major component of the professional development plans for myself and many of my staff," said Ed Castile, director of Alabama's Industrial Development Training service.

Ralph Stacy, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, underscores the importance of the Intensive Course to the state.

"The community leaders who have participated in this program over the past quarter-century have gained a stronger base and understanding of business, community, and economic leadership in Alabama," said Stacy. "As a graduate and instructor, it would be hard to find a better investment in the future, and future leaders, of Alabama."

Auburn VOICES Speak Up for Local Students

A new College of Education outreach initiative enlists the help of student organizations to improve the educational resources of youth in high-needs schools.

Auburn VOICES coordinates with the college's student groups to focus efforts on advocacy and outreach. Student leaders work to identify projects they would like to sponsor and assist through monetary or material donations.

Auburn VOICES is in the process of coordinating a number of different projects to help K-12 students in Notasulga. In addition to collecting donated musical instruments, Auburn VOICES has also worked to raise money for classroom supplies like maps, calculators, books, and printer cartridges.

In addition to answering the call for meaningful outreach and partnership building outlined in the university's and college's strategic plans, Auburn VOICES builds student leaders.

Jamie Carney, professor and coordinator of community agency counseling, said her goal as Auburn VOICES' faculty advisor is to help student organizations understand the nuances of fundraising and building relationships with community partners.

"Often, students have the initiative, enthusiasm, and desire to do these things, but they don't have an idea of where to start or how to do it," Carney said. "Student organization leaders have really taken this [project] to heart."

Carney works in conjunction with Lynne Patrick, associate professor of educational leadership, who is the College of Education's liaison with Notasulga. The project is also supported by the Dean's Office through Peggy Dagley's work with student

leaders as the college's director of Professional Education Services.

The college's Student Council, Best Buddies program, Iota Delta Sigma chapter and Student Alabama Education Association chapter have provided academic resources and secured funding for such activities as an Alabama Shakespeare Festival trip for more than 40 fifth-graders.



Computers

101

It's a computerized world, and Auburn Engineering is making sure that even the youngest students are prepared for a technological future.

Focusing specifically on children with disabilities, Daniela Marghitu, Comp 1000 coordinator in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, launched the Computer Literacy Academy for Children in summer 2005. This free, multidimensional computer literacy pilot program is designed to enhance computer knowledge for special-needs children.

"Computers are conducive to learning for all children, particularly children with special needs, because the pace can be adapted to the children's response level," said Marghitu.

The program adds more advanced concepts each year and this year's curriculum was specifically chosen to focus on increasing computer and communication skills such as grammar, following directions, sequencing, and reasoning. Funding for the program was provided by the Auburn University Breeden Endowment and the International Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology Center.

Another of Marghitu's K-12 outreach projects is ROBO CAMP, an advanced version of the Computer Literacy Academy. Launched in 2007 and taught by graduate students from the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, the curriculum reinforces children's computer literacy knowledge while introducing them to more advanced concepts and hands-on applications of computer programming and robotics.

"I simply love to see the children having so much fun that they don't realize how much they are learning," says Marghitu. "If these children can carry that excitement and skills into their regular classroom, then we have been successful."



Want To Be a Veterinarian? Come to Camp

The College of Veterinary Medicine has partnered with University Outreach and its Office of Professional and Continuing Education to present its first-ever academic summer camp for youth in June. A junior veterinarian summer camp focuses on activities for fifth-through seventh-graders, while the senior veterinarian camp includes eighth through tenth grades.

Cassandra Martinez, who is completing her first year at Auburn's veterinary college, is assisting with the camps. Martinez is from Toms River, N.J., and holds a degree



in pre-veterinary medicine/biology from the University of Findlay in Ohio. She participated in a veterinary apprenticeship at Cornell University and believes camps are a great way to learn about the veterinary profession. "My experience helped me to know I wouldn't faint at the sight of blood," said Martinez. "It affirmed this is what I want to do."

Martinez described the opportunities awaiting campers, including learning firsthand about practical animal husbandry and the relationship between veterinarians and public health.

Participants will also learn first aid skills for helping animals in emergency situations and be given an introduction to veterinary anatomy and imaging (x-rays, ultrasound). A question and answer session on how to

prepare for veterinary college will be of special interest to older campers. "It's definitely something to think about early on," said Martinez.

While touring the veterinary facilities, campers may visit the commercial dairy—the only Grade A dairy in Lee County—and the teaching hospitals. The College of Veterinary Medicine's large and small animal teaching

hospitals see patients by referral for specialty services, but also offer veterinary care for the local community. The John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital is the oldest practice of its kind in the nation. Equine and farm animals are treated including camelids (alpacas).

Campers may be able to see a surgery in progress at the Small Animal Teaching Hospital or practice their surgical skills on a stuffed animal in need of a repair. More than 16,000 animals are treated yearly at the teaching hospitals where veterinary students gain practical experience.

Of importance to public health is veterinary parasitology. Participants will look at slides of parasites and learn the damage they inflict on animal, as well as human hosts. Participants can experience what it's like to be a pathologist by looking through a scientist's microscope and presenting their own case studies.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has more than 100 internationally-recognized faculty members who pursue a wide range of research projects. Campers will have the opportunity to meet some of these faculty members and discuss their careers.

For more information on Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, visit <http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu>. For information on the Veterinarian Summer Camp, visit www.auburn.edu/outreach/vetcamp.



student engagement

College Announces Community and Civic Engagement Student Fellows

The College of Liberal Arts named six students as Community and Civic Engagement Fellows for the current academic year. The fellows, five undergraduates and one doctoral candidate, were selected through an application and interview process. Each has been partnered with a CLA faculty member or program director to work on a unique project to advance the college's Community and Civic Engagement Initiative. The students include Azeem Ahmed (economics), Shalonda Brooks (psychology), Michael E. Jones (political science), Janna Maples (political science and English), Caitlin Myles (journalism), and Clark Solomon (political science).

"We are fortunate to have in our college an outstanding number of students who excel academically and also share a deep sense of civic responsibility," says Christa Slaton, associate dean of educational affairs and chair of the CLA Community and Civic Engagement Committee. "We will depend on these fellows to help our

faculty shape curricula and programs that will impact AU students for generations to come."

For more information on the Community and Civic Engagement Initiative in the College of Liberal Arts, visit www.auburn.edu/cce.



Community and Civic Engagement Fellows met former President and first lady Carter.

focus on diversity

Biggio Center Hosts Symposium on Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Teaching

The Auburn Symposium: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on University Teaching and Learning, sponsored by the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, represented a milestone in faculty development programming at Auburn. Eight presenters offered international perspectives on the impact of culture, religion, and race on university teaching and learning. Korean, Hindu, Chinese, Latino, Islamic, and African-American cultures were highlighted from the international and national vantage points of academic practitioners whose body of research stemmed from the impact of those cultures on the practice of teaching and the implications for learning. In addition, two transcendent perspectives were offered to provide the audience with tools uniquely designed with the American professor in mind. "How Writing Affects Culture" offered a means by which we can understand the many ways in which various cultures convey thought differently. It also covered how we can adapt our thinking

as teachers and the foreign student's writing styles to accommodate the requirements of western academic writing. Cross-cultural communication was presented in terms of "Culture Bump" theory and methodology, that offered understanding and mechanisms by which we may all go beyond culture to gain deeper meaning and relationships to enhance the learning environment for both teachers and students. The audience was engaged through participation in break-out sessions, led by Auburn faculty, that allowed for discussion and synthesis of the information learned. An evening of entertainment was also provided, featuring students, faculty, and community members offering selections from Turkish, Hindu, and Chinese musical and dance traditions. More than 150 participants from universities throughout the South attended. The program was co-sponsored by University Outreach, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, and the University Writing Program.

Provost Discusses Scholarship of Public Engagement with AU Faculty



The Community and Civic Engagement Initiative in the College of Liberal Arts hosted a faculty dialogue with Auburn University Provost Mary Ellen Mazey in February.

Mazey, who spoke to a packed audience, discussed the scholarship of engagement from experiences as a faculty member and administrator at several universities before coming to Auburn in 2009. Shortly after earning her PhD from the University of Cincinnati in urban geography, Mazey founded the Center for Urban and Public Affairs and led the creation of a Master of Urban Administration Program at Wright State University. She has served as director of University Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and established a collaborative program with the U.S. Department of Education to support university and community partnerships with K-12 education.

A strong supporter of Auburn's land-grant mission and outreach commitment, Mazey called for a dialogue to discuss "What will be the land-grant mission for the 21st century and how does Auburn want to distinguish

itself?" She applauded the College of Liberal Arts for its leadership in community and civic engagement initiatives and encouraged greater collaboration across disciplines. As Auburn seeks to obtain the Community Engagement Elective Classification from the Carnegie Foundation, Mazey pointed out that we need to demonstrate engagement throughout the university and that outreach is rewarded in tenure and promotion decisions. She emphasized that the integration of outreach with teaching and research was a meaningful way to accomplish all the missions of the university. If one wants to create sustainable outreach, one should find ways to integrate it into the curriculum.

Christa Slaton, associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts stated, "The provost's talk was inspiring and generated many conversations among faculty afterwards. She applauded the outreach activities of several faculty attending the session and demonstrated not only that she knew about their work, but also that she valued their contributions to serving Auburn's land-grant mission."

National Scholars in Service Learning Featured in the First Annual Campus Colloquia

Four of America's leading engagement scholars, including one of Auburn's own engaged faculty leaders, were featured in the university's first annual colloquia on service learning. The series was presented by University Outreach in conjunction with the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the Office of Access and Community Initiatives.

The faculty development seminars were designed to promote engagement and service learning at Auburn. The theme for the series was building a culture of engagement campuswide. Each presenter addressed



a specific area of engagement and service learning, offering faculty an opportunity to develop skills, knowledge resources, and inspiration to engage their own scholarship and teaching in the classroom. Programs covered service learning pedagogy, curriculum development, engaged scholarship, and assessment methodologies.

The colloquia featured author Barbara Jacoby, senior scholar at the University of Maryland; Amy Driscoll, consulting scholar with the Carnegie Foundation; Auburn's Christa Slaton, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and chair of the college's Civic Engagement initiative; and Sherril Gelmon, professor at Portland State University in Oregon and former engaged scholar with Campus Compact.

Faces of Service



JACOB ALEXANDER WATKINS

Auburn University students are engaged in a variety of service activities. One example is Jacob Watkins, a senior majoring in economics, who served as president of the Student Government Association over the past year. This position gave Watkins an opportunity to serve the university, his fellow students, and the larger community.

The Student Government Association is only one venue Watkins uses to contribute to society. He actively participates as a volunteer with IMPACT, volunteers at

the Boys and Girls Clubs of greater Lee County, and is a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

Watkins believes service is an important part of his life. "I really believe we are all here to serve others in all that we do, especially as leaders. I have been blessed with so many great opportunities that I have the duty to give back to others."

Watkins added that service is an opportunity to build relationships. "Through service to others you can truly build long-lasting relationships. Real world changes in our university, community, and nation come through relationships. Service to others is the most important aspect of my life. Only through service to others can I accomplish anything worthwhile."

College of Liberal Arts Offers New Minor in Community and Civic Engagement

The College of Liberal Arts now offers a new undergraduate minor in community and civic engagement. The fifteen-hour interdisciplinary minor comprises of courses that provide students context for understanding public issues, skills to become more effective and responsible global citizens, and service learning opportunities to apply theory to practice.

“In designing this minor, the faculty were inspired by Auburn University’s mission to offer ‘broad and superior undergraduate education that imparts knowledge, skills, and values so essential to educated and responsible citizens,’” says Christa Slaton, associate dean of educational affairs and chair of CLA’s Community and Civic Engagement Committee.

The new minor is offering some innovative curriculum options for students who are interested in being more engaged in their communities. The College of Liberal Arts now offers an alternative spring break for academic credit. This spring Mark Wilson, a member of the CLA Community Civic Engagement Committee, traveled with twelve students to Appalachia to work in mining communities that are struggling with economic and environmental problems.

Advisors for the minor are Chris Qualls, Department of Theatre, and Giovanna Summerfield, Department of Foreign Languages. For more information and a list of approved courses, visit www.auburn.edu/cce.



BRIGITTA R. BRUNNER

Brigitta R. Brunner is an associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism. She currently serves as the director of the public relations program and is a College of Liberal Arts Engaged Scholar.

She has been on faculty at Auburn since 2002 and teaches public relations courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Brunner earned her bachelor of arts in marketing communications at Juniata College in 1993, her master of arts in communication at Auburn University in 1995 and her PhD in mass communication with a concentration in public relations at the University of Florida in 2000.

Brunner requires her students to develop an original public relations campaign proposal or to develop, implement, and analyze a survey for that client. In

addition to numerous campus projects, her classes have also worked with Jean Dean Reading is Fundamental, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum, Southern Literary Trail, Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative, Storybook Farm, Reading Across Auburn/Ogletree Elementary School, Lee County Red Cross, and the City of Opelika.

Brunner says she incorporated service learning into her classes because it enhances learning while helping the community. “If my students work with community partners to solve real problems, they have a learning experience. They are able to take the skills they have learned in class and apply them to a situation. I find that service learning is a great opportunity for my students to gain confidence while also helping the community in a meaningful way.”

www.auburnserves.com

Harrison School of Pharmacy Leads Fight Against H1N1 at Auburn



The Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy's faculty, staff, and students recently volunteered to coordinate one of the largest service projects ever undertaken by the school: providing vaccinations for the entire Auburn University campus population.

According to Dean Lee Evans, HSOP's involvement has allowed Auburn University to provide the vaccine absolutely free. All administration fees for the Auburn family have been waived. "And," he said, "the HSOP student body is learning how to participate in a public health crisis and give back to the community. It is a bonus, being able to obtain valuable pharmacy practice skills at the same time."

Since Auburn University is a self-insured employer, HSOP is directly saving the university's insurance fund up to \$300,000. "This is a valuable employee benefit," added Mr. Ronnie Herring, executive director of the Department of Payroll and Employee Benefits.

A significant service project, HSOP has assisted with the development of workflow for the mass immunization clinics, the development of patient education materials, public service videos, patient screening guides, and documentation systems.

Volunteers from across campus have come forward to assist with non-clinical roles such as recruiting patients, directing traffic, distributing information sheets, filing screening forms, post-immunization monitoring of patients, and hosting the volunteer break room.

HSOP faculty, post-doctoral residents, and student pharmacists are providing clinical services such as screening patients before the vaccine (to ensure that the patient is a good candidate); making recommendations for nasal versus injectable vaccine, administering the doses, educating patients, answering drug information questions, monitoring patients post vaccination, and providing adverse event reporting services. "Currently, we have provided 25 clinics on our Auburn, Montgomery, and Mobile campuses since we received the first vaccine shipment in mid October, and immunized more than 5,000 members of the Auburn family.

"We have both the live attenuated intranasal H1N1 vaccine and the inactivated, intramuscular injection, so we are currently vaccinating all students, employees and dependents who are 10 years of age and older," reported Braxton Lloyd. "Dr. Dave Brackett and I developed a clinical training video for all clinical volunteers and provided a live mandatory face-to-face pharmacy professional seminar series for all HSOP students to make sure everyone was prepared for this challenge. We wanted to make sure every immunization-certified pharmacy student was well-prepared and comfortable with their role

in screening patients and administering the vaccine."



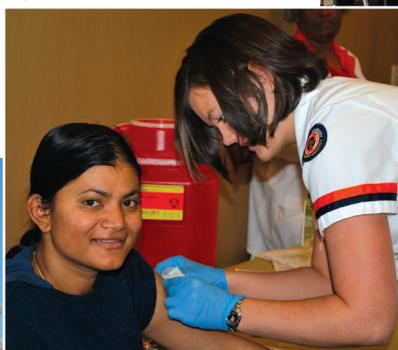
To manage such a huge project involving thousands of participants on many different levels, Kimberly Braxton Lloyd, head

of Auburn University Pharmaceutical Care Center and assistant dean of Pharmacy Health Services, has been working closely with Chance Corbett and Susan McCallister of the Department of Public Safety and Security/Emergency Management, and Fred Kam of the university's Medical Clinic. Also vitally important to this

mission are the departments of Risk Management, the Division of Student Services, and Payroll and Employee Benefits. They have worked seamlessly with all others involved to bring this mutually held goal to fruition. “The beauty of this project is that it allows employees across departments throughout the university to get involved,” said Braxton Lloyd. “There are roles for non-clinical and clinical volunteers.” Emily Mann, director of operations for the Pharmaceutical Care Center and Dave Brackett, Auburn’s ambulatory care pharmacist, have also been assisting with the planning and implementation of this public health initiative.

“Mr. Corbett, of Auburn University Risk Management, has received e-mails from faculty, staff, students, and parents expressing their appreciation for this service project. We have definitely come together as a team,” said Braxton Lloyd. “It has been such a pleasure collaborating with units across campus to provide important healthcare for the Auburn University family.”

The HSOP Department of Information Technology is tracking the progress towards the school’s goal and posting results on its home Web page. To see how HSOP is doing with this service project, visit: <http://www.pharmacy.auburn.edu>.



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



Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services, recently was recognized by two organizations for his international scholarship, and was elected president of a third. He has been named a Global Fellow of the IC² Institute, an interdisciplinary research unit at the University of Texas at Austin, and a Foreign Honorary Fellow

with the Korea Research Institute for Local Administration, and was elected president of the Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations.

Veal's selection as an IC² Institute Global Fellow was based collectively on his scholarly works in international forums in Asia and Africa. Veal delivered the keynote address on "Transparency in Government and Community Development" in the city of Gangwon-do, South Korea, for the International Local Government Symposium. He also presided over an international conference held in Cape Town South Africa focusing on empowerment through entrepreneurship, served as editor in chief for the *Entrepreneurship Policy Journal*, and edited a book titled *Entrepreneurship in South Africa and the United States*. Dr. Veal is one of about 160 active fellows from 18 nations including emerging scholars and experts in areas such as econometrics, marketing, business strategy, regional economic development, technology transfer, chaos theory, innovative management, alliance building and entrepreneurship.

KRILA is one of Korea's leading academic think tanks specializing in policy-oriented research on local

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

During the spring meeting of the Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Veal was elected president. Organized in 1979, SCUPSO supports university-based public service institutes in their efforts to assist state and local governments on a range of



contemporary issues of importance. SCUPSO facilitates networking, information exchange, and collaboration among its 40 member institutions. The organization has partnered with the Southern Growth Policies Board in order to improve the quality of policy-making and government management in the region.

The American Experience: Government, Language, and Culture

The Center for Governmental Services hosted undergraduate students from Kangwon National University in South Korea, located in Samchok, for a four-week study program in January.

Participants learned about American governments, developed skills in English language conversation, and enhanced their understanding and knowledge through exposure to American culture and environments.

Students studied and experienced aspects of municipal, county, and state governments by attending the Auburn City Council meeting and the Lee County

Commission meeting. They also toured the Alabama State Capitol, the Civil Rights Museum, and the Hyundai Plant.

Additional activities included trips to the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, tours of the CNN Center and The World of Coca Cola in Atlanta. While in Atlanta, students met with General (Retired) Hal Moore, former Auburn University faculty, and enjoyed American cuisine and sporting events.

The program concluded with a group luncheon and the awarding of certificates and pins.

Visiting Korean students meet
Dr. Jay Gogue, Auburn University President.

FEBRUARY 4, 2010


**CENTER FOR
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES**
A DIVISION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY OUTREACH



THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

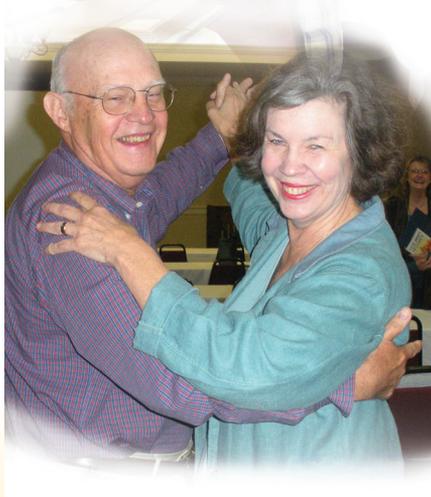
OLLI Celebrates Two Decades

Auburn's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute hit a pair of major milestones this spring and is on track for a third. The popular membership program for learning in retirement recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary and reached its highest ever membership level, positioning OLLI for a possible million dollar endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Founded in the spring of 1990 as the Auburn University Academy of Lifelong Learners, OLLI is composed of members who participate in active study groups and other learning opportunities on an organized basis. Peer leadership is the key to its fun and success. Members plan the topics of study and make all decisions relating to the curriculum and the operation of the organization. All activities are designed, coordinated, and evaluated by members. OLLI is administered through Auburn's Office of Professional and Continuing Education.

The program received development grants from the Osher Foundation to expand membership, programming,

and coverage area. Throughout the last year, OLLI has made tremendous progress toward its goals. OLLI has grown to more than 692 members in two cities, Auburn and Valley. Growth and sustainability are the key to qualifying for an endowment by the Osher Foundation.



Among the many successful projects and programs offered by OLLI is its series of lectures by famous authors, many of them Alabama natives and dignitaries. This winter term program featured renowned storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham, author of *Thirteen Alabama Ghosts* and *Jeffrey* and other publications featuring favorite ghost stories and folk tales. Other presenters have included the Honorable John Patterson, former Alabama governor and author of *Nobody But the People*; Rheta Grimsley Johnson, syndicated columnist and author of *Poor Man's Provence*; Reverend Robert Graetz, Lutheran minister, Civil Rights activist, and author of *A White Preacher's Message on Race and Reconciliation*.



www.oliatauburn.org

AU Outreach News

University Outreach administrator Bell passes away

Leary Bell, director of faculty engagement and program development in the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, passed away Thursday, May 27. Services were held at Parkview Cemetery in Shellman, Georgia. "Over the past 18 months, Leary has played an important role in the engagement of Auburn's faculty in outreach programs and initiatives. His presence will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for university outreach. Bell joined Auburn University in January 2009 and was responsible for promoting faculty engagement in scholarly outreach activities as well as development of comprehensive university-wide outreach programs and partnerships. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics education in 1974 from Georgia Southwestern State University, and his master's and doctorate degrees in mathematics from Auburn University, the latter in 1981. He then worked 25 years at Columbus State University, where he rose to the rank of professor and chaired both the departments of mathematics and computer science. He also advanced to become executive director of Columbus State's regional educational services and continuing education programs. Bell later served as vice president for external affairs at Armstrong Atlantic State University in the University of Georgia System and as associate chancellor of community outreach at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort. Among Dr. Bell's many projects at Auburn was the Loachapoka High School Partnership, which had recently been awarded a State Farm Foundation service grant.



and community leaders from along the I-85 Corridor participated in the workshop. The summit included a legislative panel with Representative Peblin Warren and Senator Kim Benefield who discussed the region's assets and economy and fielded questions from participants. Representatives from the Alabama Development Office, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and Alabama's USDA Rural Development Office also spoke to the group.

Elizabeth Sims Awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Historical Commission

In October 2009, Elizabeth Sims, an alumnus of the Shiloh Rosenwald School, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Alabama Historical Commission for her commitment and excellence in historical preservation. Specifically, the AHC recognized her work in documenting,



restoring, and promoting the historic Shiloh Rosenwald School. Sims, an Auburn University research administrator, is working with students from Auburn's College of Architecture, Design, and Construction to restore the school. Sims formed the Shiloh Community Restoration Foundation in 2006.

Auburn Teams Present at Gulf South Summit in Georgia

Several Auburn University teams presented their programs at the annual Gulf South Summit, a regional conference on service learning and engagement. Graduate students Meenakshi Lambha, Shalonda Brooks, and Timothy Thornberry along with the College of Liberal Arts associate professor Elizabeth Brestan presented a panel on volunteer-child interaction training. Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities director Jay Lamar and associate Maiben Beard, along with Anniston library director Bonnie Seymour presented the findings of their Kettering Foundation-sponsored community research project. Anne Mims Adrian, associate director in ACES, county Extension

I-85 Corridor Alliance Holds Annual Summit

The I-85 Corridor Alliance held its first annual Summit on Cooperative Relationships and Small Business Development in January. Education, business, economic,

coordinators Katrina Lynnell Easley and Callie Nelson, and Ralph Foster, director of Auburn's Office of Public Service, hosted a poster presentation on Extension System/university partnerships for service learning projects. This year's summit was held at the University of Georgia's Center for Continuing Education.

Brittany Holley Recipient of Catherine Payne Award

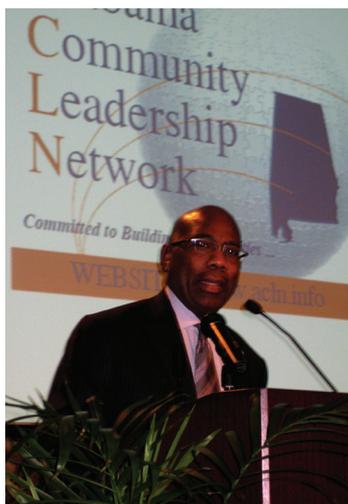
Brittany Holley of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education was awarded the 2009 Catherine Payne Award. This award, established in memory of long-time staff member, Catherine Payne, is presented to a current member of the office staff who exemplifies outstanding customer service, a commitment to excellence, and passion for success.

Holley earned a bachelor of science in human development and family studies in August 2007, and came to work as an administrative assistant in OPCE in September 2007. Brittany currently assists with the development of many of the office's publications, program registrations, and a variety of other tasks. Brittany is a real delight to have around, as she is always smiling and cheerful.



ECDI Hosts Leadership Network Conference

David Wilson, former Auburn vice president for University Outreach, and David Bronner, Alabama Retirement Systems director, led the list of dignitaries that presented at the third annual Alabama Community Leadership Network Conference. The program, hosted by the Economic and Community Development Institute, focused on "Leading During Difficult Times." The program also featured state treasurer Kay Ivey and Ron Sparks, state commissioner of Agriculture and Industries.



Put Ask Alabama to Work for Your Department

The Ask Alabama poll is a quarterly statewide opinion survey of Alabama residents produced by the Survey Research Lab in University Outreach's Center for Governmental Services. The survey utilizes stratified random sampling, assuring the poll represents an accurate cross-section of Alabama public opinion on a number of topical issues facing the state. Results of recent surveys are available at www.askalabama.org. The poll is open for inclusion of research items submitted from faculty, with specific proprietary questions included in the survey for a fee. For more information about Ask Alabama, contact CGS at 844-4781 or online at www.auburn.edu/cgs.

Two Outreach Offices Renamed, Inaugurate New Services

Two offices in the University Outreach division have been renamed to reflected expanded and new services – the Office of Professional and Continuing Education (OPCE) and the Office of Public Service (OPS). The new names and services of the two offices were announced in a university-wide memo in March.

"University Outreach has been charged with advancing a number of comprehensive initiatives in the university strategic plan, particularly in the areas of training and service learning," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president. Throughout the last year, a great amount of new programming and services were developed to support those objectives, primarily in the Outreach Program Office and the Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification. "These new office names reflect their expanded roles and better represent the strategic focus of each," said Cook.

The two offices have been a mainstay of Auburn's Outreach division for years. The former Outreach Program Office has its roots in the 1970s as the university's "Conference Office." Eventually renamed University Continuing Education, the variety and volume of the office's non-credit programming grew through the 1980s. The "Outreach Program Office" name was adopted after a division-wide reorganization in 1993. The Office of Outreach Information was created during that reorganization to oversee the university's compliance to accreditation guidelines for reporting non-credit program and administration of continuing education units.

Acting OPCE director John Freeze notes that his office's new name is consistent with the terminology used at peer institutions for offices specializing in non-credit professional and continuing education programs. "Most institutions have a continuing education unit," said

Freeze. “Another impetus was the focus that Auburn’s strategic plan places on enhancing continuing education. “The office will serve the university community with program development services as well as the general public with a comprehensive curriculum of non-credit instruction. The office is expanding its current programming oriented to teachers, accountants, real estate agents, and attorneys, as well as exploring opportunities in the fields of insurance, sustainability, and entry-level medical professions. The office will continue to offer its popular community courses, as well as residential academic and recreational camps for youth. OPCE will also remain the home for a variety of programs of older adults, offered through the university’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, known locally as “OLLI @ Auburn.”

Additionally, OPCE will add an extensive new range of computer training classes for business and community members. The office will soon launch conference and event management services to assist faculty and university clients with meeting and program development. “We’re excited about our new direction and revamped services,” said Freeze, “we are positioning ourselves to be a regional leader in continuing education programming.”

According to Office of Public Service director Ralph Foster, the new title for his office reflects its expanded role in advancing the university’s strategic objective for service learning. “In addition to our traditional duties in outreach, our work will focus on promoting faculty, student, and staff engagement through the development of community and institutional partnerships,” said Foster. The office will be responsible for the university’s AuburnServes initiative, working in conjunction with academic, administrative, and student offices on campus, extension offices statewide, and more than 50 local, regional, and national service agencies. The office also will serve as an institutional representative for Campus Compact, the Gulf South Summit on Service Learning, the Alabama Poverty Project, and other engagement resources.

The Office of Public Service will offer service program development assistance to faculty and students, including access to course and project management tools in the Service Learning Pro database, and networking support to community partners. Drawing on the office’s extensive database resources and documentation capacity, the unit will continue to be the university’s central point for reporting non-credit outreach programming and for approval of CEU awards. “Our long-standing role in documenting and certifying outreach programs across campus positions us to be a great resource for linking faculty and students to community partners,” said Foster.

More information on University Outreach’s strategic initiatives and the Office of Professional and Continuing

Education and the Office of Public Service is available at www.auburn.edu/outreach.

Sumners Speaks at International and State Forums

Joe Sumners, director of the Economic and Community Development Institute, gave a presentation



on the institute’s community building work in the Alabama Black Belt at the Kettering Foundation’s “Communities Around the World” Workshop in Dayton, Ohio. Scholars from nations throughout the world, including China, South Africa, Thailand, Russia, Lebanon, Kosovo, and Columbia,

participated in the workshop. Workshop sessions examined the topics of poverty, economic development, and the capacity to respond to economic change.

Sumners also moderated the Alabama “Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth” in February. The Alabama forum was a follow-up to the national forum hosted by U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House in December. Sumners was selected by USDA State Director Ronald Davis to serve as moderator for the forum. Roundtable participants included business owners; lenders; education and healthcare providers; and representatives of community and economic development organizations, local and state government, and the agri-business community. Among the major concerns discussed were needed improvements in education, workforce training and public infrastructure, and the tight credit market.

Christiana M. Russell Joins Outreach Office

Christiana M. Russell has joined the Office of University Outreach as coordinator for the division’s Loachapoka school

initiative and other projects. Russell is a native of Columbus, Ohio, where she attended The Ohio State University and obtained her bachelor of arts in psychology. She later went on to attend Georgia State University where she obtained her bachelor



of science in criminal justice while working for Clayton County Juvenile Services. She then returned to The Ohio State University for graduate school where she obtained

her master's in social work and culminated her graduate education with her PhD in human development and family studies in 2006. Russell's area of specialization is educational risk and marginalized youth populations. Her most recent contributions to the field include publications in the Journal of Negro Education and Journal of Adolescent Health. Russell has also been a part of the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative and projects sponsored by The Alabama Children's Trust Fund.

Justin Hayles Selected Student Employee of the Year

Justin Hayles, student worker in the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, was named the Auburn University Student Employee of the Year. After working two years on the summer camp staff, Hayles was hired to assist the associate director with a variety of special projects, mainly of a technical nature.

During his employment, Justin has integrated himself into the office designing and developing a summer scheduling program and a summer camp billing program, assisting with an e-mail marketing program and preparing for Academic Summer Camps.

John Freeze, associate director of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, says Hayles is a valuable member of the staff, "We are very fortunate to have someone with his dedication to hard work and high-degree of attention to detail working with us. His importance to our office cannot be overstated."



Distance Learning opens New Offices in Foy

The Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology has relocated to the first floor of the Foy Hall. Formerly, DLOT departmental staff were housed in OD Smith Hall and Petrie Annex. The move to Foy reunites the staff, expands proctored testing capacity, and includes space for faculty professional development programming.



Their new contact information is 282 Thach Concourse, Foy Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, Phone: (334) 844-5103 or (866) 684-5131, Fax: (334) 844-3125.

The Distance Learning office has launched a new, user-friendly Web site at www.distance.auburn.edu



Ailey Black History Performance



Auburn University Outreach co-sponsored a performance by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in February at the Montgomery Performing Arts Center in celebration of Black History Month. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is an acclaimed modern dance company based in New York that inspires and entertains through performances, training and educational performances around the world.

ATAC Helps Brantley, Ala., Firm Attain Aviation Quality Status

In a region that is economically stressed, being a contender in the international aerospace arena might be considered a pipe dream to some, but to Helispec Inc. of Brantley, Ala., it is a reality.

With assistance from the Auburn Technical Assistance Center, and the Alabama technology network center at Auburn University, Helispec has attained AS 9100-2000 registration and is now qualified to compete for and attain a variety of industrial and governmental aerospace business contracts. Being a small business, this is a major accomplishment for the company.

Founded in 2004 by Sandra Smith, Gregg Holt, and Mark Topping, the small helicopter repair and overhaul plant specializes in repairing crash damage and overhauling a variety of helicopters, from Russian MI-8 to the Boeing CH-47 Chinook for the military, civil agencies, and private customers.

“We really got our start doing paint work,” said Helispec Chief Executive Officer Sandra Smith. “We now do a variety of repairs.”

Helispec first began its relationship with ATAC in 2005 when ATAC Quality Specialist Chuck McPherson helped the firm attain its repair station license from the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Once we attained FAA Repair Station licensing, we moved on to establishing a quality management system that would enable AS 9100-2000 registration,” McPherson said.

Helispec Vice President Mark Topping says it is unusual to locate an aircraft repair facility in a rural center such as Brantley in Crenshaw County, Ala., but he adds that the company chose the location for a number of reasons.

“One of the most important reasons we selected this area is because we thought we could help the region economically,” Topping said.

Helispec averages repair and paint work on some six to eight aircraft monthly and company officials say business is growing. The firm anticipates increasing its employee base by approximately 30 by the end of the year.



Helispec Inc. of Brantley, Ala. recently attained quality management status that enables the small helicopter repair facility to compete in the international aerospace business arena. Shown, left to right, at Helispec's recent ceremony celebrating the accomplishment are Brantley Police Chief Titus Averett, Crenshaw County Industrial Development Board Member Wayne Blackmon, Auburn Technical Assistance Center Quality Specialist Chuck McPherson, Brantley Mayor Bernie Sullivan, Helispec Vice President Mark Topping, Helispec CEO Sandra Smith, Auburn Technical Assistance Center Director Henry Burdg. Auburn Technical Assistance Center assisted Helispec in developing its quality management system and attaining AS 9100-2000 registration.

AS 9100 is the quality measurement standard for the aerospace industry. Criteria are based on the International Organization for Standardization standards; however, the International Aerospace Standard (AS 9100) includes some 80 certification measures over and above the ISO certification process for other types of manufacturing.

“Now that we have attained AS 9100-2000 registration, we plan to continue our relationship with ATAC to assist us in achieving AS 9110 certification for aircraft maintenance organizations,” Smith said.

Haiti Relief Effort Receives Donation from Auburn Committee of 19

The Committee of 19, Auburn University's student leadership group for the War on Hunger, is donating \$15,000 to the United Nations World Food Programme for Haiti relief. The money was collected throughout the past 18 months through various fundraisers by Auburn's individual schools, colleges, and organizations, as well as campus-wide activities.

The World Food Programme, or WFP, is the largest humanitarian agency in the world, feeding on average more than 90 million people in 82 countries annually. As a first responder in the current crisis, WFP is attempting to bring weekly rations to more than 2 million people in Haiti over the next few weeks.

The latest donation by the Committee of 19 brings the total amount contributed to WFP as a result of the Auburn University War on Hunger to \$45,000.

According to Emma Keller, president of the Committee of 19, "The money we have raised for WFP has come primarily through spare change collections, not large financial contributions. I hope this latest donation to aid the people of Haiti will inspire students at Auburn and on campuses around the world to do what they can to make an impact, no matter how large or small. Our fundraising success shows that small change can, and indeed does, make a big difference."

In response to the latest Committee of 19 donation, Douglas Coutts, a senior advisor to the UN World Food Programme and currently on assignment as a distinguished visiting professor at Auburn, said, "WFP is extremely pleased to accept this generous donation from the students at Auburn University. These funds will be used to help address the most basic needs of those affected by the devastating disaster in Haiti. Thank you Auburn University and the Committee of 19 for your leadership in helping us raise awareness and understanding of the suffering of the Haitian population."

Auburn became involved with the World Food Programme in 2004 when invited by the agency to be its lead academic partner in a student-driven War on Hunger campaign. Since then, Auburn and WFP



have been instrumental in the creation of Universities Fighting World Hunger, or UFWH, a loose alliance of more than 130 higher education institutions around the world. Driving the UFWH action agenda is the Auburn Hunger Model which focuses on domestic and global hunger awareness and consciousness-raising; advocacy; fundraising; and academic initiatives including teaching, research, and outreach.

Committee of 19 members will continue to spearhead fundraising efforts on behalf of Haiti during the remainder of the semester with donations being collected in individual academic units, through campus organizations, and on the concourse.

For more information on the War on Hunger student campaign, go to <http://www.auburn.edu/event/hunger/index.php>.

www.auburn.edu/outreach





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